



Encounter

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT - YEAR B

*A living, vibrant
faith community*

Vol 12 : No 04

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

OUR VISION:

To build a faith community
centred on the loving relationship
of Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
expressed in personal lives and
communal parish activities.

OUR MISSION IS TO:

- Develop relevant and prayerful Eucharistic celebrations
- Foster the experience of a personal relationship with God
- Provide Faith Formation opportunities
- Care for each other particularly the sick, lonely, aged and disabled
- Witness to God's love for our earthly common home and all its creatures that abound

WE WILL:

- Reach out to those in need
- Be committed to Catholic Social Justice principles
- Pray and work together with Christian Churches and all people of goodwill
- Engage with young people
- Care for our environment towards a sustainable future
- Strengthen bonds with First Nation peoples

MASS TIMES

• VICTOR HARBOR

Weekend - Saturday 6.00pm;
Sunday 11.00am.
Weekdays - Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday 9.00am

• GOOLWA

Weekend - Sunday 9.00am.
Weekday - Wednesday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

St Joan's, Victor Harbor - Saturday
11am - 11.30am, or by appointment.



FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you

great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

*For ever I will sing the goodness
of the Lord.*

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

(Continued page 4)



Bulletin Board

SPECIAL INTENTIONS (These names will be removed after one month. To keep names on this list please contact Parish Office)

John Wallace, Claire Hamish, Jeffery Family, Natalie Millar, Bailey Smallacombe, Ann Tee, Charlie Nicolson, Jane Lloyd, Eileen McCoey, Len Peake, Neil Cumming, Dave Rivers, Clancy Retallick, Ann Hannagan, Mollie Davis, Cath Howard, Keith Fawcner, Trudi McNamara, Elizabeth Nance, Allen Odgers, Jan Henderson, Jesse Walker, J. Millar, Rose Munro, Bill Woodhead, Andrew Nichols, John Slagter, Patricia Harris

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Clingan

RECENTLY DECEASED

Riley Davis-Ross

PARISH COLLECTION 16th & 17th December

1st (Presbytery) \$969.20
2nd (Parish) \$1,318.25

VICTOR ALTAR ROSTER

29th December & 5th January

M. Farmer & C. Pearsons

12th & 19th January

W. & J. Baker, F. Hanna

VICTOR MORNING TEA

24th & 31st December

F. Hanna & L. McCallum

7th January

L. Sunman & P. Chigwidden

VICTOR MEET & GREET

December Saturdays

M. Farmer & M. Tuckey

December Sundays

M. Cunningham, F. Harris

January Saturdays

M. Farmer, M. Tuckey

January Sundays

R. Reid, A. Rose

GOOLWA MEET & GREET

December J. McInnes

GOOLWA MORNING TEA

December A. Turner, S. Lee,

R. Lee, T. Siciliano

ST JOHN'S MUSIC GROUP

Practice 3.00pm Wednesday.

Claire Williams 0429 008 199

HOLY FATHER'S 2023 PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER :

FOR PERSONS WITH

DISABILITIES: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Sunday 5pm in the Annex. You are welcome to join this group to reflect on the Gospel of the day.

Phone Carol Sutherland. 0418 856 799.

CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING COMMUNITY

We meet for Lectio Divina (Scripture Reflection) and meditation on Monday afternoons at 4.00. Please contact Anne Weygood for details. 0429 653 844.

THE CENACLE

The Cenacle is held every Wednesday at 9.30am in St Joan of Arc Church. We pray the Rosary, reading, meditating and reflecting on one of the messages given to Father Gobbi by Mary our Mother and making an act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Gemma Woodhead 0492 849 414



For the next two weekends

December 30/31st and January 6th/7th

there will be no middle

section of our Encounter. The Encounter staff are taking two weeks' break.

Gael Maloney from Willunga will still send the readings on pp1 and 4 so you will have those but **please be sure to check the rosters that apply to you on both weekends.**

We will still send out the Commentators' sheets. Thank you.

FROM THE ENCOUNTER TEAM

Have a blessed Christmas and we will see you again in 2024!! Thanks to all who have contributed articles during the year including Rosemary Austin, our poets with a special mention to Paul Kennelly who sends in regular reports. Thanks to Jane Kennelly who is his very efficient secretary. Thanks to all those who do our rosters, Marie Riddle, Carol Sutherland, John Baker, Ann Turner and for getting them to us in time. Thanks to our counters who provide our weekly Parish Collection information. Thanks to Peter O'Shaughnessy for his proofreading, and thanks to Gael Maloney for her faithful work with our covers and more.

Pat Clingan, Elaine O'Shaughnessy, Paul Meade, Wendy Baker and Fran Hanna

KNIGHTS of the SOUTHERN CROSS DECEMBER 2023 REPORT

KSC CHRISTMAS BBQ GOOLWA

Thanks to Fran Hanna for putting in a report on the night in last week's Encounter as I was too ill to do so.

Thanks to Mike O'Halloran who filled in as a very last minute MC and did a great job as well as all the ladies who did a superb job on the salads. I am told that chef Tony was at his very best with a great BBQ serve.

As well **thanks to Joe Ryan for 20 years service to our order** who when presented with his certificate was lost for words!

Wish I had been there!

MONTHLY BBQ Our December BBQ raised \$150. Again many thanks for your support especially your kind donations. The next BBQ is on Sunday Jan 7th 2024 after 9.00am Mass.

MEETINGS Our members have 2 months off now but will have a dinner on the date of the January meeting with spouses at Pt. Elliot. More on that in early January **RUDY BALTAIS** will be presented with life membership in February 2024 at the Strathalbyn Catholic Hall. More details early in the new year.

ANNIVERSARY Phil Burns, still sadly missed, passed away 4 years ago.

WINE RAFFLE. The Christmas wine raffle was drawn at both Mass communities last weekend The winner at Victor was Geoff Chalmers, who tells us he can't remember the last time he won anything in a raffle, but as an avid lover of red wine was absolutely thrilled. At Goolwa, Vivi Scriva was commentator at the morning Mass and so took the bowl over to Father for him to draw the lucky ticket. When Father told her she was the winner she went to give him a hug but tripped and fell face down on the altar.

Vivi was fine and like Geoff thrilled at her win. Thanks to all who supported the raffle.

GREETINGS

On behalf of the Knights we wish all our parish members a Happy and Holy Christmas and a safe, healthy new year.



Bulletin Board



RESPONSORIAL PSALM FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT Yr.B

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of Your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim
Your truth.
Of this I am sure, that Your love lasts for
ever,
that Your truth is firmly established as the
heavens.

I have made a covenant with my chosen
one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish Your dynasty for ever
and set up Your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my Father
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for Him always;
for Him my covenant shall endure.



The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas) Solemnity 25th December



Throughout Advent the
Church longed ardently for
the coming of our Savior.
Today she celebrates His
birth with unrestrained joy.
"The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us." The

Son of God became man to give us a share
in that divine life which is eternally His in
the Blessed Trinity. Christmas time begins
on December 24 with the first Vespers of
the feast and ends on the feast of the
Baptism of Christ. White vestments
reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.
Catholic Culture

SAINT STEPHEN Feast Day 26th December (b. c.5, d. c.34)

St. Stephen was the first
Christian martyr. Stoned
outside Jerusalem, he
died praying for his
executioners.

He was one of the seven
deacons who helped the
apostles; he was "filled
with faith and with the Holy Spirit," and was
"full of fortitude."

The Church draws a comparison between
the disciple and his Master, emphasizing
the imitation of Christ even unto the
complete gift of self.



CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES and ROSTERS

GOOLWA

Sun 24th Dec. - 5.00pm Christmas Vigil

Commentator: A. Fawkner

R. 1 M. Mulvihill **R. 2** R. Lee

EMHC J. Ryan, M. Ryan, T. Sicilliano

Mon 25th Dec. - 8.30am Christmas Day

Commentator: D. Huppertz

R. 1 E. Bourne **R. 2** L. Healey

EMHC C. May

VICTOR HARBOR

Sun 24th Dec. - 7.00pm Christmas Vigil

Commentator: F. Hanna

R. 1 W. Baker **R. 2** K. Proctor

EMHC M. Farmer, M. Libutan, J. Baker

Mon 25th Dec. - 10.30am Christmas Day

Commentator: L. Blacket

R. 1 T. Hounslow **R. 2** K. Dudley

EMHC E. O'Connell, M. Libutan

NEW YEAR'S DAY VICTOR HARBOR

Mon 1st January - 10.00am

Commentator: R. Klecko

R. 1 K. Dudley **R. 2** P. Clingan

EMHC M. Libutan

PEACE CANDLE

On the fourth Sunday of
Advent, we light the final
purple candle to mark the
last week of prayer and
penance as we wait for
the birth of our Saviour.

*This final candle, the
Angel's Candle,"
symbolises peace.*

It reminds us of the message of the angels:
"Peace on Earth, Good Will to All."



PRAY FOR PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND THE HOLY LAND



THIS WEEK 23rd & 24th DECEMBER

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm

Commentator: E. O'Shaughnessy

R.1 M. Mulvihill

R.2 J. Ryan

EMHC J. Jeffery

Sunday 11am

Commentator: R. Klecko

R. 1 A. Rose

R. 2 L. Sunman

EMHC M. Taylor

GOOLWA 9.00am

Commentator: M. O'Halloran

R. 1 P. Kennelly

R. 2 M. Freeborn

EMHC S. Muller



NEXT WEEK 30th & 31st DECEMBER

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm

Commentator: J. Ryan

R.1 C. Sutherland

R.2 S. Duong

EMHC J. Jeffery

Sunday 11am

Commentator: T. Hounslow

R. 1 A. Weygood

R. 2 W. Baker

EMHC J. Baker

GOOLWA 9.00am

Commentator: Marie Riddle

R. 1 R. Lee

R. 2 Michael Riddle

EMHC A. Turner

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA

NGARRINDJERI and
RAMINDJERI land

CATHOLIC PARISH HOUSE

32 Seaview Road (PO Box 464)
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211
Telephone: 8552 1084 (*Please leave a message if the Office is unattended - we will get back to you asap*)
Email: catholicvhg@bigpond.com
Web: www.victorgoolwacatholic.org.au

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

• PARISH PRIEST

Fr Vinh-Quang Tran (8552 1084;
in an emergency - 0429 098 802)
Email: Vinh2511@bigpond.com

• PARISH MANAGERS

Mr Ray Klecko (0438 364 870)
Mrs Pat Clingan (0410 593 617)
Email: Parish_manager@bigpond.com

• PARISH NEWSLETTER

Please forward items for the newsletter to the Parish Office - 8552 1084, catholicvhg@bigpond.com
(All items for the newsletter by Wednesday evening)

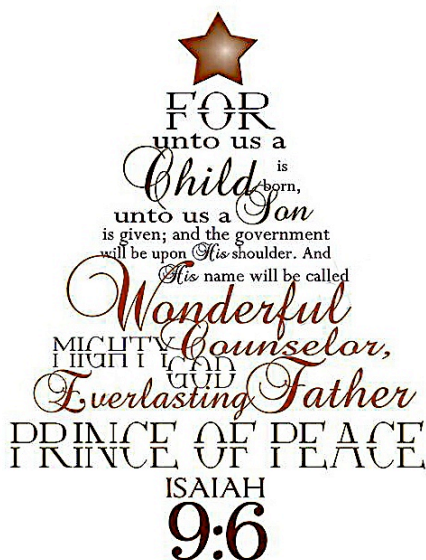
• PARISH TREASURER

Mr Merv Mallett (0412 103 443)
Email: parish_treasure@bigpond.com

• CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit (8210 8159)
Goolwa (Cathy May 0401 584 237)
Victor Harbor (Office 8552 1084)

• CSHW SA (Safety, Health, Welfare)
Cathy May (0401 584 237)



(Continued from page 1)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

IT'S A MIRACLE!

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the

virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her: Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you. (Luke 1: 26 - 28)

Miracles and childbirth seem to go hand in hand. It is a miracle people are courageous enough to bear children given all that can go wrong. It is a miracle anyone conceives a child given the biological precision required. It is a miracle that the baby survives its time in the womb given all the possible genetic and healthcare threats. It is a miracle that the trauma of childbirth doesn't overwhelm the baby and its parents more than it usually does. It is a miracle that more often than not, even in remote areas, the mother doesn't die from infection. It is a miracle that despite even the most incredible odds, most babies thrive and grow. Conception and childbirth are miracles. Period.

Jesus' conception and birth are no exception. They point to a truth that anyone who watches a child come into the world knows as the truth: that love exists - as a separate, all-powerful being outside ourselves, and we are graced with its presence everyday of our lives. Hail Mary, for her role in bringing this truth to life.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(25 - 31 December)

- **Monday, 25:** CHRISTMAS DAY - Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18)
- **Tuesday, 26:** St Stephen (Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22)
- **Wednesday, 27:** St John (1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8)
- **Thursday, 28:** The Holy Innocents (1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18)
- **Friday, 29:** 5th day in Octave of Nativity (1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35)
- **Saturday, 30:** 6th day in Octave of Nativity (1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40)
- **Sunday 31:** The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8552 1084 or in an emergency 0429 098 802.