

FIRST READING *Isaiah 63:16-17. 64:1.3-8*

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

Fa' splendere il tuo volto e salvaci, Signore.

SECOND READING *Corinthians 1:3-9*

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

GOSPEL *Mark 13.33-37*

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1 st Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$973.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$269.00
2 nd Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$316.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 30/11/08

6.00pm (SAT) – E Saliba & L Dal Santo
9.00am (SUN) – P Sparano & C Agostinelli
10.30am (SUN) – M Sernia & A DeCata

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 06/12/08

6.00pm (SAT) – MALTESE MASS (Selected)
9.00am (SUN) – R Pino & L Cavedon
10.30am (SUN) - G Canavan & S Miano

CHURCH CLEANERS

29/11/08 M Martuccio, L Calafiore & C Balassone

MONEY COUNTERS

24/11/08 E Claridge, F Carabott & G Canavan
01/12/08 R & E Cornelious, R & G Silvio & J Galea

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

Giovanni CARUSO, Noel MANGION, Francesco GARGARO

ANNIVERSARIES

Damiano FULGIONE, Orazio CATALDO, Giovanni INGUANTI, Gennaro & Teresa FALVO,
Angelina VILELLA, Ercole & Eugenio SERGIO, Emilia & Eugenio CANNATARO, Francis MIZZI
Angelo MARZIALE,

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

NORTH RESERVOIR

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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

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

30 November 2008

Cry out to God

When I see some of the things that happen in our world, I get angry. Each evening when I sit down to watch the news, technology ensures that I am confronted by graphic, live images of the day's events at home and overseas.

I watch the death and destruction of war. I see people hungry, displaced and sick, because of flood or famine. There are young people cut down in the prime of their lives through School massacres, drug overdoses and suicide. Families are torn apart by murder, abuse and tragedy. Then there is the senseless violence in our neighbourhoods, on the sporting arenas, and outside pubs and clubs.

In 2001 I remember waking up to the news and television pictures of the twin towers collapsing in New York. The devastation and horror as the images were played over and over left me shocked and bewildered. "This can't be happening!" "Is this real?" "Surely nobody would carry out such a terrible deed?" Deep within I was crying out, "Someone, do something!" "Let's Turn back time!" But, the event was real. It had happened. There was nothing I could do. I was helpless.

So, I cried out to the only one who could do something: "God, do something!" I think many people made similar cries on that fateful day and the days that followed.

That's how the prophet Isaiah felt in our first reading. He witnessed Israel decline politically and religiously. God called Israel to be a holy nation, but they got themselves into a mess. They worshipped idols. They committed acts of injustice and hatred towards one another. They were oblivious to the presence of God in their lives. But Isaiah remembered God's faithfulness and mighty deeds from the past. God had brought the people out of captivity. God had saved them.

So, Isaiah turned to God and pleaded, "Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Isaiah realised that it was only God who could turn things around. Isaiah appealed to God to do something! To come down and make things right again. Today we begin the season of Advent which means "coming". Christmas is coming, but we remember also that Christ is coming. When Jesus came to Bethlehem, that was God's answer to Isaiah's prayer. By sending Jesus, God tore open heaven and personally came to make things right. Jesus then set about healing the sick, loving the unloved, eating with sinners, and bringing good news to the poor and oppressed. In our time, when we see the pain of society, let's not give up or become disheartened. Remember that Jesus came to do something about it.

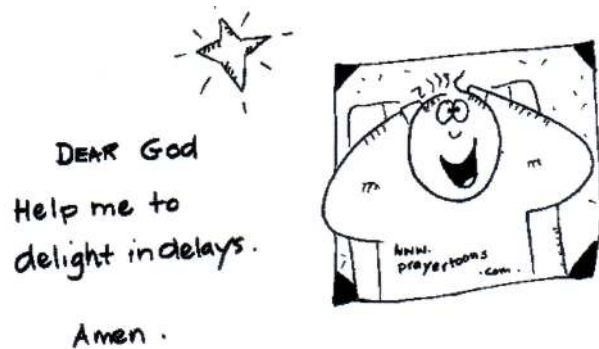
This Advent, let your voice cry out to God to make things right. God did it for Isaiah and we celebrate that fact every year. The promise is that God will also do it for us.

ADVENT

The season of Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The Church's liturgical year follows a three-year cycle and we move today into the second of these, Year B. The Gospel readings for this year come predominantly from the gospel of Mark. Advent is a four week season of preparation for Christmas. During this time we reflect on the coming of Christ into human history as a small baby, the coming of Christ at the end of time and the coming of Christ into our own lives each day. The lighting of the Advent wreath candles symbolise our own reflective journey to recognise the coming of Christ as our Light. The gospel of the first Sunday of Advent invites us to stay awake! Waiting for the Lord's coming is the dominant symbolic activity of Advent, a waiting not with fear, but a waiting with patience and hope spent in preparation and reflection. Advent can be a time of longing for God's action in the world to be realized through our readiness to do good for others.

THE GIVING TREE

The Christmas Giving Tree has been organized by the Liturgy Team and everyone is invited to pick up one of the available paper stars with a written item gift to buy for those in need. Please bring the gift at the Giving Tree by Sunday 14 December 2008.



ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH FR MANNY

Advent reflections in the form of group sharing with Fr. Manny will be held every Wednesday evening in the Presbytery at 7.30pm.

The Wednesdays of meetings are:
3rd December, 10th December and 17th December.

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

Dal 2 Dicembre ogni Martedì durante l'avvento alle ore 9.00am in cappella, ci sarà un tempo di preghiera e di riflessione in preparazione al santo natale. Segue la Santa Messa alle ore 10.00. Vi aspettiamo numerosi..

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral for Francesco Gargaro will be celebrated on Monday 1 December at 10.30am. The Rosary will be recited on Sunday 30 November at 7.30pm.

LITURGY TEAM

The Parish Liturgy Team meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 December at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

FEAST

Wednesday 3 December – St Francis Xavier

MALTESE MASS

A reminder that the Maltese Mass will be celebrated next Saturday 6 December at 6.00pm.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to **Julian Alonso** child of Ricardo and Tracey, **Jaiden Gumus** child of Mary Scappa, who will be baptised this weekend. We welcome them into our parish community and assure the families of our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 December at 7.30pm in the Church.

JESUS IS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2008

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne warmly invites you to join the Jesus IS Christmas festival which offers a Christian presence, carol singing and live nativity in the city this Christmas.

You can join this important mission for the city of Melbourne by:

PRAYER – Praying for the success of the festival

PARTICIPATION – Joining us at the City Square (cnr. Swanston & Collins Streets near the Town Hall) on Friday 12 December from 5.00 – 7.00pm. Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 from 3.00 – 5.00pm to sing carols and celebrate the Christian message of hope.

PROMOTION – Advertising the project widely in your local area.

For further information please contact:

Nicky Kitson/Carmel Crawford 9926 5761

Full program available at: www.jesuischristmas.info

FESTA IN ONORE DI SANTA LUCIA V.M.

Domenica 14 Dicembre 2008 nella chiesa di San Paolo 562 Sydney Rd, Coburg.

Programma:

2.00pm: Inizio con il Santo Rosario. **2.30pm:** Celebrazione della Santa Messa

3.30pm: Processione con la statua della Santa intorno alla chiesa accompagnata dalla banda Melita.

Le confraternite e le associazioni sono invitate a partecipare a questa festa con le bandiere.

Per ulteriori informazioni telefonate al signore Vito Romeo: Tel: 9350 4601.

ERKILANO LODU DIACONATE

Erkilano Lodu was one of the pilgrims who stayed with us for WYD 2008. He is to be ordained deacon in Italy on 8 December 2008. And next year will be ordained priest in Sudan. We remember him in our prayers on this special occasion and wish him all the very best in his ministry.