

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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4 Winifred Street
ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

9th December 2021

PARISH UPDATE 90

COVID-SAFE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN EASED.

COVID restrictions now allow our churches to be open for Mass, “with no capacity limits or density limits”, everyone to be ‘fully vaccinated’ – evidence to be shown in the foyer. Bookings are no longer required.

As well, there is an extra Mass with those of ‘unknown vaccination status’, limited to 50 participants, at Sacred Heart at 6.30pm on Saturdays. Bookings are required at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

For all Masses, everyone is to record their presence (by QR or manually).

“Masks are required indoors only in limited settings”. Our churches are not listed as a ‘limited setting’.

See an attachment for information for accessing Mass on TV and online.

Hello everyone!

During this week it was the turn of our young Parishioners from our Sacred Heart School to gather for their first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They knew it all:

Who is the most important person in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? *God.*

Why is God the most important person in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? *Because God forgives us.*

Why does God forgive us? *Because God loves us.*

Oh, we hope and pray that they and their families keep strong in that awareness throughout their lives!

When I asked these young Parishioners to name some of their feelings having shared in the forgiveness of God, one word was ‘fresh’.

We are all called to something of that in the Season of Advent, I think, a ‘freshness’ in our faith. After all, it is the beginning of a ‘new year’ for the Church, for people of Christian faith. And it’s fitting as we move out of the year of those h-e-a-v-y lockdowns and continuing restrictions for us to look for ‘renewal’ in our lives.

I think of the word ‘revolution’ in this Season. One way to read that word is about something that goes around in a circle back to where it began. A second way is to read the word as changing the current situation and introducing something new.

There’s both of those senses in our coming to and coming through Advent each year. The Season re-focuses us on the continuing centre of our faith – the love of God shown in the birth of Jesus, Son of God, into our human experience. After everything else that has happened during the year, we come back to that heart of our faith.

And the Season calls us to review the ways we are people of faith, and to be people of faith in new ways in the new year. It is this second understanding that John the Baptist directly advises the people to take up in this weekend’s Gospel Reading: change, be different, be new – and show it!

The opportunity to gather for this type of re-focussing and renewal comes during next week in our two services of

“ADVENT PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION”

on Wednesday 15th December at 7.30pm in Emmaus church

and on Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart church

These Prayer Services will be followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance (First Rite). Consider including this in your Advent re-awareness!

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John the Baptist – and later Jesus - proclaim that our faith must show up in our actions. An attachment with this Letter urges us to work at forgiving others: for God, who is the centre of our faith, forgives us.

This week's 'Advent Perspective' wants us to make room for these sorts of reflections:

Advent relieves us of our commitment to the frenetic in a fast-paced world. It slows us down.

It makes us think. It makes us look beyond today to the "great tomorrow" of life. Without Advent, moved only by the race to nowhere that exhausts the world around us, we could be so frantic with trying to consume and control this life that we fail to develop within ourselves a taste for the spirit that does not die and will not slip through our fingers like melted snow.

It is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God, Advent after Advent, that we come to realise that its coming depends on us.

What we do will either hasten or slow, sharpen or dim our own commitment to do our part to bring it.

(Joan Chittester (Ancient Practices 62))

Another attachment with this Letter indicates the times for our Christmas Masses (there is one included for 'unknown vaccination status', for which bookings are required, with numbers limited).

Another attachment repeats our Ministry Recruitment process.

And see below for our usual weekend Mass times, which have been gathering increasing numbers over the past few weeks.

Another attachment repeats information about accessing Mass on TV and online – however I encourage you to consider re-connecting in our churches again.

To all as the ending of this year comes closer and closer, blessings and prayers for good Advent-ing as we enter its second half towards Christmas

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

*With this letter come 4 attachments: # On forgiving others # Christmas Mass times
Ministry recruitment # Mass Schedule and Accessing Mass on TV and online.*

The schedule for our Masses weekend (11/12) December is:

SACRED HEART:

5pm Saturday (fully vaccinated)

6.30pm Saturday (vaccination unknown): Bookings are essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

7.30am Sunday (fully vaccinated)

9.00am- Polish (fully vaccinated)

10.30am Sunday (fully vaccinated)

EMMAUS:

6.30pm Saturday (fully vaccinated)

9.00am Sunday (fully vaccinated)

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CHRISTMAS MASSES AT SACRED HEART AND EMMAUS 2021

Christmas Eve (Friday 24/12/21)

5pm Sacred Heart

6pm Emmaus

7pm Sacred Heart

8pm Emmaus

9pm Sacred Heart

- This Mass is for '**unknown vaccination status**'

- Limited to 50 participants

- Booking required at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

10pm Emmaus

12(midnight) Sacred Heart

Christmas Day (Saturday 25/12/21)

7.30am Sacred Heart

9am Sacred Heart (Polish)

9am Emmaus

10.30am Sacred Heart

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No Masses on Saturday night 25th December

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SUNDAY 26th December Feast of the HOLY FAMILY

7.30am Sacred Heart

9am Sacred Heart (Polish)

9am Emmaus

10.30am Sacred Heart

NOTES:

- Check-in – QR code or manually - is required at all Masses
- Evidence of full vaccination is to be shown before entering the church
 - except at 9pm Christmas Eve at Sacred Heart which is limited to 50 participants 'of unknown vaccination status' – for which bookings are required at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMKXC>

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“Masks are required indoors only in limited settings”. Our churches are not listed as a ‘limited setting’.

The schedule for our Masses this weekend (20/21 November) is:

Sacred Heart Church Saturday 5.00pm (Full Vaccination Required)

Sacred Heart Church Saturday 6.30pm (Unknown Vaccination status)

Sacred Heart Church Sunday 7.30am (Full Vaccination Required)

Sacred Heart Church Sunday 10.30am (Full Vaccination Required)

Sacred Heart Church Sunday 9.00am POLISH (Full Vaccination Required)

Emmaus Church Saturday 6.30pm (Full Vaccination Required)

Emmaus Church Sunday 9.00am (Full Vaccination Required)

See below for information for accessing Mass on TV and online:

Mass for You at Home, (MFYAH), which up till now had been produced in the studios of

Channel Ten, now has a new base in the Diocese of Wollongong (NSW). The Mass is celebrated in

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Wollongong. It shows at 6.00am Sundays on Channel Ten and is repeated multiple times a day on Foxtel’s Aurora channel.

Importantly for those who have become used to Mass being ‘streamed’, this Sunday Mass is also

available on demand on Channel Ten’s platform www.tenplay.com.au/mfyah.

The Mass is also available on Wollongong’s YouTube channel which can be accessed on

www.massforyou.com.au as well as the Diocesan website, www.dow.org.au. There are also links to it

on the Diocesan Facebook page and the MFYA Facebook page.

Channel 31 (usually found at ‘44’ on digital TV’s) 11.00am Sundays from St Patrick’s Cathedral or

online at: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> at 1.00pm on weekdays, and at 11.00am on

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Sundays

online at: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> (continuous daily from Lavender Bay Parish, Sydney)

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