



## Gospel Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars: on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.

The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

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**First Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**28 November 2021**

## First Reading Jer 33:14-16

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,

who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called:  
The Lord-our-integrity.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R. v.1**

**(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;  
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

## Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

**Alleluia!**

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*Parish Priest of Walkerton & Administrator for Valley Parishes and the Southern Cluster:*

Fr Alex Kannikattu Varghese

**Emergency contact: anointing of the sick 0400 874 807**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10.30am—2.30 pm and Friday 10.30am—4.30pm— Please feel free to phone and leave a message or send an email. Office contact details are listed on the front of the bulletin.**

<b>WEEKDAY MASS &amp; SERVICES:</b>	<b>SUNDAY MASS:</b>
<b>Mon 29th November</b> St Patrick's Church, Mackay 12.10pm	<b>NEXT WEEKEND:</b>
<b>Tues 30th November</b> St Mary's Church, South Mackay 5.30pm	<b>Saturday 4th December</b> St John's church, Walkerton Holy Rosary church, Marian 5.15pm 6.30pm
<b>Wed 1st December</b> Holy Rosary Church, Marian 6.00pm	<b>Sunday 5th December</b> St Francis's de Sales, Finch Hatton St Patrick's Church, Mackay 7.00am & 6.00pm
<b>Thurs 2nd December</b> Immaculate Conception, Mirani NO MASS 5.30pm	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</b> Holy Rosary, Marian: Wednesday Immaculate Conception, Mirani: (2nd & 4th Sunday) 5.30pm Before Mass
<b>Friday 3rd December</b> St Mary's Church, South Mackay 5.30pm	<b>St John's:</b> Saturday Friday before Mass from 4.30pm to 5.00pm
<b>St John's Hall, Walkerton</b> St Patrick's Church, Mackay 8.40am 12.10pm	
<i>Heading Mass Mirani 1st Thursday of each month</i>	

**'Check in QLD App' is required in all Churches:** Everyone, parishioners, visitors, employees and volunteers will be required to use the QLD App to check-in. This is a mandatory requirement of the Queensland Government. This applies to Mass, Confession, Novena, Exposition, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals—any time you enter a church. **Current COVID-19 restrictions, St John's Church has the Capacity of 188 persons, Adults & Children Inclusive.**

**WEBSITES:** Diocesan: [www.rok.catholic.net.au](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au)

Plenary Council: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

Parishes of Southern Cluster, Pioneer Valley & Walkerton: [www.mackaycatholics.net](http://www.mackaycatholics.net)

**Safeguarding:** The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the *National Catholic Safeguarding Standards* (2013), and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults. Response line: 1800 830 113 (free call) or email: [psosadm@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:psosadm@rok.catholic.net.au)

**ST JOHN'S RAFFLE:**

**Could all Raffle tickets (sold & unsold) be returned as soon as possible. Please. Thank You.**

There will be a general clean up for St John's on Saturday 18th December starting at 7.00am. If we could have Men & Women to help with this please come along, it will be much appreciated.

Columban Art Calendars will be available Monday, Friday & Saturday this week at St John's Church Office. The cost will be \$8.00 per Calendar.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Changes to Mass times this week. No Mass at 9.00am. Friday 3rd December. School Mass 8.40am in Hall. All Parishioners Welcome.**

**On the third Saturday of each Month:** There will be a Cuppa after Mass, at the back of the Church. Please bring a plate to share. Everyone Welcome. The next will be on the 18th December, 2021.



**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK**

Sue Christensen, Sharon Johnson, Grace Mitsud, Cathy Stevenson Knezvic

*(permission of people needed for names to be printed)*

**THE FAITHFUL, RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Doris McSherry, Emmanuel Bugaja, Joseph Moloney, Tony Micallef (Malta), Tony Zahra (Sudney), Fr Rod DeLa Rosa (Philippines), Paul Grech, Alan Norman, Ann Deguana, Paul Zahra, Mary Ellen "Elle" Clark, Carrie Mitsud (Coffs Harbour), Tony Falzon, "Toby" Chivers, Jerry Breen, Pauline Borg, Mary Cornallie, Victoria Farrugia (Malta), Grace Zarb, Joe Sherry, Mary Goli, Jessie Bugaja, Monica Baldwin, Jim Young, Jessie Fenech, Lloyd Hermann, Clare Johnson, Joyce Borg, Josie Perna, Valda Mason, John Vassallo, Gorge Camilleri, John Caruana, Maria Grima (Malta)

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Plus Vassallo (13/11), Glen Ellwood (22/11), John Borg Jr (3/1)

**WE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED**

Vladimiro & Crescenaria Perot, Angelo, Natalina & Tony Cappello, Sam & Victoria Micallef, Angela Mayer, Emmanuel & Josephine Grech, Paul & Carmel Vassallo, all from Malta), Frances & Simon Sant, Reberta & Paul Zammit, Lillian Zarb, Ruth Garvigho, Glen Ellwood, Samuel Borg, John Paul Borg Jr., Vincent Colby, Patrick Camilleri, Charlie Borg, Mary Vella, Anne (Vella) Fovke, Veronica Vezzoli, Doris Tweddie, Chas Bugaja, Ben Agius, Anthony Sciorla, Peter, Tony & Mary Camilleri, Joe (Lizzy) & John Borg, Emmanuel & Tessa Falzon, Richard, Clare, Sandra Jacobson, Angela, Salvatore, Patrick & Randy Galea, Albert, Norma & Agnes Sammut, Charlie Deguana, Irish Hardy, Greg Willoughby, Desmond Bradshaw, Damon Young, Jim & Manama & Lily Grima, Joe & Vicki Stivara, Pat & Doreen Young, Kerrie Johnson, Mary & Mary Vella, Antonio & Giuseppe Axiak, George & Rose Bezzina, Brac Fry, Manuel Fenech, Jean Seiberras, Charles, Mary, Sam, Victor, & Adrian Camilleri, Mary Deguana, Jean Sammut, Derek Van Kerechhof, Joe Galea, Chris Vella, Pat Frazar, Kathleen Doyle, J & D Chercuti & Family (Aust), J & R Grima & Family (Malta), Cauchi Family (Malta), Deceased members of the Sand, Deirossi, Sant, Zammit, Bafros, Galea, Grima, Portelli, Cutajar, Vassallo, Muscat, Mason, Borg, Vela and Golz Families.

**Catholic Education & Catherine McAuley College** are extending a warm invitation to all past employees of the Mackay Sugar Research Institute (now Catherine McAuley College) to a tour of the new College followed by light refreshments. Tuesday 14th December, 2021 from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. RSVp to Rachel - [claire\\_coppin@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:claire_coppin@rok.catholic.edu.au) or Catholic Education Office on 4994 8010 by 03/12/21.

**Dementia Australia** is delivering free education programs in Mackay and Proserpine between Tuesday 30th November and Thursday 2nd December. Please visit <https://www.dementia.org.au/brainhub/mackayproserpine> or contact the National Dementia Support Program Team on 1800 588 699 for more information

The Men's Dinner Club Christmas Party is on Monday 29th November. Bring a mate, brother, son or cousin and REMEMBER your BEST story from 2021 to share with us all. Each will get a turn. Please note the VENUE: **Mackay City Bowls Club, Shakespeare Street** 6:30 for a 7pm start. Please RSVp to Kevin: phone or text 0487747412 by pm Sunday 28th.

Cherish Life Qld—Mackay Branch Social Evening Monday 29 November 7pm St Joseph's Parish Centre Screening "180", a half hour award-winning film produced by Ray Comfort which carries a unique pro-life message where you will see eight people change their minds about abortion in a matter of seconds because they were asked one question. Supper provided.

Immaculate Conception Feast Day will be celebrated with **Rosary procession and Mass on Friday, 10th December** at 6.00pm, Mirani. Please bring a plate for a shared supper afterwards.

**The Stella Maris Seafarers Centre** are conducting their **Annual Shoe Box Appeal** to bring a little joy to Seafarers visiting the ports of Hay Point and Mackay this Christmas. We thank you most sincerely for the wonderful gifts in past years and ask if you would be so kind as to support us again this year. We are calling for donations of small gifts (Eg: toothpaste, toothbrushes, Toilettes, non aerosol antiperspirant, Playing Cards, Torch, Batteries, Writing sets, Socks etc) would be appreciated or a monetary contribution to enable us to purchase items on your behalf – no food stuffs) which are to be placed in Christmas bags and distributed to Seafarers who will be visiting our Ports over the Christmas period. These gifts will show the Seafarers that we as a Catholic Community do care and that they are being thought of. If you could kindly drop these donations into the Centre, 43 Brisbane Street Mackay or call us on 4953 4038 and we can arrange collection. Our Centre is open 9am-2pm Monday to Friday.

**DRAWING OF THE PARISH RAFFLE:** We need numbers for the BBQ on the 11th

December, if we do not have enough people, The BBQ will have to be cancelled & Draw the Raffle at the back of the Church. Please bring a plate of sweets to share with Tea & Coffee.

Please let the Office know if you are attending for catering purposes for the BBQ. Office hours: Monday 10.30 am - 2.30pm & Friday 10.30am - 4.30pm.