



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Doveton

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A 15th DECEMBER 2019

Parish Priest:
Fr. Michael Payyapilly VC
School Principal
Mr Steve Twomey
Parish Manager:
Mr. D. McCormick
Catechist
Mrs Maureen Marvin
Secretary
Mrs Maureen Goonewardena
Child Protection Officer
Mrs. Vina Fernandes

Telephones
Presbytery.....97924317
School.....97911853

Sunday Masses
Saturday Vigil.... 6.30pm
Sunday..... 9.30am
.....11.00am
Healing Mass.....7.00pm

Spanish Mass
4.30pm Saturday.

Weekday Masses
Monday..... 9.15am
Tuesday..... 9.15am
Wednesday..... 7.00pm
Thursday..... 9.15am
Friday..... 9.15am
Saturday..... 9.15am

Reconciliation:
Saturday 9.45-10.15am
.....6.00- 6.25pm
Tuesday 9.45- 10.15am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Every Tuesday after Mass
Every Thursday at 8.00am
Every First Friday all day
Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday.....7.00pm
Prayer Meeting:
Tuesday.....7.30pm

Baptisms, Marriages:
Speak with Fr. Michael.
Church weddings only.
No Parks or reception centres.
In other Catholic churches
For practising parishioners only

Funerals
We do our best to fit in with your wishes. We prefer not to have viewings in the church.

Hall may be available for hire on Sunday afternoons. For cost, and availability ring parish office.

Parish-website
holyfamilydoveton.org.au

Look, our God is coming to save us *-Br Michael Moore OMI*

There is one pink candle on the Advent Wreath which is lit today because this is Gaudete Sunday. The word 'Gaudete' means joy or rejoice.

As we take another step closer to our Christmas celebrations, there are signs of this all around us. The shops and streets are filled with more people and we are busier as we have more to do in our homes. But we are also asked to notice and pay attention to the Advent signs and symbols around us. The Wreath in our church is getting brighter as another candle is lit, making it glow brighter. Perhaps there is now a crib or manger in your church or you may even have put out a small one in your home. All these wonderful life-giving signs and symbols point and lead us to the great event of Christmas. This is the real source of our happiness, joy and celebrations.

Today we are called to hear and really listen to the message from the Prophet Isaiah; they are as radical and relevant now as when they were first spoken; **'Courage, do not be afraid; look, your God is coming, the Lord is coming to save you.'** On this third Sunday of Advent, let us take these words to heart; *God is coming to save us.* We all know that these remaining days before can be so busy, hectic and so full of activity. It can happen that when Christmas Day arrives, we are just so tired from all that we have done. Perhaps we could set a little time aside each day for a few minutes of prayer, stillness and silence. This might help us to slow down and remember what we are actually getting ready to celebrate.

The radio, television and all the magazines have been saying to us for the last few weeks, *It's Christmas!* It's not – not yet. We still have a week or more to go. The second reading from today's mass from St. James offers us another message to go along with all the shopping and buying we are currently doing; ***Be patient until the Lord's coming; do not lose heart because the Lord's coming is very soon.*** This is not easy for us at any time, but particularly at this time of the year when we feel pressured to buy so much, get so much done and leave nothing to chance. We just need to be careful that in the midst of all the activity we don't lose sight of what these Advent days are really all about.

<https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection>

This Week

Euch: Danny McCormick, Sajan Jose, Antony Fernando

Reading: Grace R, Albert L, Christine H, David N Snr, Jessica P, Malcolm D

Readings: Is 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Next Week

Paul Richardson, Gerald D'Cruz, Linday Sant

Florida N, Cathy M, Paul R, Maureen M, Youth Mass

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1: 1-7; Mt 1:18-24

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NOTICES

Healing Mass:

Every Sunday evening at 7.00pm.

Catechism Classes

For State school children on Thursdays at 4.00pm in the Small Hall.

Legion of Mary:

Every Tuesday at 10:45am
Venue: Small hall

Youth Group

Fridays 7.00pm in the small hall.

Parish Prayer Group

Meets every Tuesday at 7.00pm - 8.30pm in the Big Hall. New parishioners are always welcome.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

Timings:

Tue: 4.30pm - 6.15pm
(Age: 3-6; 6-9; 9-12)

Wed: 5.00pm - 6.45pm
(Age: 3-6; 6-9; 9-12)

Thur: 10am - 11.30am
(Age: 3-6)

Reconciliation for Advent:

Dec 1st - 22nd

Half an hour before daily Mass.
Except Sunday morning Masses.
(This is apart from the present confession timings)

Donations for flowers

For the Christmas Altar will be gratefully accepted.
please put in an envelope marked "Christmas flowers" and give to Fr Michael. Thank you for your generosity"

Christmas services:

24th Dec. Family Mass 7:30PM

24th Dec. Midnight Mass

12AM

25th Dec. Morning Mass 10AM

New Year Services:

31st Dec. Thanksgiving

Adoration 11PM

01st Jan. New Year Mass

12AM

01st Jan New Year Mass 10AM

Spanish Services:

24th Dec. Christmas Mass

4:30PM

31st Dec. New Years Mass

4:30PM

New office:

The office has been moved to the room between the presbytery and the main hall. This room was previously used as the men's room.

READINGS

MONDAY

Num 24:2-7,
15-17;

Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY

Gen 49:2, 8-10;

Mt 1:1-17

WEDNESDAY

Jer 23:5-8;

Mt 1:18-24

THURSDAY

Judges 13:2-7,

24-25;

Lk 1:5-25

FRIDAY

Is 7:10-14;

Lk 1:26-38

SATURDAY

Song 2:8-14;

Lk 1:39-45

SUNDAY

Is 7:10-14;

Rom 1:1-7;

Mt 1:18-24

Tradition of the Christmas Tree

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree.

According to one legend, late one evening, Martin Luther was walking home through the woods and noticed how beautifully the stars shone through the trees. He wanted to share the beauty with his wife, so he cut down a fir tree and took it home. Once inside, he placed small, lighted candles on the branches and said that it would be a symbol of the beautiful Christmas sky. The Christmas tree was born. Another legend says that in the early 16th century, people in Germany combined two customs that had been practiced in different countries around the globe. The Paradise tree (a fir tree decorated with apples) represented the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. The Christmas Light, a small, pyramid-like frame, usually decorated with glass balls, tinsel and a candle on top, was a symbol of the birth of Christ as the Light of the World. Changing the tree's apples to tinsel balls and cookies and combining this new tree with the light placed on top, the Germans created the tree that many of us know today.

<https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees>

Papal News:

Pope Francis - 50 years of priesthood

On 13 December 1969, just four days before his 33rd birthday, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was ordained a priest. His vocation dates back to 21 September 1953, the Feast of St. Matthew. It was during a confession that day, that the future Pope had a profound experience of God's mercy.

The priest and mercy

Divine Mercy has characterized his entire priestly life. Pope Francis speaks of priests as quietly leaving everything to engage in the daily life of communities, giving others their own lives, moved, like Jesus, when he sees people exhausted and "like sheep without a shepherd". Addressing parish priests in Rome the Pope said: "In the image of the Good Shepherd, the priest is a man of mercy and compassion, close to his people and a servant to all... Whoever is wounded in life, in whatever way, can find in him attention and a sympathetic ear.... Wounds need to be treated... We priests must be there, close to these people. Mercy first means treating the wounds"