

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

30 NOVEMBER 2025

STAY AWAKE!

Happy New Year! Today we listen to the Gospel according to Matthew for the first time on this first day of the new liturgical year, Year A. Matthew writes for Jewish followers of Jesus living in the mid-80s of the first century. We shall listen to this Gospel aware that Israelite-Jewish concepts permeate its presentation of the Jewish Jesus, so different from Mark or Luke.

The language of today's Gospel is very Jewish. It is drawn from imagery of the Old Testament—typical, as we shall see, of Matthew—and from a particular style of biblical writing called 'apocalyptic'. Tempted to take our selection literally, it is better and to think of it as 'theological-poetry'. The evangelist uses a familiar Jewish literary style of writing. Its basic theme is that, despite the evil and tragedies that surround people, God will save and protect those who are faithful, especially at that definitive moment of divine judgement at the end of time.

Jesus' injunction is to 'stay awake' to this moment—not to fall asleep or become disheartened by its delay. God will definitively act against evil and vindicate the faithful. Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder. We, too, must 'stay awake' and 'stand ready' to what will unfold in the year ahead and not be dispirited by all that seems negative, fruitless and disheartening. God's presence, the God who 'will be with us' will be revealed in the figure of the 'Son of Man'. This is a recurring theme in the Gospel and throughout this new liturgical year.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come

the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the Temple of the God of Jacob

so that we may walk in his paths;

since the Law will go out from Zion,

and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into

ploughshares,

their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us go to God's house. / And now our feet are standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there to praise the Lord's name. / There were set the thrones of judgement / of the house of David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace be to your homes! / May peace reign in your walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say: 'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.



Est. 1887

First Sunday of Advent 30th November 2025
St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Michael Sullivan OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Francis Park 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

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joel Sanchez (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Sat)
- ▶ 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: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, 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 30th November 2025

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 29 th November	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 30 th November 1st Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 1 st December 1st Week of Advent		
Tuesday 2 nd December 1st Week of Advent	10am Anointing/Healing Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 3 rd December St Francis Xavier	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 4 th December St John Damascene	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 5 th December 1st Week of Advent	10am Mass 10.30am Advent Reflection	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 6 th December St Nicholas	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	



2025 CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SJOS

Our parish Giving Tree will be in our churches from next 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.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ RCIA Meeting: Thursday Dec 4th 7pm
- ▶ Advent Reflections: Friday 10.30am
- ▶ Anointing Mass: Tues 2nd Dec 10am
- ▶ Friends of St Augustine: Fri 5 Dec 2pm

ST AUGUSTINE – ON ADVENT



“God decreed a time for making promises and a time for the promises to be fulfilled. The time for making promises was the time of the prophets, ending with John the Baptist, the last prophet. From then

until the end is the time for the fulfilment of promises. God is faithful. He promised us eternal salvation and an unending life of blessedness with the angels, and an imperishable inheritance, the joy of seeing his face, a dwelling-place with him in heaven, and the fear of death removed from us through the resurrection.” (from a sermon)

MONTHLY ANOINTING MASS

Our monthly healing mass will be celebrated this Tuesday 2nd Dec. at St Joseph's 10am.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS



In preparation for the Feast of Christmas, join us for a series of Advent reflections on Friday 5th, 12th & 19th

December 10.30am in the parish centre.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Members of Progetto Corelli will perform a concert -“Pastorale” in St Joseph's 3pm Sunday 7th Dec. Admission by donation for parishioners.

TIME CAPSULE PROJECT 2025

To commemorate the Jubilee Year. Make a creative suggestion to capture our era.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Ellen Allery, Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, June Cochrane, Anne Rigg, Mito Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Andrea Dreher.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased Anniversaries

- * Kathleen Brady
- * Joseph O'Leary
- * Guillermo Jorquera
- * Antoniette Bennett
- * Giovanni & Grazia Sirio
- * Agustin Jorquera
- * Vijaya Kumari
- * Leonor Jara
- * Nelson Jorquera
- * Luis Aravena
- * Roberto Silva
- * Aida Araya
- * Joanie Harrington

PARISH BBQ

Thank you to all who assisted and attended the BBQ on Sunday. A special thank you to Rocky's Fruit and Vegies for generously donating the salad ingredients.

COFFEE AFTER ST THOMAS' 9.00AM MASS

Join us for coffee at The Botanical Hotel after mass at St Thomas Aquinas this Sunday 30th November.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

CHRISTMAS EVE Wed 24TH

St Joseph's:

- 6.00pm Family Mass
- 8.30pm Carols
- 9.00pm Night Mass

St Thomas Aquinas

- 7.00pm Family Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25TH

- 9.00am Mass St Thomas Aquinas'
- 10.30am Mass St Joseph's

NEW YEAR'S DAY

- 9.00am Mass St Thomas Aquinas
- 10.30am St Joseph's

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 5.15 to 5.45pm St Joseph's

MASS COLLECTIONS 23/11/2025

Clergy (Augustinian Community)	
1 st Collection, CDF & bank deposits...	\$ 710.70
Church (Parish Ministries)	
2 nd Collection	\$ 378.90
Envelopes	\$ 205.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...	\$1134.60
Tap Point Terminals.....	\$ 360.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	