



Saint Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Penshurst and Tarrayoukyan.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

13 December 2020

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

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.'

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**

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.

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**

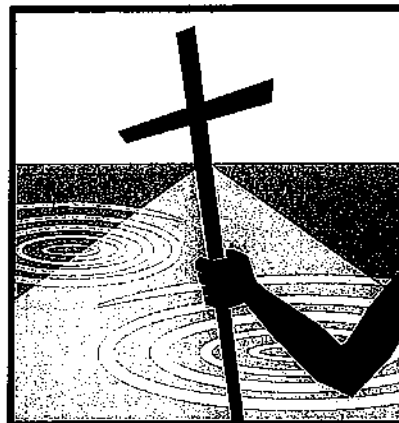
There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

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.



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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Come back to Mass
@ St Mary's Hamilton
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Weekday

**Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
@ 10am.**

& Wednesday 5.15pm.

Weekend

**Saturday 6pm & Sunday
10.30am.**

*All attendees need to comply
with COVIDSAFE measures.

Ready, Set, Pray

**Children's
Liturgy of the
Word
@ Home:**



Children's Liturgy of the Word @ Home



www.instagram.com/p/CH34fxBj18s/

In today's episode of Ready, Set Pray!
(a Gospel reflection series for families),
Andrew & Tara explore how the love we
feel for Jesus needs to be experience—
in our words & actions—by all those we
meet, especially those who may "seem"
unimportant. With beautiful music and
fun activities for kids.
Ready, Set, Pray! is GREAT.

Country Mass Schedule

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Hamilton)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC
Macarthur 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deaths:

Anniversary:

Joan Turner, Sam Marsh, Dale Hutchins, Francis
Heaton, Muriel Kinnealy, Saro George,
Desmond Fahey, Jan Merrett, Margaret
Hatcher, John Randall.

Prayers for the sick:

Rev. Peter Cook, Diane Fry,
Heather Healy, William Hockey,
Adrian Lyon.

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:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN

**St Mary's Church Hamilton,
is open daily again. All Welcome.**

**Have courage and patience and God will help
you in all things. Mary MacKillop**

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmara people.

Co-Pastor : Fr Patrick Mugavin

patrick.mugavin@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Co-Pastor: Fr George Kuruvila

george.kuruvila@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Manager: John Hockey

manager@westernborder.church

Parish Secretaries: Carolyn Stanhope & Kymhan Watson

admin@westernborder.church

Liturgy: Noreen McLeish

noreenm@westernborder.church

Priest in residence: John Mckinnon

john.mckinnon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Contact Details:

Phone: 03 5571 1161 **SMS to Email:** 0437 194 523

Office Open Hours: 9am—4pm Tues to Fri

Email: admin@westernborder.church

Website: www.westernborder.church

Office Address: 23 Dinwoodie St, HAMILTON

Reconciliation (Confession): By appointment 55711161.

We are a Child Safe Parish.

Child Safe Officer: John Hockey 0439 319 823

<http://westernborder.church/child-safe-policy-and-protocol/>

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON

Principal: Mrs Terrielynn Groves

Phone: (03) 5551 9000

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSHURST

Principal: Mr Matthew Uzkuraitis

Phone: (03) 5576 5438

MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON

Principal: Jonathan Rowe

Phone: (03) 5551 1200

Our Collections 2020 Financial Year

1st—Priest Support: \$ 1,788

2nd—Stewardship

Pledged: \$133,702 (2021FY) Given YTD: \$44,070

Western Border Parish Mission Outreach

Mission Donations made last year

Sr Lourdes—Kenya Mission \$5,750

Sr Stella's—India Mission \$9,180

Total (Full Year) — \$14,930

Priests Support (1st Collection)

Credit or debit card online;

https://westernborder.breezechms.com/give
or by Telephoning the Parish Office on 5571 1161.

Electronic Funds Transfer

BSB: 083-663 ACC: 51-580-8981

Reference: Priest Support

Stewardship (2nd Collection)

Credit or debit card online;

Telephoning the Parish Office on 5571 1161 or
emailing to admin@westernborder.church

Electronic Funds Transfer

BSB: 083-663 Acc: 01-715-7303

Reference: Your Name

OR Post cheques to 23 Dinwoodie Street, Hamilton, Vic 3300.

St Mary's Parish

Christmas Lunch 2020

Will be by cold food delivery this year.

Sign-up sheets are up in the
gathering space, if you are able to
offer assistance

by way of a donation of food or
beverages, or delivering food from
11 am on Christmas Day.

Thank you for your generosity.

Enquiries: Chris & Kathie Jansen

0407 719 530

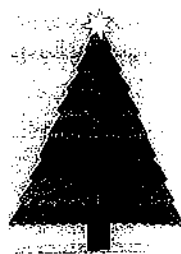
St Vincent de Paul CHRISTMAS 2020

In place of the Giving Tree this year,
YOU once again have the opportunity
to donate by way of.

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

& CAKES Please.

Donations can be left in box @ back of church
or at Parish Office. THANK YOU!



Thank You!
to the O'Neill Family
for donating our Church
Christmas Tree.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020

Christmas Vigil

Hamilton - 5.30pm & 7pm Family focus preferably leave for younger families.)

Hamilton - 8.30pm

Dunkeld - 6pm.

Penshurst - 7pm.

Glenthompson - 7.30pm.

Christmas Day

Hamilton - 9am

Macarthur - No service



ALL WELCOME.

COMMUNAL SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION



St Mary's Hamilton
Wed. 16th Dec
@ 7 pm.

It is a Catholic tradition to include in our Christmas gifts an offering that contributes to the support of our priest. Their annual stipend is drawn from the First Collections which needs topping up with your generous **Christmas offerings**. Envelopes can be returned on collection plate or to Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT 2020



3rd Sunday of ADVENT
- 13th Dec.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

Jn 1:6-7