



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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1st Sunday of Advent. Year A. 27th November 2022

The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We are disciples of Jesus!

Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they **were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark.** They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, **stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.** Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, **you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.**

Summary

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time, will catch many people unprepared and tells His disciples, that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord's coming.

In this gospel we again hear Jesus speak of the uselessness, of looking for signs for the coming of the Lord at the end of time, because, there will be none! As we read **in Luke 21: 5-19, just two weeks ago, Jesus cautions: "Take care not to be deceived...because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them."**

In Conclusion

In today's gospel Jesus teaches us about the manner of waiting in preparation for "the end of time" and the Lord's second coming. Jesus compares the vigilance required of

Christians, to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows the thief's intent, then one remains watchful. We must not be like those who, **"were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark"** – they were unprepared and perished in the flood! We know that our Lord is coming, even if we do not know the precise time. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. **If we become lax in our Christian living, we will be caught unprepared, like those at the time of the great flood! However, if we walk in God's light and live a gospel life, then, we will be ready, whenever God calls!**

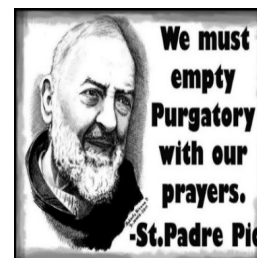
Today We Light the 1st Purple Advent Candle



The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. Each Gospel reading has a distinctive theme: **the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday of Advent), and the events that prepared for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday of Advent).**

The first candle lit on the first week of Advent is a purple candle, **this candle represents hope. It is called the Prophets candle** because the Old Testament prophets, had proclaimed the coming of the Messiah (like the Prophet Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the Messiah).

Come Lord Jesus!



As November Comes to an End

There is a longstanding tradition in the Catholic Church to pray for the souls in purgatory during the month of November. The souls of these individuals have not yet been completely purified of their sins and must undergo purification after death - **God's mercy does not stop at the moment of death!** Instead, divine mercy continues even after death to prepare a soul to receive God's loving embrace in heaven.

Praying for our departed loved ones, keeps the memory and presence of our departed loved ones with us. We remember them, we talk about them, we converse with them, we keep their pictures on our walls, we recall stories from our lives together, we laugh and cry, as we remember them, and we continue to apply and cherish the good things we learned from them, or, with them. **By living in communion with them, death loses its sting – our transition from life to death becomes a part of our lives, as we pray for the souls of the departed.**



If St Gertrude (who is often invoked for the souls in purgatory) was standing before us at Mass today, she would say: "May God bless you for your prayers. Your charity has made a difference, to the Holy Souls in Purgatory."

These are the words of Saint Monica (the mother of St Augustine): **"Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask of you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord, wherever you may be."**

Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to “live the Gospel.” **We are a community of Jesus’ disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

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| Mass Times | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri | 8.00 am (the Rosary after) |
| Mass Time | Saturday | 6.00 pm |
| Mass Time | Sunday | 9.30 am |
| Reconciliation | Saturday night | 5.15 – 5.45 pm |
| Anointing of the Sick | Liaise with Fr Greg | |
| Baptisms, marriages and funerals | Liaise with Fr Greg | |

Our Prayers of the Faithful

The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass. In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

Lorna Johnstone, Catherine Poulouse, Fr Francisco, Heron Sharpe, Denis Critchley, Antoinette De Silva, Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, Gerry and Maisie Prendergast, James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Fr Andre, Sheila Vanwieringan, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Cleone Stephenson and Charles Stephenson.

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort” (Matthew 5:4).

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Alice D’Souza (24 Nov), Reginald De Mello (26 Nov), Jane O’Sullivan (27 Nov), Joan Weston (30 Nov), Joan Geaghty (30 Nov) and all our departed relatives and friends.

Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: “I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies” (John 11: 25-26).

Note: Parishioners may email Cliff at: cliffordgerard@biqpond.com, for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our “Prayers of the Faithful.”

Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.



We Welcome “God’s Little Children” to Our Mass

Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18: 16

Activity sheets and colour pencils, are available at the rear of the church, to occupy the children during Mass. Parents may even pin their child’s work on the noticeboard (when space is available) for others to appreciate their efforts.

Our Parish St Vincent de Paul Christmas Donations (03rd/04th December).



Christmas Food Baskets

As is traditional in our parish, we are requesting parishioners contribute to our “Special Christmas Food Parcels,” for the needy in our local community this Christmas. Any non-perishable food in tins, packets or boxes will do (but no glass please). In addition to a food hamper, a \$30 Woolworths voucher is usually provided to enable the purchase of essentials like; fresh fruit and vegetables, baby food and more. **Cash donations may be deposited in our SVDP/poor donation box at the entrance of the church,** to enable the purchase of cash vouchers. Our donations will be taken to our local St Vincent de Paul group, where the food will be distributed to help the needy (especially families) in our community. **Please consider Christmas dinner treats like; plum puddings, fruit cakes, tin ham, mince pies and other “festive” food.** It is “our way” to share the hope, joy and peace of Christmas, with those who may have very little.



A CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE with tags labelled with Christmas gifts for the needy is at the rear of the church. Please help ... choose a tag, purchase the item on the tag and bring it to Church on 03rd/04th December. The St Vincent de Paul Society will make up hampers from all the donations. Every donation is gratefully appreciated. Last year, Christmas hampers were distributed to families and individuals, as “far-away” as: Bentley, Parkwood and Thornlie.

Parishioners who may need a “helping hand,” may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: Penny D’Souza (mobile: 0421 215 620), or, Michael Hardless (mobile: 0419 421 122), at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

The Origins of the Nativity Scene

In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to Saint Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crib/manger, for Christmas eve of 1223. However, as early as the fourth century, representations of the nativity of the Lord were painted as wall decorations, depicting the birth of Christ.



