

FIRST READING *Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11*

Prepare the way for the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

Mostraci, Signore, la tua misericordia e donacai la tua salvezza.

SECOND READING *Peter 3:8-14*

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

CANTO AL VANGELO

Alleluia, alleluia! .

Preparate la via del Signore, raddrizzate i suoi sentieri! Ogni uomo vedra' la salvezza di Dio! **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL *Mark 1:1-3*

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1 st Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$855.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$328.00
2 nd Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$350.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 07/12/08

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

SPECIAL MINISTERS

MALTESE MASS (Selected)
S. Lobartolo, L Calafiore & T Mirigliano
S Rottura, G Santinon & S Dakin

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 14/12/08

6.00pm (SAT) – M Dal Santo & G Canavan
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

CHURCH CLEANERS

13/12/08 A Ranalli, C Brunetti, A & V Zele & N Morello

MONEY COUNTERS

08/12/08 J & J Kearney, E & K Bartlett & C McMahon
15/12/08 P Cherubin, A Sinopoli & L Cavedon

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maria MANCINI, Anthony CAUCHI, Vincenzo DI PIETRO, Gina ZANINI

ANNIVERSARIES

Giuseppe ZANINI, Sergio DUSSIN, Maddalena SVIZZERO, Antonio, Lunella & Ines CALIGIURI
Pasquale, Angela & Mario LUNA, Antonio BONACCI, Giacomo SALZONE, Paola PRECOMA,
Maria & Francesco FURCI, Antonio & Rosetta TRALLI,
Caterina, Domenico, Carmelo, Antonio & Giuseppe SCHIPANO
Micheli CERASO, Bruno ARENA, Vincenzo CRUPI, Itra BARRESI,
Giovanna, Salvatore, Giuseppe, Giuseppa & Domenico FERRARO, Vincezno VECCHIO,
Mariannina VECCHIO,

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

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

7 December 2008

Waiting/Preparing

We spend so much of our lives waiting: waiting for the kettle to boil, waiting for the kick-off, waiting for our holidays, waiting for that phone call, waiting for the plane or the train, waiting...waiting...waiting... There is always a certain tension associated with waiting. Some of us quickly become impatient, especially when things are running late. Others were more philosophical and view life with greater equanimity. Some of this we may be able to attribute to our different personalities, but it is not simply a matter of temperament. We can cultivate a right attitude which draws forth the right responses. Advent is the season of waiting. It is also the time when the Church encourages us to cultivate the right responses. Here too there is tension: the tension between how much to rejoice in what has already been accomplished and how much to be preparing for the future. Rightly we will celebrate Christmas because the first advent of the saviour was his birth as a little child in a stable in Bethlehem. In that coming we believe that God restored the link between heaven and earth, healing our broken human nature. But healed and restored as we are, we know we are still damaged, constantly in need of further healing and forgiveness, waiting now for the second coming of the Lord. In Peter's words we are still waiting for the fulfilment of the Lord's promise: "the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home." It is a delicate balance: learning to live with the tension, knowing when to relax and rejoice, when to prepare and work for what lies ahead. The season of Advent perfectly sums up our human condition.

In his letter to the Philippians St Paul gives us his own take on all this. He acknowledges that he has stopped striving for perfection by his own efforts, noting that perfection comes through faith in Christ. So he concludes: "All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus." Be thankful that you know Christ and seek to deepen your faith in all that he would do for you. At the same time look for opportunities to smooth the way for him to enter more and more into your life. Be imaginative: see what would really make a difference. Giving more time to prayer is an obvious example. It might be helpful to see if there is a prayer group you could join or a new method of prayer that you could try. I suggest we learn to enjoy the tension of this Advent and use it well-rejoicing in what we have already achieved and learning to cope with the uncertainty and the waiting. A good example is given by those who, when faced with a plane or train which is late, do not fret or become angry, but us the time calmly and to good effect. With the uncertainty that comes from waiting we live in hope, the sure knowledge that the Lord fulfils his promises.

ADVENT

With the liturgy of the first Sunday of Advent last weekend, the focus of reflection was "Waiting". For this second Sunday of advent we can focus our reflection on "**Preparing**" – *Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight* – (First reading & Gospel). We are called to prepare the way and make straight the path, not only in our individual lives but in our society and the wider world. – God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in Glory – (Opening prayer).

- What are the obstacles that need to be removed to make a straight path for the Lord?
- What stops you from focusing on God?

THE GIVING TREE

The Christmas Giving Tree has been organised 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 are being held every Wednesday evening in the Presbytery at 7.30pm. The next two Wednesdays of meetings are: 10th & 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

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..

BAPTISM

Congratulations to **Matteo Demarte** child of John & Sonia, who will be baptised this weekend. We welcome him into our parish community and assure the family of our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion.

FEASTS

Monday 8 December – Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
Saturday 13 December - St Lucy

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral for Vincenzo Di Pietro will be celebrated on Tuesday 9 December at 11.15am.
The Rosary will be recited on the same day at 11.00am.

MEMORIAL MASS

Friday 12 December 7.30pm – Marianna Galati (1mth)

CHIUSURA DEL. S. ROSARIO IN FAMIGLIA E FESTA DELL' IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE

Lunedì 8 Dicembre, nella casa di Antonietta Filippone 8 Morris St – verrà celebrata la Festa Dell'Immacolata con la recita del S. Rosario. Seguita dalla S. Messa.

La celebrazione avrà inizio alle ore 1.30pm. L'invito è rivolto a tutta la comunità desiderosa di partecipare, in modo particolare le famiglie che hanno ricevuto la statua della Madonna nelle loro case per la recita del S. Rosario. Cordialmente vi salutiamo e attendiamo Lunedì 8 Dicembre.

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.....

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

WEDNESDAY 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