



St Mary's Parish

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

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3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

14 December 2014

First Reading **Is 61:1-2.10-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to
the poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,

my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments
of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,

like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,

like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up,

so will the Lord make both integrity
and praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her
nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
(R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. *(R.)*
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. *(R.)*

Second Reading **1 Thes 5:16-24**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Thessalonians*

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for
all things give thanks to God, because this is
what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the
gift of prophecy with contempt; think before
you do anything - hold on to what is good and
avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect
and holy; and may you all be kept safe and
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and
he will not fail you.

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 **Jn1:6-8.19-28**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John*

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

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness.

When the Jews sent priests and Levites from

Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not

only declared, but he declared quite openly,

'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked,

'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you

the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said

to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an

answer to those who sent us. What have you

to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as

Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the

Pharisees, and they put this further question to

him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the

Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?'

John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there

stands among you - unknown to you - the

one who is coming after me; and I am not fit

to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at

Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where

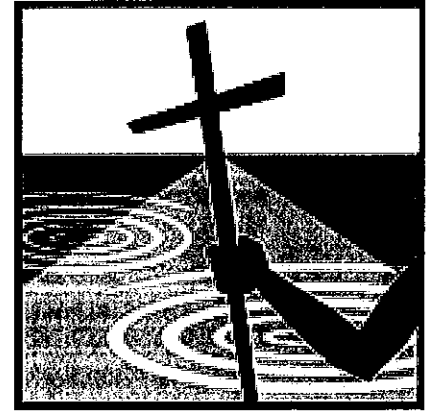
John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter

*This week's gospel should sound very
familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the
passage used in last week's liturgy, which*



came from the gospel of Mark. Again it
recalls the ministry of John the Baptist
but it is given the particular slant of the
gospel of John. Aside from the greater
focus on the conversational interaction,
it presents John as a 'witness'. This is
perhaps more typical of the John gospel
emphasis on personal encounter with
Jesus. Rather than acting as something
of a herald, as in last week's account,
here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to
speak for the light'. He makes a very
clear distinction between himself and
the Christ, his mission is simply to point
towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word
'witness' tends to be related to legal
situations: providing a witness statement
or acting as a witness to a fact in court.
The use of witness in this gospel carries a
different connotation: to provide witness
through action and lifestyle that draws
others to wonder about and perhaps
come to accept the motivating belief. It
is this understanding of witness that all
Christians are called to provide. We are
called to witness to our beliefs in the
way that we live our lives, engage with
others and hold to certain truths. Of
course, there are some Christians who
believe that their witness needs to be
more obvious and more clearly stated.
They feel that providing witness, or
testimony, to their faith through spoken
proclamation has a greater potential
to change lives. Whether we choose to
witness through our words or through
our actions it is essential that both words
and actions have integrity; that there is
no clash between what we proclaim and
the way we live.

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NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY MASS TIMES

**4th Sunday of Advent
21st December 2014**

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

Rosters		
ST MARY'S ROSTER: Next W/nd - 20th & 21st Dec.		
	6pm Mass	10:30am Mass
Welcome	Helen Watt John Schurmann	Alida Aylmer
Commentator	Annette Mason	Maree Bell
1st Reader	Mary Walter	Carolyn Stanhope
2nd Reader	John Duyvestyn	Richard Murphy
Offertory	Norm & Elizabeth Gravstock	Peter & Catherine Fitzgerald
PowerPoint	Bev Kaaye	Hockey Family
Ministers of Communion	K Barker, L Wolfe & A Mason	M Bell, B Storer, A Wheaton, G Goggin & T Irving.
This Weekend Ministers of Communion		
6 pm	F Rhook, P Fallon & P Oliver-Snell (3 Req.)	
10:30 am	V Lovell, P Stanhope, P Fitzgerald & 2 Volunteer's.(5 Req.)	
ST JOSEPH'S ROSTER - 21st December 2014		
Lector	Brendon Kelly	
Gifts	Kelly Family	
Prayers	Brooke Kelly	
Special Minister	Catherine Loria	
Parish Collection		
Stewardship (F.Y.T.D): \$44,326 Pledged total \$109,200 Weekly Priest's Support: \$690		

Weekend counters : I&B Ferguson & L Stevens Next w/end counters: R Corbett, B Shanahan & T Oliver		



Cuppa Roster

Saturday

Sunday 21st

Frances & Vince
O'Brien.

St Mary's Church

**Cleaning
December**

M Cook
M Spong,
C Spong

**WEEKDAY
MASS**


or
**Prayer of the church
with
Holy
Communion**

Hamilton

Tues
10am Mass
Wed
10am Mass
Thu
Anointing
Eventide 9.30
10am Mass
Fri
10am Mass

Penshurst

Wed
10am Mass

 **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS.**

DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES : Dale Hutchins, Francis Heaton, Saro George, Desmond Fahey, John Randell

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Pat Bourke, Bernie Ronchi, Jacinta Carson, Bill Warren, Bernadette Smith, Vu Cuong, Gabrielle Mason, , Gay Lee, Kerryn McCluggage, David Ryan, Dorothy Harrison, Frank Vogels, Val Carter, Dawn Anson, Joan Birrell, Inez Waight., Frank Van Dinter, Percy Mills, Lousie Byrne.

Stewardship Reflections

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" – 1
Thessalonians 5:16 - 18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.




Christmas at the Gardens



Sunday 21st Dec - Noon to 2pm
Come along for a not so quite traditional lunch
of fish & chips. Meet up near the playground area.
Ice Creams and Soft Drink Provided
\$4 per person

Families are invited to bring your own lunch and join other families for lunch on the hill.
RSVP: John & Sherrie Hockey 0439 319 823

Christmas Mass Times


St Patrick's Dunkeld - Vigil 6pm 

St Joseph's Penshurst - Vigil 7pm


St Thomas' Glenthompson - Vigil 7.30pm

St Malachy's Macarthur - Christmas Day 9am

St Mary's Hamilton - Vigil (Children focus) 6pm
- Vigil 8pm
- Christmas Day 9am



St Mary's Hamilton
Christmas Carols
before vigil' 5.30 & 7.30pm.



Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

Please donate non-perishable grocery items for our local 2014 Vinnie's Christmas Appeal.
Sun. 21st Dec. will be the Last day for donations to be left . Thank You

Parish Calendar

- Wed. 17th Dec. Advent Reconciliation Liturgy 7pm
St Mary's
- Thur. 18th Dec. Anointing Mass Eventide 9.30am
- Sun. 21st Dec. **4th Sunday of Advent**
Blessing of expectant parents
Christmas Vigil's 6 & 8pm
- Wed. 24th Dec. Christmas carols before vigil's
@ 5.30 & 7.30pm.
- Thur. 25th Dec. Christmas Day Mass 9am
- Wed. 31st Dec. Prayer Vigil Blessed sacrament
chapel 8pm - 12.30.

Bulletin Notices

- ◆ **Dunkeld Ecumenical Christmas Carols**
14th Dec. @ 7pm Community Centre Dunkeld.
- ◆ **Hamilton Singers** are performing a Christmas Concert at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Dec. 14th at 2.30 \$10 entry.
- ◆ **Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation** this Wednesday 17th Dec. @ 7pm. St Mary's.
- ◆ **Glenthompson Christmas Carols**
Sunday 21st Dec @ 7.30pm Uniting Church.
- ◆ **Fr Mark's farewell**, Fr Mark will celebrate his final Masses for St Mary's Parish on the w'end of the 3rd & 4th January.
Please stay for a cuppa after Mass.


*We welcome into the family of God
through Baptism at St Mary's,
Hamilton*



Reuben Lowe
Son of Hans & Lorraine
& Ryan Smith
Son of Jamie & Shannon

Thanksgiving gift for Sr. Marg

The parish is assisting in the furnishing of Sr. Marg's unit in Colac we sincerely thank all of those who have contributed so far.
There will be a leaving collection today for those wishing to add to this gift for Sr. Marg.



St Joseph's Primary School Penshurst End of year Mass

Tue. Dec. 16th @ 12:00pm

faith and justice

Prayer

O God, protector of the oppressed,
healer of the broken hearted,
you invite all people to share
the joy and peace of your reign.
Show us your loving kindness.
Sanctify our hearts, and keep them blameless
that we may generously prepare the way
for the Savior who is coming.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.

24 November 2014

Father Patrick Mugavin
Parish Priest
St Mary's Parish
23 Dinwoodie St
HAMILTON VIC 3300



Dear Father Patrick

I am sorry I cannot be present to join with you as you farewell Sr Margaret Carmody and the presence of Good Samaritan life and mission in Hamilton.

Our Congregational history with the Hamilton community dates back to 1924 when our sisters arrived to continue the administration and teaching at the local Primary and Secondary schools following the withdrawal of the Loreto Sisters.

Sisters of the Good Samaritan
of the Order of St Benedict

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We, Good Samaritans, have lived in and served the people of Hamilton continuously through a variety of ministries for these past ninety years. Our ministry in Hamilton was primarily in education – through St Michael's High School, St Mary's Primary School, St Mary's College, Monivae College and Maryknoll College. After withdrawing our sisters from the ministry of education, our Good Samaritan presence remained connected with the schools as our sisters worked in various support ministries and then in more recent times, we moved into parish ministry.

As Sr Margaret departs our Congregation ends 90 years of life at St Mary's Parish. Over these past 90 years – 162 Good Samaritan appointments to ministry have been made. By our records, some sisters obviously enjoyed their time as they returned for a second term! The sisters who lived and worked among the people of Hamilton have experienced love, care and support from the various priests and parishioners and we are grateful and richer as a Congregation for this experience and this involvement.

Another interesting fact I noticed when reading our history was that, it was the hope of Mother Marcella back in 1924 that our congregation may benefit from vocations by moving the sisters to Hamilton. History has proved her to be correct with over 100 women joining our community from the western districts!

As you would appreciate making decisions to withdraw from a Parish is not one that comes easy to me or to my Council but we make these decisions in a spirit of hope and confidence. We hope that as a Congregation our presence has made a difference and we are confident that we can leave this area knowing that our legacy will continue to grow.

As you gather to give thanks for our sisters, and especially Sr Margaret, may you do so in the knowledge that the Hamilton Parish and its hospitable and generous parishioners have a special place in the heart and history of our Congregation.

Again, I am sorry I will not be able to attend the farewell. Sr Veronica Hoey will attend and represent me.

With blessings as we approach this Advent season.

Sincerely in Christ


Sister Clare Condon SGS
Superior