

St. John's Parish

"Hand In Hand "

1st Sunday of Advent – Year C
December 1st 2024

www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au

St John's Church –
52 Waterloo Rd, Trafalgar

St Jarlath's Church –
cnr Campbell and Rollo Sts. Yarragon

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr. Bernard Buckley VG Phone: 5633 1166

**PARISH SECRETARY AND
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:**
Mrs. Julianne Keily.
Parish e-mail: trafalgar@cdsale.org.au

OUR SCHOOLS:
St Joseph's Primary School
58 Waterloo Rd. Trafalgar. Phone 5633 1151
Mrs Trish Mulqueen - Principal

Marist Sion College
165 Burke St. Warragul. Phone: 5623 5944
Ms Lisa Harkin - Principal

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:
St John's: Saturday: Vigil Mass – 6pm
St Jarlath's: Sunday – 10am.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY TIMES:

Monday	2.12:	-
Tuesday	3.12:	-10:00am St John's
Wednesday	4.12:	-10:00am St John's
Thursday	5.12:	-10:00am St John's,
Friday	6.12:	-10:00am St John's

RECONCILIATION: The sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated at St John's on Saturdays from 10:00am, or any time by arrangement with Father.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:
'We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, the Gunai Kurnai people. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country; and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.'



**our stories,
our church,
our mission.**

Diocese of Sale

THE CONFITEOR: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; *(All strike their breast 3 times)* therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

APOSTLES' CREED: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

CELEBRANT: Dear friends, Jesus calls us to stay awake, pray for strength, and stand with confidence while we await his glorious return. Trusting in his promises, we pray for a new heaven and a new earth.

READER: We pray for the family of nations. May the upheavals, uncertainties and conflicts of our time summon the world community to work resolutely for global peace. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the church around the world. May every Christian community be a beacon of hope and a model of steadfast love for all to see. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our Diocese as the assembly draws near, that *we build a church that radiates and nourishes our unity of faith.* (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the many millions who have fled their homeland due to war, oppression, poverty or drought. May the world community offer them the refuge they so desperately seek. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for home-based carers, especially those supporting family members with advanced age or dementia. May they have all the resources they need for this labour of love. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they be raised from the sleep of death to the glory of eternal life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CELEBRANT: God, ever ancient and ever new, in all times and seasons we are in your hands. Be close to us every day of our earthly lives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

THE LIGHT: That's the title of an Advent daily prayer and reflection resource from the Diocese of Wollongong, and available for parishioners to purchase - \$5. The booklet has lovely art works too and runs from Advent to Epiphany. It would help anyone using it to prepare well for Christmas.

'REVERSE' ADVENT CALENDAR: St Joseph's School is again running this terrific Advent project, in which, instead of receiving a gift/treat every day, we give a small gift for a needy person/ family as suggested on the flyer available at the back of the churches. St Joseph's community invites you to participate in whatever way you can.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND - COMMUNITY FUND: An account with the CDF Community Fund will not only provide a solid financial return but will support and grow existing and new services, especially in the Church community. The CDF Community Fund helps people save while doing good in schools, hospitals, churches etc. The Fund is offering a 5.00% rate on a 12 month Term Investment account; 5.1% for 6 months. A minimum investment of \$2,000 is required. For more information visit the CDF website, or call 1800 134 135

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS: As we resume this part of the liturgy, we'll have to work out the best way to do so in our churches. At St John's, it's suggested the gifts will be left on the pedestal in the 'red seats' area, and be brought forward by two people each week, together with the collection. I wonder if the commentator on duty each week can 'line up' two people before Mass starts.

Lighting the Advent Wreath – 1st Sunday "Christ our Light brings us clarity and vision"

As we bless the Advent Wreath at the beginning of a new Church year we are invited to become more aware of the path God is directing us along. It is a path that leads to a deeper and deeper relationship with God. (*The candle is lit*)

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you bring the promise of Salvation.

Response: Come and awaken us.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory and power

Response: Come and awaken us.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are our guide and our light.

Response: Come and awaken us.

Celebrant: Let us pray, that we may be guided by the spirit of wisdom, that we may use this Advent Season to search our hearts and to become all the Lord asks of us.

Response: *All powerful God, may Advent open our hearts and minds to a new image of you so that we become more steadfast in faith, filled with joy at the thought of your coming and untiring in our desire to see you. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Julianne Heenan, Bill O'Toole, Trevor Ralls, Michael Castello .

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: We pray the Lord's healing touch upon Lesli Perera, Jean Huffer, Kellie Monson, Brian O'Connell, Fr Andrew Wise, Elly Van Den Broek, Connor O'Sullivan, Stephen Casonati, Shirley Deane, Peg O'Rourke and Shirley Devlin.

"Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of tyarragon cemetery on Tuesday night. he Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from mass ay sin, save you and raise you up."

ST JARLATH'S NEWS: **All Souls Mass:** Special thanks to all who joined in the All Souls Mass at Yarragon cemetery on Tuesday evening. It was a lovely ceremony/ celebration. **Yarragon Thanks The Volunteers:** A community 'thank you' is being offered to all the volunteers in the town and district, at a Morning tea at St Jarlath's Hall this Sunday, after Mass. All are welcome. **Centenary book:** The Centenary Book, re-published, is now available at the church. Cost is \$12. See Bryan for a copy. **Recycling Project:** There has been a good response to our project to recycle suitable glass items. You can place yours in the bin at St Jarlath's after Mass any weekend, or see Bryan on Sundays. **Cuppa on Sunday:** Everyone is welcome every Sunday, for a 'cuppa' in the hall after Mass.

THE COLUMBARIUM: Our parish Columbarium, beside St John's church, is a sacred space for the ashes of loved ones whose bodies have been cremated. Information is held at the parish office about the use of, and cost of, reserving a niche in the Columbarium. There is a prayerful Catholic rite for the placing of ashes.

DIOCESAN CONSULTATION PROCESS 2024: As we head towards the Diocesan Assembly in February, a group from St John's and St Jarlath's met on October 30th, to look at Phase Two of this process- taking the Diocese forward through the next five years. We began with three questions from Phase 1 – reflecting on the past five years. Over the Sundays in Advent we will set out for you the main responses to those questions, finishing with the material from our input to go to the Assembly in February, 2025.

Responses from Phase One of the Diocesan Consultation:

- A great sense of hope. Never give up trust in God. All problems can be overcome. We seek a Diocesan initiative looking at a Church that is always evolving and people need to be brought along.
- Generally people are positive and caring about church. We need to look to the future with the young. It is a new age. There is a concern re the lack of activity to include young people. We are an aging church and with all this means for the next decade or two
- The commitment of parishes in the Diocese to look forward to a good future. Are we too traditionally centred for the younger community? How do we approach and reconnect with those people who feel abandoned?
- Decline in participation. Loss of connection with a sense of community that occurred with COVID. Young ones who are lost to their phones and social media and often to their families as well.
- Leadership styles make a great difference to perception and cohesion in any group – parishes and dioceses are no exception. Collaborative leadership is not only preferable but necessary in a forward looking community
- We need to be aware of the vulnerable, disillusioned and/or hurting parishioners in our communities.

WEBCAMS OPEN DOOR TO VIRTUAL PILGRIMS: To help people who cannot travel to Rome but want to pray at the tomb of St Peter and cross the threshold of the Holy Door, St Peter's Basilica is installing new webcams.

Franciscan Father Enzo Fortunato, communications director for the basilica, said on Monday that Pope Francis will inaugurate the new webcams at the tomb of St Peter and on the Holy Door on December 2nd. Some 30 million pilgrims and visitors are expected to pass through the Holy Door during the Jubilee Year that opens on Christmas Eve and closes on January 6, 2026, Fr Fortunato said.

The pilgrimage, he said, will be an experience "that billions of people will be able to share remotely through a webcam positioned at the tomb of St Peter to approach the mystery of the fisherman who had himself crucified upside down to be able to stand with his head held high before his Lord, giving rise to a pilgrimage that has continued uninterrupted for two millennia."

Fr Fortunato also presented the first edition of *Piazza San Pietro*, a new magazine he is directing on behalf of the basilica. It is named after St Peter's Square, he said, because the magazine hopes to be a place of welcome and encounter like the square is. A unique feature of the magazine, which will be available in Italian, Spanish and English, is that Pope Francis will respond to a letter from a reader each month, Fr Fortunato said.

Letters can be sent to lettere@piazasanpietro.va for consideration, he said. In the December issue, Pope Francis responds to Olivia, a grandmother in Bergamo, Italy, who wonders what she should do about her five-year-old granddaughter who has not been baptised.

Pope Francis recommended that Olivia and her husband, "with hope, meekness and charity," talk to their daughter and her husband, but not push the idea of having their daughter baptised.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS: As we resume this liturgical practice, the following might be of interest to parishioners:

The Liturgy of the Word at Mass is followed by what is called the 'Preparation of the Gifts'. This term replaces what was previously known as the 'Offertory'.

It is during the Eucharistic Prayer that the self-offering of Jesus is recalled and re-presented. We are joined to Christ's sacrifice when, as members of the body of Christ, the Church, we offer the consecrated bread and wine to the Father.

The title 'Preparation of the Gifts' clearly describes the purpose of the rite, which is simply to prepare the altar, the gifts and the assembly for the offering of the whole Church that takes place during the Eucharistic Prayer. The altar is prepared at the beginning of the rite when the corporal, purificator, chalice and missal are placed on the altar.

The procession with the gifts by members of the assembly is a powerful expression of the assembly's participation in the Eucharistic action. The General Instruction mentions only bread, wine and the collection in the procession. One vessel with sufficient altar bread for the assembly, one large container of wine, and a basket with the collection are all that need be presented. Having one vessel for each element symbolises the unity of the one bread and one cup. Including offerings for the poor and the Church is of ancient origin and deep significance.

An authentic way of understanding the assembly's participation in this part of the Mass is as a time when we prepare to unite ourselves with Christ's offering.

(from Liturgy Lines; Archdiocese of Brisbane)

PRIESTS, PROPHETS, KINGS: What is the meaning of the baptismal gifts - priest, prophet, and king - each of us received on that important day?:

All the baptized serve as priests through their sacrificial efforts to bring people to God. They serve as prophets through their witness to the truth in word and deed. And they serve as kings in their efforts to lead others—again through word and deed—to use their talents to advance the Kingdom of God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1241).

OUR PARISH CODE OF CONDUCT: Central to the mission of St. John's Parish, Trafalgar and St. Jarlath's community, Yarragon is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of all children, young people and adults at risk and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

LITURGY ROSTER: GREETER/COMMENTATOR:

1.12	T Elly	Y Angela
8.12	T Judith	Y Maree
15.12	T Glenys	Y Elisabeth

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

1.12	T Lucy	Y Yvonne
8.12	T Glenda	Y Cynthia
15.12	T Elio	Y Ken

Anyone else happy to be on the roster. Let us know! Lucy would be happy to hear from you!! (We all would!)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH: December Roster

Cleaning: Glenda and Ann Altar Linen: Pat Mc D

Special thanks from of us all to those who care so carefully and generously for our beautiful churches and properties.

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$405; House Collection \$387.40; If there's anyone who'd like to join the planned giving program, either through envelopes or automatic credit card giving, please see Fr Bernard or Julianne at the parish office.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

FIRST READING: (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: from Ps 24

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

SECOND READING: (1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2)

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

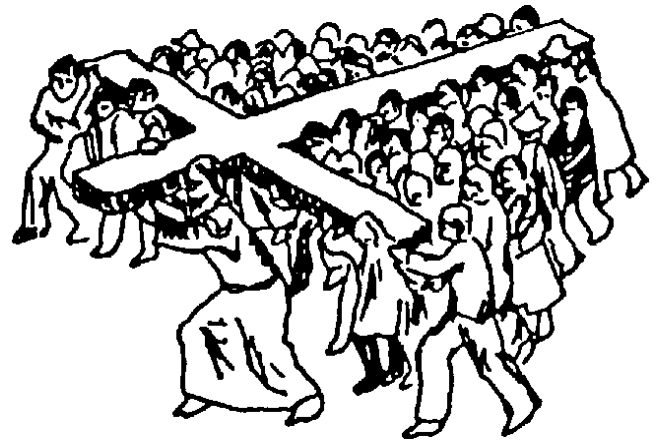
Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened by debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of the Lord

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*



Scripture Readings taken from the Roman Missal Lectionary 1981. Used with permission

MAINTAINING OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES: Very generous donations to this worthy cause are still coming in. Of course, they are always welcome. To make a gift electronically the St John’s and St Jarlath’s appeals, the numbers at the NAB are: BSB: 083 879; A/c: 44927 4888. Many, many thanks to all who have already generously supported our wonderful projects.