

Reflections on the Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent

As we move into advent, there is a clear message. When Jesus breaks into the world he does so from the margins, from the unexpected places, from the places that no sensible person would ever venture. The true saviour of the world is not the one who wields military might or finance, but the one who courageously steps outside the main power structure to move into wild spaces full of creative energy and to see the world with a new set of categories than the ones inherited from culture. Jesus did not stay in the wilderness and nor can we. Our call is to continually extract ourselves from the world of empire, of domination, of greed, of neglect and injustice and journey back into our old spaces imbued with the new perspective separation brings. The call is to turn away from the world as we know it and imagine a new future for our relationships, connections and for our planet. This wilderness is the only place where we can hear the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Advent asks: Who of us will echo his voice? Who of us will respond? We need voices that will speak loudly and bravely of the implications of God's presence in the world. Only the strong of heart have the courage to try.

Fr Claude Mostowik

Christmas Mass Times

Dec 24: 5pm (Kids Mass) and 7pm
Dec 25: 9am and 10.30am

Mass Times

Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9am and 6pm
Wed., Thurs. and Fri. 9.15am

Graduation Mass

December 11 at 9.15am for Year 6.
All parents are welcome.

Please pray for our sick, especially Arthur Haddad, Norman Hay, Wendy Bridges, Margaret Farrugia, Nick Hurst and Mary Therese, Pat Little

In Memoriam

Thomas Michael Cahill, Roslyn Wills, Dennis James Reid, Tim Leslie Hullick, John Frederick Nadin, Richard John Oliver, Doreen Clare Clifford, Thomas Anthony House, Reginald James Stewart, Shirley Isabel Moir and Mary McGrath

There are Planned Giving flyers at the church entrance. Please feel free to fill one in.

Please fill in the 'Mass Attendance' sheet at the front. This is a state requirement so we can remain open and keep having our mass.

3rd December 2020 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

...most of us who experience disability and who are able to reflect on it have a 'social' view of disability. In other words, it is the barriers placed by society, rather than we ourselves or some feature of our bodies (including our minds), which are the 'problem'. Accordingly, many of us would see our 'impairment' as the mental or physical lack of function or form, for example optic nerve damage, which we experience. Our 'disability', on the other hand, would be the interrelation between the impairment and the social and physical environment that prevents us enjoying life to the full.

The social model of disability finds a ready echo in Catholic Social Teaching's understanding of the structures of sin. We are increasingly aware that it is not just individual acts that can be sinful, but the very phenomena and structures of society itself. In apartheid South Africa, for example, many people were born privileged and more born disadvantaged by virtue merely of their skin colour – the society gave some advantages at the cost of others that were not only unjust but also very hard to attribute to individual sinful acts of any one person. So it is with people with a disability in many societies. Society locks people out of the opportunity to live life to the full... It is not blindness that prevents the person with optic nerve damage from access to world literature or from understanding a contract – it is the unavailability of those documents in Braille or suitable electronic format. It is not paraplegia that prevents a person from entering a building but the lack of a wheelchair – accessible entrance.

Justin Glynn SJ, 'Us not 'Them': Disability and Catholic Theology and Social Teaching', Catholic Social Justice Series No. 83, pp 7-8.

Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal

This week we are concentrating on toiletries: soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and brushes etc Thank you for all you generosity so far.

Also, we will be finalizing the hampers on Dec 19 and distributing them on Dec 20. All volunteers are welcome. Please ask Fr Peter or Tru for times.

St Mary's Catholic Church † 21 Swanson St, Erskineville



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810

osafeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police