



St Mary's Parish

Incorporating the Catholic communities of Hamilton,
Dunkeld, Macarthur, Glenthompson and Penshurst.

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3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A

15 December 2013

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall
return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the
blind,
who raises up those who are bowed
down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the
Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's
coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently
he waits for the precious fruit of the
ground until it has had the autumn rains
and the spring rains! You too have to be

patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's
coming will be soon. Do not make complaints
against one another, brothers, so as not to be
brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge
is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For
your example, brothers, in submitting with
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

*A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew*

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for
someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him,
'Are you the one who is to come, or have
we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus
answered, 'Go back and tell John what you
hear and see; the blind see again, and the
lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf
hear, and the dead are raised to life and the
Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and
happy is the man who does not lose faith in
me.'

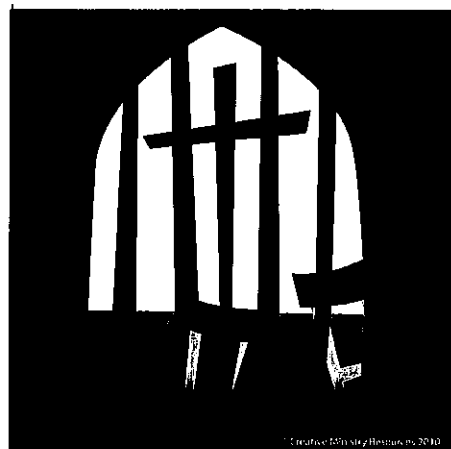
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began
to talk to the people about John: 'What did
you go out into the wilderness to see? A
reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what
did you go out to see? A man wearing fine
clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes
are to be found in palaces. Then what did
you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell
you, and much more than a prophet: he is
the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am
going to send my messenger before you; he
will prepare your way before you. I tell you
solemnly, of all the children born of women, a
greater than John the Baptist has never been
seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he is.'

This Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter

Why would John the Baptist send messengers
to question Jesus? We recall from last week's
gospel passage that John had a somewhat
'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus
would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison
cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was



indeed the Messiah that John believed
him to be. Perhaps the question was not
for himself but rather for his disciples
that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer
that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's
intention was for the disciples to recognise
that Jesus was in fact the one that John
had proclaimed and that the disciples
should switch their allegiance to Jesus.
John probably guessed that he would not
be leaving that prison alive and may have
been leading his disciples to the next step
in their discipleship by having them go and
scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides
to the query would have not sounded like
such a roundabout response as it does to
us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind
seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed,
and the deaf hearing would have been very
familiar to those who were listening and
the first audience of this gospel. These
were signs of the coming of the Messiah
that had been foretold by the prophets. In
his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all
the things that are supposed to happen
when the Messiah comes are happening
now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on
the Advent themes of anticipation,
preparedness and hope. As we draw closer
to the celebration of the Nativity, in this
reading is confirmation that our hope is not
misplaced. Today's readings emphasise
the joy that lies in the anticipation and
expectation of what is coming.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the
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ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON

- **Principal: Jo Anne Bond**
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ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSURST

- **Principal: Ben van de Camp**
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MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON

- **Principal: Mark McGinnity**
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NEXT WEEK'S MASS TIMES

22nd December 2013
4th Sunday of Advent

Hamilton	Mass Mass Mass	6:00pm 10:30am 5:00pm
Dunkeld	SAWC	9:00am
Glenthompson	Mass	9:00am
Macarthur	SAWC	9:00am
Penshurst	SAWC	9:00am

WEEKDAY MASS or**(Prayer of the church with Holy Communion)****PENSURST****HAMILTON**

<u>Wednesday</u>	Tuesday	10am Mass
Mass 10am	Wednesday	10am Mass
<u>Thursday</u>	Thur. Anointing Eventide	9.30
Mass 10am	Friday	10am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**Hamilton**

Fri After 10am Mass
Sat Before 6pm Mass

Other**Mass Centres**

Sunday
Before 9am Mass

**PRAYER TIME IN OUR PARISH**
Christian Meditation

Parish House Wednesday 7.30pm.

Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

9.30 am before weekday Mass or C.S

7 pm Thursday & Sunday.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

After Mass Wed. 10.30—12 noon.

ST MARY'S ROSTER:

21st & 22nd December 2013

	6pm Mass	10:30am Mass
Welcome	Helen Watt John Schurmann	Don Schultz Alida Aylmer
Commentator	Ron Smith	David Dunn
First Reader	Mary Walter	Val Lovell
Second Reader	John Duyvestyn	Peter Tripovich
Offertory Procession	I & B Ferguson	Sutherland Family
PowerPoint and iPad	Janice Wilson	O'Brien Family
Ministers of Communion	Team: 1 P & M Dunn	Team: 3 M Bell, B Storer, A Wheaton, G Goggin, T Irving

Ministers of Communion This Weekend

6 pm	Team: 9 G Healy, T Groves, K Shanahan. (3 Required)
10:30 am	Team: 2 I & B Ferguson, L Stevens. (5 Required)

ST JOSEPH'S ROSTER

22nd December 2013

Lector	Don Adamson
Prayers	Catherine Loria
Special Minister	Helen Brown
Leader	Brendon Kelly

St Mary's Church CLEANING

December
MEG COOK,
MADONNA SPONG,
CARMEN SPONG,
LIA MAILES.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Stewardship Starting Date 13/10/2013 : \$22,820.

Stewardship Pledged Full Year : \$122,000.

Priest's Support: Not Yet Counted

This week's Count Team: 4 R Corbett, B Shanahan & T&N Oliver.

Next week's Count Team: 5 F & D Soulsby, B & J Roache & G Howell



**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
IN YOUR PRAYERS.**

DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Muriel Cristina Keneely, Saro George, Desmond Fahey, Jack Randall.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Erin O'Connor, Brian Rigney, Dorothy Harrison, Norma Oliver, Jean Clark, Brian Joyce, Frank Vogels, Val Carter, Dawn Anson, Joan Birrell. *Please note it is the relatives' responsibility to submit anniversary names to parish office.*

Prayer before The Blessed Sacrament

The Church is open daily till 8pm .

If you are prepared to spend time between

6pm & 8pm on a roster .

Contact: Rita Taylor.

Parish Christmas Dinner 2013

Our Christmas Dinner list is filling fast!!
Thank you to those that have committed to donations
so far, we still have a few items left so please check
our list of items for donation. Thank You .



HELPER'S NEEDED on Christmas Day
for a few hours around lunch-time. If you can help in any
way please contact this year's co-ordinators.

Chris & Kathie Jansen: On 0407 719 530
OR Kymhan & Carolyn on 5571 1161 at the Parish Office.
Thanks in advance.



Christmas Party

Pizza,

Disco & Games

Saturday, 21st Dec

St Mary's Hall, 7.30pm

Grade 4 - Adult

Enquiries to John & Sherrie Hockey 0439 319 823



Sacramental 2014

RECONCILIATION

General gathering of Parents/Guardian &
Reconciliation preparation.
Feb. 12th @ 7pm Dunworth Centre

Commitment to begin the Sacrament Program
Feb. 16th @ 10.30am Mass

Workshop
March 21st @ 9.15 - 1.15pm
Dunworth Centre

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
March 25th, 26th & 27th @ 6pm

Country communities: Dates to be arranged

**COMMITMENT FORMS WILL BE GIVEN
OUT AT THE MEETING ON 12th Feb.**

Team: Lindy Cullinane, Jo-Anne Bond,
Kerry Stevens, Carolyn Stanhope,
Fr John Corrigan, Fr Patrick Mugavin,
Sr. Marg Carmody.

FEAST DAYS DECEMBER
15th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Parish Calender

19th Dec. Anointing Mass 9.30am Eventide.

25th Dec. Christmas Day

Sr. Clare Condon
Sister of the Good Samaritan
accepted on behalf of the
congregation

The 2013 Human Rights Award.
Refer to notice board in gathering
space of church for full story.

CCI INSURANCE

Has kindly donated a Christmas hamper to our
parish which we will donate to the
St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal.

CCI offer a range of personal insurance products
for the whole Catholic community:
More information: phone 1300 655 003 OR
visit www.catholicinsurance.org.au

Prayer

Sustain us, O God,
as we go forth to welcome
the One who is to come;
and make haste to help us
as we seek to understand
what we went out to see in the
Advent wilderness:
your patience nurturing your saving purpose
to fulfilment,
your power in Jesus making all things new.

We ask this through
Christ Our Lord.

Amen.



ADVENT



*"Can you help to make someone,
less well off than yourself,
enjoy a better Christmas"*

*Please contribute to St Mary's Parish Christmas
Grocery Appeal by dropping grocery items in the
baskets provided in the back of each Church up until
Sunday the 22nd of December.*



My dear children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

4th Week of Advent **Christmas Mass Times**



St. Patrick's Dunkeld: Vigil Mass 6pm

St. Thomas' Glenthompson: Vigil Mass 7.30pm



St. Mary's Hamilton: Vigil (focus Children) 7pm

Vigil 9pm

Christmas Day 9am

St. Malachy's Macarthur: Christmas Day 9am

St. Joseph's Penshurst: Vigil 7pm

