

# SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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4 Winifred Street

ST ALBANS VICTORIA 3021

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

PARISH UPDATE 91

## NEW COVID-SAFE REGULATIONS

**COVID restrictions now allow our churches to be open for Mass and all church services, “with no capacity limits or density limits”. Bookings are not required.**

**The distinction between ‘vaccinated’ and ‘vaccination status unknown’ has ended. Accordingly, the 6.30 pm Saturday Mass this weekend (18<sup>th</sup> December) will be the final Mass at that time. It is open to all this weekend.**

**For all Masses, everyone is required to record their presence in the foyer (by QR or manually).**

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

Hello everyone!

An indication of how old I am is that I remember getting the results for my Year 12 exams (called ‘matriculation’ in those days) in the morning newspaper: every student’s results were printed. And that was sometime in January! The really eager would wait at midnight outside the city newspaper offices for the first print run of the morning’s papers.

These days the Year 12 (‘VCE’) results came out on Thursday of this week. And with that, plans for 2022 start to take shape.

Best wishes to all – what an extraordinary two years you have had!!

Our Year 6s have ‘graduated’, too. We lit three candles on the Advent Wreath, remembering that their lives have developed piece by piece during their primary School years. The still-to-be-lit candle had the clear message that there’s more to be done, achieved, reached-for. The purple of Advent is a strong symbol for them, to – the colour of ‘looking forward’. Of course moving on from Year 12 and from Year 6 doesn’t mean moving on from Parish life. We look forward to greeting our young people in our churches and hearing how the next stage of their lives is developing.

From featuring John the Baptist over the past two weekends, this weekend’s Gospel Reading takes us close to Christmas as Mary is featured. This year we get the story of her visiting her cousin, Elizabeth: both expecting to give birth. It seems that the later ‘love one another’ teaching of her yet to be born son, Jesus, was already shaping Mary’s life. These two women rejoice, and name the presence of God in that. In Advent

We learn the joy of anticipation, the joy of delighting in a sense of the presence of God all around us, the joy of looking for the second coming of Christ, the joy of living in the surety of even more life in the future. (66)

Waiting - that cold, dry period of life when nothing seems to be enough and something else beckons within us — is the grace that Advent comes to bring.

(62) (Joan Chittister, (Ancient Practices )

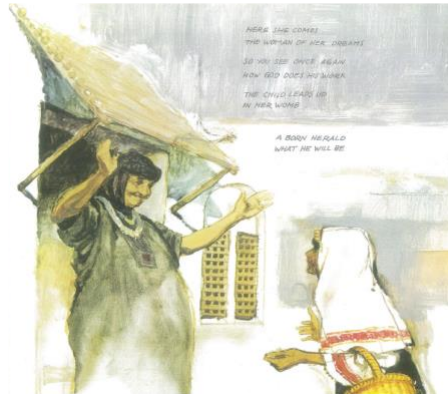
One of the attachments with this Letter is a reflection on Mary by that same writer, Joan Chittister.

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And here's an image of 'the Visitation' of Mary to Elizabeth:



Other attachments with this Letter are repeats:

- the times for our Christmas Masses (there is one included for 'unknown vaccination status', for which bookings are required, with numbers limited.
- Our Ministry Recruitment process: a good number have been coming in each weekend as more and more Parishioners join together in our Saturday night/Sunday morning celebrations of Eucharist.

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 through its last week heading towards Christmas

Maurie Cooney  
(Parish Priest)

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

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## **The schedule for our Masses weekend (18/19) 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

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 25<sup>th</sup> December**

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### SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> 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