



CALENDAR

TERM 4 DATES

Tue 8 th Dec	Orientation Morning
7 th – 11 th Dec	Swimming Week
Mon 14 th Dec	Graduation Lunch Reports to families
Tue 15 th Dec	Whole School Mass 10am Last day for students 3.20pm FINISH
Thu 28 th Jan	First Day for all students 2021

Dear families,

Sunday marked the beginning of Advent in the Catholic Church, the time dedicated to preparing for Christmas.

Advent 2020 is celebrated from Sunday, November 29th, and ends on Thursday, December 24.



The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus ([Matthew 2:1](#)), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist ([John 1:29](#)), and his first miracle at Cana ([John 2:1](#)).

During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year)

Source: Christianity.com

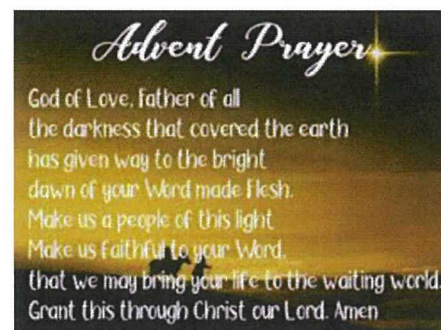
End of Year Mass: Our final whole school mass will be held on Tuesday 15th December @ 10am. For this event, families are able to celebrate the school year, farewell our 2020 Grade 6 students and welcome our 2021 School and House captains. Our FMDM award presentations will also occur on the day. Social distancing and mandatory attendance registrations are required to comply with COVIDSafe rules.

Grade 6 YEMP: On Monday the Grade 6 students ventured to Billabong Ranch as a celebration of the Youth Engagement Mentoring Program (YEMP). While the year didn't lend itself to many interactions with the Men's Shed this year, it was good that the Grade 6s could spend some time together prior to finishing their year at St Francis.

Orientation Day: Tuesday 8th December will be our Orientation Day with students working in their new classrooms with their teacher for 2021. The transition sessions will run from 9am – 11am.

School Reports: At the end of this term, student reports will again be available via the Parent Access Module (PAM). If you need assistance with your PAM login details, please contact the office.

Thanks
Matt Knight
Principal



SCHOOL NEWS



Swimming: Our school swimming program takes place next week. We look forward to our daily lessons at the Nathalia Swimming Pool. Our program has a strong emphasis on water safety and remains just a small part of swimming lessons for all children. The YMCA will provide swimming instructors for students, who will cater to all swimming abilities.

School Board: At the end of this year, our structure will change from Fr. Michael Grace being the employer of staff to the Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited becoming the employer of all staff.

As a result of this change, the School Board will change name to the St. Francis School Advisory Council.

We will adopt a new set of Terms of Reference, which will replace our current constitution. The name may change, but the role of the Advisory Council will still be very similar, with an emphasis on contributing to the strategic directions of the school.

If anyone is interested in joining, please let me know or have a chat to a board member. Nominations will occur at the AGM next Tuesday.

School Board AGM: The School Board AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th December via Zoom.



Library borrowing for students has now stopped for the year to enable us to relocate the library into a new location.

Students will be informed if they have any outstanding books that are to be returned. I know that looking for books can at times be frustrating, but all of your efforts are very much appreciated.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Mass: Fr Michael Grace is conducting mass again at St Mary's Parish in Nathalia. It is a wonderful time of the year for our parishioners to come together in celebration of the Eucharist.

News from the Bishop: Liturgies (including Mass) may be celebrated at a church, attended by those required to conduct the service and up to 150 participants.



Funerals may be celebrated with a maximum of 150 attendees. Weddings may be celebrated with 150 attendees.

Face coverings, hand sanitiser, cleaning and recording contact details of attendees are essential.

No contact for Sign of Peace, no passing of collection baskets, no holy water stoups at door, Holy Communion received on the hand from minister who uses hand sanitizer before and after.



St Vinnies' Christmas Appeal: We are continuing to collect for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal. We will present this collection at our end of year to St Vincent de Paul.

Non – perishable items can be handed in at the Office or in the baskets within each individual classroom.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jaxon B
Josh B
Angus C
Chantelle D

Tam & Jemma

HAPPY BIRTHDAY from us
all!

A FEW REMINDERS FROM OUR CURRENT GUIDELINES:

IF CHILDREN ARE UNWELL: Parents must be advised that any child who comes to school feeling unwell or becomes unwell during the school day, they (or the emergency contact person) will be called to collect that child.

WATER BOTTLES: Drinking fountains are not to be used by students. Each child should bring water from home.

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO SCHOOL BY ADULTS: The Department of Health insists that no adult- parents, non-enrolled youths, visitors - is to enter the school unless necessary or in an emergency or working in an education capacity. Adults should not be permitted to go beyond the Reception area.

FACE MASKS: Parents, guardians and carers will be required to wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up their child(ren) or if required to collect an unwell child(ren) from the school.

MEDICATIONS @ ST FRANCIS

The administration of medication forms part of the Victorian Education schools common law duty of care. Schools can only dispense labelled Prescription medicine or medicines supplied to students with a letter signed by the parent, **along with a signature from your doctor or pharmacist.** This includes any other the counter medication such as Panadol, Cough Medicine, Hay fever medications, creams etc. School Medication Request Forms are available from the front office.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Foundation – Alby T –

For showing fantastic connections in both reading and writing. We love your positive attitude to school and that you are a fun friend to everyone.

Amelia J –

for helping to make our classroom a happy and welcoming place to be. Your willingness to help others is such a beautiful quality. Thank you Amelia, for sharing your gifts with us.

Grade 1/2 – Caitlin M –

for being creative with her stories and including lots of information and detail.

Wesley Mc-

for having the confidence to take risks with his work and doing his best on all tasks.

Pippa B –

For showing great leadership by caring and supporting others, being a problem solver and working as a team.

Raphael R –

for taking great care with his work and his handwriting skills. For also being a beautiful caring classmate.

Grade 3 – Grace L –

For being a caring, understanding, accepting, respectable and responsible individual. She is always the first to help others out in time of need. She is certainly a role model of the teachings of Jesus!

Grade 4/5 – Holly R –

Holly is a thoughtful student who consistently produces work of an extremely high standard. A great class role model.

Grade 5/6 – Nate S –

For his positive attitude to classroom learning. Congratulations Nate for enthusiastically setting high work standards in your final year at St Francis.

Science – Pat R –

For continually engaging in class discussion and asking such thoughtful questions. Keep questioning the world around you!

Georgia C – for giving her best and continually demonstrating PBiS values in the classroom. Congratulations on giving it your best effort, keep up the fabulous learning.

Italian – Emmerson B –

For your fabulous, creative responses in Italian, grazie! Ottimo!

PRINCIPALS – Georgia S –

Georgia has a caring personality and works well with others. Georgia is a helpful and considerate member of our school and is a good friend to everyone.



PBIS

Congratulations to our GOTCHA award winners; Emily, Zarlina, Spencer and Ruby!

Thank you for being Safe, Responsible and Caring Learners!



BILLABONG RANCH

CHILDRENS CHATTER MATTERS

Focus: Using a variety of language genres

As much as it is important for your child to understand instructions and follow directions, your child will also need to use and understand how to give advice. Give your child a chance to share about something they are good at and give advice to others who might be trying that activity for the first time.

Give your child five minutes to explain how to do something that they know how to do. It may be something recreational like skateboarding or something professional like examining a specimen under a microscope or even something silly like how to become a superhero. Have a go at the activity they are explaining and then encourage your child to give you advice. What should you do?



PARENTING IDEAS

This has been a tough parenting year. On a personal level it's been challenging, but when you add the extra difficulty of helping children and young people navigate this year, you'd be forgiven for feeling like you've had enough.

It's timely to look at US-based academic Dr. Brene' Brown's research that informed her book, *The Gift of Imperfect Parenting*. Brown's core finding was that the best parenting strategies rely on modelling for them to be adopted by children. That's a little scary as it means we need to be the adults that we want to our kids to become.

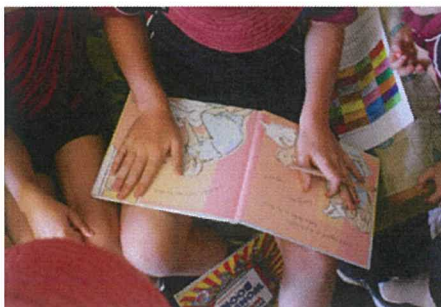
See Michael Grose's article "[Modelling self-kindness](#)" for more.



Students participated in 'The Amazing Race' today, facilitated by our awesome Jesse. Students ticked off from a list of activities that needed to be completed and items collected, with two teams being named champions! Such a great display of team work from all!



AMAZING RACE





DO YOU LOVE CRICKET?
HAVE YOU PLAYED BEFORE?
WOULD YOU LIKE THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE?
LOOKING FOR SOME EXTRA \$\$?

THE MURRAY VALLEY CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

Is looking for Umpires

Training is free and a meal is provided at every training session.

Contact:
Col Smith—0418 358 632
Matt Whitty—0429 300 412
murrayvalleycricketumpires@gmail.com




95%	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

BE SMART BE THERE!
Percentages based on 190 academic days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?



We acknowledge and pay respect to the Yorta Yorta Nation as the original and ongoing custodians of the land on which our school is situated. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice.

INSIGHTS

Modelling self-kindness



This has been a tough parenting year. On a personal level it's been challenging, but when you add the extra difficulty of helping children and young people navigate this year, you'd be forgiven for feeling like you've had enough.

It's timely to look at US-based academic Dr. Brene' Brown's research that informed her book *The Gift of Imperfect Parenting*. Brown's core finding was that the best parenting strategies rely on modelling for them to be adopted by children. That's a little scary as it means we need to be the adults that we want to our kids to become.

There is great power in kids watching us practise how we manage hardships, frustrations and difficulties. Whether we use self-kindness or self-put downs, either will leave an impression on our kids. Not only do they see how we react when we stumble or make mistakes, but we give them permission to act in the same ways.

It's hard to be self-kind

If you're a goal-oriented type of person, highly-judgemental or someone who likes to get things done, then self-kindness can be difficult to befriend. It goes against the grain to laugh at your mistakes or miss a deadline, even though it won't be the end of the world as you know it. If you recognise this type of rigid approach then it may be time let go of some old ways. Inflexibility is the enemy of healthy wellbeing, which thrives on adaptability and self-forgiveness.

Let them hear the process

Giving a child or young person insight into your thinking is a powerful parenting strategy. Sharing your struggles and mess ups with kids in age-appropriate ways takes vulnerability and promotes empathy. It takes courage to share a comment such as, "I keep putting myself down, which is not helpful. I've got to talk to myself as if I'm talking to someone I love." Disclosing this type of self-talk is only useful if it's done in a safe, matter of fact way and a child is comfortable with the message.

Self-kindness means acting compassionately toward yourself when you are struggling to meet your own expectations, meeting with unexpected difficulties and/or met with failure. It's time to drop the stiff upper lip, put aside the strict schedule and stop berating yourself. Instead say to yourself, "This is really tough right now. How can I take some comfort and look after myself?" This is a message worth modelling particularly, if you are living with a perfectionist or a child with tendencies toward anxiety.

TOURISM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

NCN Health is excited to welcome back visitors from around Victoria and interstate this summer with a strong focus on keeping the community safe.

Part of our COVID Safe plan for tourism includes health promotion and education for visitors to our region and providing free COVID-19 swab testing to anyone with symptoms.

What can the community do?

We all have a role to play in protecting our communities from COVID-19, while still enjoying a festive Christmas season.

Lead by example - always follow the public health advice staying 1.5m away from others, regularly washing and sanitizing your hands and if you feel unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 isolate in your home or accommodation and arrange to get tested.

Encourage your visitors to be proactive - if you notice a family or friend has any of the following symptoms; fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of the sense of taste, loss of the sense of smell, or fatigue or tiredness for no identified reason, suggest they take it seriously and arrange to get a COVID-19 swab test at NCN Health or contact their GP.

To organise a COVID-19 test contact us:

- NCN Health Nathalia 5866 9444
- NCN Health Cobram 5871 0777
- NCN Health Numurkah 5862 0555

Ensure family and friends isolate until the results are returned. The time it takes to get your COVID-19 results back can vary depending on the demand for testing, however they usually take between 1 – 3 days.

For more information please call the Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398 or go to Department of Human Services website: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>



**NCN
Health**

Nathalia
Cobram
Numurkah



OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

06 DECEMBER 2020

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD. Engulfed by many chores in the lead-up to Christmas, we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Let us resolve to include some time to pray, to reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and to seek reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Is 30: 19, 30
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84: 9-14. R. v. 8

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

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,/ a voice that speaks of peace,/peace for his people./His help is near for those who fear him/and his glory will dwell in our land. R.

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;/justice and peace have embraced./Faithfulness shall spring from the earth/and justice look down from heaven. R.

3. The Lord will make us prosper/and our earth shall yield its fruit./Justice shall march before him/and peace shall follow his steps. R.

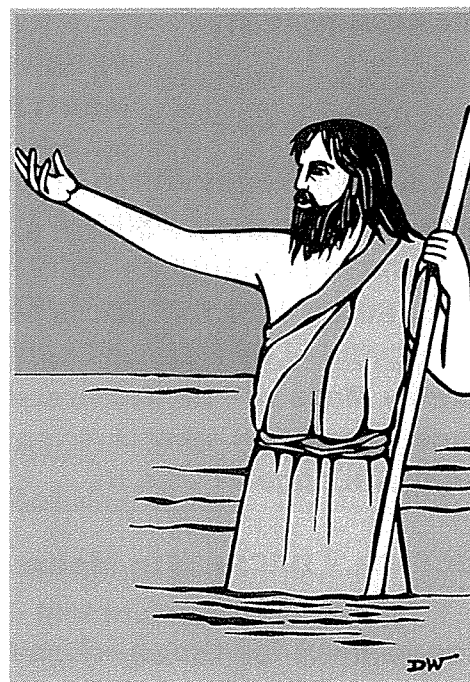
SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might



be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 1-8

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISES

The life of faith is one in which the believer is inevitably called to deal with the tension between God's promises and our present experience. When the people of Israel were dragged into exile their experience was that their God was powerless to save and that the ancient promises had been forgotten. It is at precisely this moment that Isaiah dares to proclaim a message of hope in the midst of desolation, pardon instead of punishment, and that the God who can subdue all things will again stoop to gather the weak and lead them home.

Peter's Christians were clearly worried by the fact that the Risen Lord had not come back in glory as they expected. How could this be interpreted other than as a sign that God's plans had somehow changed, or that God no longer cares? Peter's response is that, despite appearances to the contrary, God's delay should be seen as an opportunity for us to make ready for the Lord's return. It is a moment of grace rather than a sign of God's lack of fruitfulness.

When John the Baptist declared that the longed-for Messiah was near, his contemporaries must have wondered if it was possible. How could this come to pass when the province of Judah was powerless under the rule of the Roman empire?

Advent is always a reminder that the call to believe comes to us in the midst of the complexity of life. It meets us head-on with a challenge: are we prepared to take the risk of believing in God's promises?

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST. MARY'S PARISH, NATHALIA

**Sunday December 6th 2020
Second Sunday Of Advent B**

**As we come to worship, we acknowledge the original custodians of this land.
*The safety of children and the vulnerable is a priority in our parish.***

**PARISH PRIEST: FR. MICHAEL GRACE: Phone 0419 794 511
PRESBYTERY: Phone 03 5866 2694
MEDITATION: Thursday At the Chapel at 11.30am
MASS: Thursday In the Church at 12.30pm**

NATHALIA: SUNDAY MASS: 9.00am

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME is televised at 6.00am every Sunday on Channel 10

<https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

Sunday Mass will be livestreaming from St Kilian's, Bendigo on the diocesan website's home page www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au and the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst Facebook page at 10 a.m.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Moira Coleman

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Father Peter O'Reilly, Catherine Heard, Tim Farrell, Sue Gooley, Dot Buckley, Harold Cockbill, Edna (Doll) Moore, Norma Warren, Des. Dunn, Joan Stafford Graeme Bernhardt.

Please pray for all those who are ill, especially: Sally McKeown, Sister Maureen Banyard (Mother Mary of the Cross), Paul Speekman, Paul Quinn, Margaret Cranko, Sister Jennifer Sanders, Julian Segafredo, Panagiota Spanos, Mary Trevaskis, Molly Hargreaves, Noel Loughnan, Christine McIntyre, Norm Walsh, Neil Clardey, Enna Holmes, Martin Russell, John Walsh, Darren Robertson, Kath Heaton, Andrew Cameron, Paul Congues, Sean Barry, Bob Brooks, Leanne Caldwell.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM: Envelopes: \$115.00 Plate \$13.00

Account Name: St. Mary's Catholic Church BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 1100 22928

Financial contributions to the work of the Parish can be made through the Bendigo Bank. If you advise the staff there that you wish to contribute to St Mary's Catholic Parish, it is helpful if you know the above details. If you do not have these details with you, please ask the staff – they have offered to assist where possible to make it easy for you all. The addition of a Reference, such as your name or your Planned Giving envelope number, will allow the tracking of your contribution, should you require it.

ADVENT PRAYER: For the Church in Australia: as we continue our journey to the Plenary Council, we pray that we may become the Joyful, Hope-filled, Servant Church that Christ calls us to be.

NEWS FROM THE BISHOP: Liturgies (including Mass) may be celebrated at a church, attended by those required to conduct the service and up to 150 people participants

Funerals may be celebrated with a maximum of 150 attendees.

Weddings may be celebrated with 150 people attendees.

In all of the above circumstances, the following requirements continue: a maximum attendance is subject to a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres. Face coverings, hand sanitiser, cleaning and recording contact details of attendees are essential a social distancing (1.5m) and no contact for sign of peace, no passing of collection baskets, no holy water stoups at door, communion received on the hand of minister who uses hand sanitizier will be before and after.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: held this Tuesday 8th December at 11am in the newly refurbished Sister Carmel Spratt Meeting Room

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS: This year has been a tough one for all of us. But sometimes, if you're able to bring hope to others, it can also make you feel more helpful. What better time to spread hope than in the season of giving? By giving a Global Gift, you'll bring hope and joy to some of the most vulnerable families in our world. You'll also bring a smile to your loved ones when they find out you've given hope and joy on their behalf. Send joy across the globe: Your purchase of Global Gift cards will make a real difference, bringing gifts of education, food and protection to families struggling with poverty, disability and COVID- 19 pandemic. Our beautiful gift cards at \$15 and come in both printed and e-card versions. Order online (by 8th December to allow for post) at www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413

STRONGER RALLY ONLINE: The second 'Stronger Tonight' online Rally will be happening on Saturday 12th December at 5pm. With music, conversation and a little bit of Christmas, this is an online event not to be missed! The live stream will be available on the Stronger Youth YouTube Channel. Follow Sandhurst Youth and Stronger Youth on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with the latest info.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL: How is God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope filled, servant community? Read the Plenary Council paper for discernment:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-thejourney-of-discernment?> Reflect and pray for centres of Joy, Hope and Service with Advent 2020 leaflets:

AdventLeaflets2020 (catholic.org.au) Plenary Council Sandhurst Facebook page

Plenary Council Sandhurst Facebook How do we form parish centres of Joy, Hope and Service in the Sandhurst Diocese? To join a Diocesan Zoom Gathering Wednesday 9th December at 7:30pm email plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au