

took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

22 DECEMBER 2024

FRUITFULNESS AND BLESSEDNESS

With Christmas only days away, this final Advent Sunday Gospel turns its attention to the pregnant Mary, soon to give birth. She goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, also pregnant. While the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience is familiar with family structures and lines of patriarchal authority, our Gospel centres on these two women within the patriarchal setting of the house of Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah.

There is something subtly subversive here. Important is the relationship between these two women and the fruitful imagery that permeates the story. The pregnancies of the two mothers anticipate the births of the two central figures in the Gospel's opening chapters. We have already seen one of them, John the Baptist, in the Gospels of the previous Sundays. It is the other, Jesus, whose birth we are soon to celebrate in a few days' time.

Elizabeth attests to the blessedness of Mary and the child to whom she will give birth. It is an affirmation which even Elizabeth's child witnesses to while still in the womb. Elizabeth and the child she carries anticipate the holiness of the one whom Mary will, at the angel's earlier invitation, name 'Jesus'. For the mother to name the child, as Elizabeth will do later in naming 'John' before the speechless Zechariah, is culturally unusual. But there is nothing unusual about these births. We are caught up in this story, about fruitfulness and blessedness. Perhaps these are God's much-needed words to us as we seek to be with these two female figures preparing for the birth amongst us of the one from God.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them

till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.

He himself will be peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine forth
from your cherubim throne. / O Lord, rouse up
your might, / O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has
planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, / the man you have given your
strength. / And we shall never forsake you
again: / give us life that we may call upon your
name. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Marydas Arackal OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677
secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au
www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141



OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- ▶ Stefphy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stefphy Coosnapa ▶ Joss Honour (St Joseph's Outreach Services)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm, or by appointment.

ANOINTING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 22nd December 2024

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 21st December	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 22nd December 4 th Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 23rd December 4 th Week in Advent		
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve	10.00am Mass 6.00pm Family Mass 8.30pm Carols 9.00pm Night Mass	7.00pm Family Mass
Wednesday 25th December Nativity of the Lord	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Thursday 26th December Boxing Day	10.00am Mass	NO MASS
Friday 27th December St John	10.00am Mass	NO MASS
Saturday 28th December Holy Innocents	9.00am Mass	

HOLIDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Apart from New Year's Day and the usual 9am Mass on Sundays, there will be **NO WEEKDAY Masses** at St Thomas Aquinas from Thursday 26th December until Friday 3rd January inclusive. Weekday masses will resume on Tuesday 7th January.

ST AUGUSTINE – MARY, CREATURE AND YET MOTHER



“God created a Virgin whom he chose to be his mother – a woman who did not conceive according to human nature. He chose her, to be created from her. The one who came from her existed before her. He chose the mother he had created; he created the mother he had chosen”.

Christmas Offering

Envelopes are available at the church doors to offer a Christmas gift to your parish clergy on the collection plate.



PARISH BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome the family and friends of Sofia Ransom who is to be baptised in our parish.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will reopen on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 9am. If you have any urgent matters that need attending to please contact one of the Augustinian Priests at the Priory – Tel. 98274689

AUGUSTINIAN MAGAZINE SUMMER ISSUE

Please pick up and take your copy of the Augustinian Magazine from the front porch of the church. The Augustinians have served in our parish for 50 years.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Robert Huggins, Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Ronald Seaman, Mito Gloudemans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Stephen Soh, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Christine Rodrigues, Janine Forster.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Anniversaries

- ✦ Fr John Barry OSA
- ✦ Eileen Bramich
- ✦ Steffi Pantea
- ✦ Victor Castellano
- ✦ Vera Makaling
- ✦ Joyce Dennis

2024 CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SJOS

Our parish Giving Tree will be in our churches from this weekend. This year we are again collecting food gifts and money or vouchers for the food store visitors. When you place your gift or shopping voucher in the basket under the tree, please take a gift card and hang it on the tree. The gifts will be collected after each mass for distribution through the SJOS food store.



VOLUNTEER WITH OUR QR CODE

Scan this QR code for a direct link to our parish website to access bulletins, the latest news and information on how to get involved in your parish.



THE SCRIBBLE SUMMER EDITION OUT NOW

Please take your copy of the parish seasonal newsletter today.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE



Monday 23rd December
 7-9pm at St Joseph's.
 All welcome.

MASS COLLECTIONS 15/12/2024

Clergy (Augustinian Community)	
1 st Collection, CDF & bank deposits.	\$ 698.25
Church (Parish Ministries)	
2 nd Collection	\$ 438.00
Envelopes	\$ 157.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards	\$ 360.00
Tap Point Terminals.....	\$ 425.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	