

FIRST READING *Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11*

I exalt for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God.

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

La mia anima esulta nel mio Dio.

SECOND READING *Thessalonians 5:16-24*

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia.**

CANTO AL VANGELO

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lo Spirito del Signore e' su di me, mi ha mandato a portare il lieto annunzio ai poveri. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL *John 1:6-8. 19-28*

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1 st Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$1046.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$321.00
2 nd Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$377.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 14/12/08

6.00pm (SAT) – M Dal Santo & G Canvan
 9.00am (SUN) – R DeZan & S Lobartolo
 10.30am (SUN) – A Vinelli & L Conte

SPECIAL MINISTERS

J Broadbent
 L Catena, L Cavedon & C Alberti
 C McMahon, S Miano & D Herbert

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 21/12/08

6.00pm (SAT) – B Nadenbousch & E Saliba
 9.00am (SUN) – R Fato & C Brunetti
 10.30am (SUN) – E Bartlett & D Lucato

SPECIAL MINISTERS

S Dakin
 T Forte, G Moltisanti & R Mercuri
 J & J Kearney & J Vincitorio

CHURCH CLEANERS

20/12/08 A DiRico, M Pascuzzi & L Pennacchia

MONEY COUNTERS

15/12/08 P Cherubin, A Sinopoli & L Cavedon
 22/12/08 E Claridge, F Carabott & G Canavan

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

Grazia BARRESI, Phyllis PEGLER

ANNIVERSARIES

Gaspere SONZA, Manuela, Maria & Josefina MOREIRA, Armando CECON, Annamaria SCARPINO
 Arduino, Antonio & Fra Diego VENDITTI, Teresa RESATECI, Nazzareno MURATORE,
 Felice & Mariarosa COMITO, Antonio & Rosina MURATORE, Lorenzo & Rachele PACELLA
 Pasquale & Laura MARIANI, Giuseppe MARTINO, Antonio & Giuseppina TIMPANO,
 Frank SPARANO, Mark SPITERI, Tony & Gaetana PACE, Natalina FIORE, Nina ZAMMIT,
 Slavica MANDIC

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

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SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Sat 6.00pm - English

Sun. 9.00am - Italian

Sun. 10.30am - English

Fr Emmanuel Bonello–Parish Priest

Sr Doreen Bentley-Pastoral Associate

Mr Peter Chowne -School Principal

Mrs Liz Pistoni – Parish Secretary

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon. 9.10am Comm. Service

Tue. 10.00am Italian

Wed. 9.10am - English

Thur. 9.10am - English

Fri. 9.10am - English

Sat. 8.30am - English

Maltese Mass

1st Saturday of the Month 6.00pm

Baptisms – Sunday 12.00pm

Marriages - By Appointment



Reconciliation: Sat. 10.30am

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

14 December 2008

Point to the Light



The fourth chapter of John’s gospel contains one of my favourite stories. It tells of an extraordinary chance encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.

Meeting as complete strangers for the first time, she experienced something she never had before – being accepted by a Jewish man, and she a Samaritan woman who had led such a chequered life. As she gradually opens herself to Jesus, he reveals more of himself to her than to his close disciples. She came to experience in him someone who could quench the thirst of her heart and light up her life.

She became so excited that she ended up bringing her fellow Samaritans to Jesus.

They too came to accept and to believe in Him. But they said to her, “It is no longer because of your word that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.” (John 4:42).

This Samaritan woman is a good example of someone who makes way for the light. From her own experience of having been touched by the light of Christ, she led others to that same light. She could help us appreciate this role of John the Baptist in today’s gospel. John’s gospel began with darkness and Jesus as the light shining through the darkness. The Baptist was a powerful and charismatic preacher with a huge following. In him the people experienced the presence of God in a new way. Many of his followers were convinced that he was the Messiah.

However, John’s gospel is emphatic that the Baptist was not the Messiah, only the one who came to bear witness to the light. The Baptist himself declared that he was not the Christ, but the one to make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:23). His role was to point others to the real light – to Christ.

This season of Advent invites us to let the light of Jesus shine in the hidden dark corners of our lives. We are invited to let the Light of the world shed his light on us, through his love and healing presence. He invites us to humbly face the hidden dark sides of our lives where it may be there is anger, hate or inability to forgive. Are our hearts closed to the suffering and to those considered insignificant in society? Do we find greed and selfishness, and a refusal to interest ourselves in the wellbeing of those around us? Let us bring all these shadows into the light of Christ, and open our hearts to let the light shine in. Like the Samaritan woman, let us speak to others in such a way that they can eventually say to us “It is no longer because of your word that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world”

ADVENT

In the Gospel of this Third Sunday of Advent John the Baptist is presented as the Witness to the Light. Like John we are called to be witnesses to the Light: Jesus Christ. Our witnessing to the light can happen by doing good works: "bringing good news to the poor, healing the brokenhearted" (first reading) "holding on to what is good and avoiding every form of evil" (second reading). We can witness to Christ by seeking to be united with God and people.

How can we be witnesses of Christ and bring light to someone's life as we journey towards Christmas? (for example a visit, a phone call, any other gesture of kindness...?)

ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH FR MANNY

On Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm in the Presbytery we will have the last evening of Advent reflections in the form of group sharing.

The resource for our reflection will be the Summit Liturgical Journal, published by Archbishop's Office for Evangelization Melbourne. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

RIFLESSIONE SUL TEMPO DELL'AVVENTO

Martedì 16 Dicembre sarà l'ultimo incontro di preghiera e riflessione in preparazione al Santo Natale, alle ore 9.00am in cappella. Segue la Santa Messa alle ore 10.00. Vi aspettiamo numerosi..

ITALIAN LADIES

Invitiamo tutta la comunità di tenere libero il Martedì 16 Dicembre per la Santa Messa di ringraziamento per un anno di grazie e benedizioni. Babbo Natale e la Befana hanno accettato il nostro invito e verranno a portarci gli auguri Natalizi. Venite numerosi con i vostri nipotini.....

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to John & Lina Greco, Salvatrice and Giovanni Zocco, who celebrate their 50 years of marriage this weekend Sunday 14 December.

We also congratulate Paolino and Eugenia Porcu who celebrated their 50 years of marriage last week. We ask God to bless them and their families on this special occasion.

BAPTISM

Congratulations to **Isabella Thomson** child of David & Michelle, who will be baptised this weekend. We welcome her into our parish community and assure the family of our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion.

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER - END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS

Please note that the end of year School Mass will be celebrated on Monday morning 15 December at 9.10am. Everyone is welcome to attend!!!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Xavier College is offering a range of scholarships for students entering Years 7, 9 and 11 in 2010. The closing date for applications is 6 February 2009. For registration and information see Xavier's website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships or contact The Registrar, Mrs Di Odgers at Xavier on 9854 5307.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2008

7.30pm – General Reconciliation ceremony

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER 2008

Working Bee 8.00am – 3.00pm. Please come along and help us do some cleaning in and around the Church, to prepare for Christmas. Lunch will be provided!!

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2008: CHRISTMAS EVE:

7.00pm Family Mass (Children are invited to dress as Christmas characters).

11.30pm Carols – Followed by MIDNIGHT MASS

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2008: CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am - Mass in Italian

10.30am – Mass in English (Children are invited to dress as Christmas characters).

FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER 2008: BOXING DAY, PUBLIC HOLIDAY

There will be NO MASS or COMMUNION SERVICE celebrated. The church will remain closed.

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2008: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Mass times as normal weekend: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.00am (Italian) 10.30am (English).

THURSDAY 1 JANUARY 2009: NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Mass Times - 10.00am in Italian, 11.00am in English.

CONFESSIONS

Special times for individual Confessions during the week before Christmas.

Orario speciale per le Confessioni individuali durante la settimana prima del Natale

Friday (Venerdì) 19/12/08 – 9.30am

Saturday (Sabato) 20/12/08 – 10.30am & 5.30pm

Tuesday (Martedì) 23/12/08 – 9.30am

Wednesday (Mercoledì) 24/12/08 – 9.30am & 6.00pm

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL – 13 & 14 DECEMBER

Since its foundation in 1969, Melbourne parishioners have supported our own mission fund to help developing nations. This has marked our Archdiocese for its exceptional generosity. Currently, the major beneficiaries are people in Papua New Guinea, Timor, India, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Botswana, Nigeria and Peru. Archbishop Denis Hart commends the fund to you continuing support.

There will be a leaving collection after Mass today. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.