

Fr Alo writes...

Prepare for His Coming

I received a phone call a couple of weeks ago from the secretary of St Thomas the Apostle Parish in Blackburn, Victoria where I have been appointed to from the beginning of next year. She asked me about a few things I might need her to prepare before I come over. From our part here too, we have been doing some preparation for the coming new parish priest. I have also spoken to him a few times. So far I am quite happy with the things we are doing at the moment and yet I am worried that we will not be able to finish some other things before he arrives. And I feel like I am not good enough or incapable.

While having these negative feelings, I read an article where the author put a very important question to his readers, "Do I do anything to change myself?" His answer to this question is: "You don't have to do anything. The more you do, the worse it gets, All you have to do is understand". I understood his point. If we do things for our own self-satisfaction, there will be frustration, worry and dissatisfaction for learning that things we did are imperfect and incomplete in some ways. Our approach should be shifted. We are doing things for **others** and **understand** what we are doing. The result would be "we are at peace with ourselves".

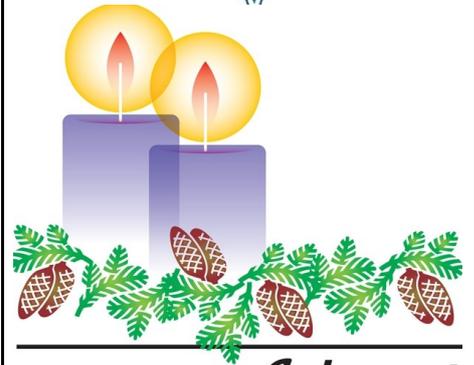
We are in the second week of Advent. As we prepare for the Lord's coming, let us be like John the Baptist, the perfect symbol of preparation for the coming of the Messiah. His focus is not on himself and he understands what his mission is. He has two focuses, the first is the Messiah: "*Someone is following me, someone is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but He will baptised you with the Holy Spirit*" (Mark 1:7-8). His second focus is on the people who prepare for the coming of the Lord: "*John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*" (Mark 1:4).

John really understands who he is and who the Messiah is. He is also the "voice in the wilderness". He could easily give people the impression that he was the Messiah, since he was quite famous and well accepted. He was not tempted to do so because he knows the focus of his mission: "to bring people to know the Messiah". It could be reflected also in his own words: "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30). The question for us today: "Do I understand my mission and focus during this advent?" Or for my own life: "Do I understand the purpose and mission of my own life?"

While writing this reflection, I remember that this Sunday I celebrate my 28th Anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. The question is addressed to me in different phrase: "Am I happy with my life as a priest?" I have to be honest that overall I am happy with my life as a priest. However there are times when I feel unhappy for some reasons. And I know the source of my unhappiness. It is because I shifted my focus, from focusing on HIM to focusing on myself. By doing that I put too much pressure on me and being a dictator to myself. Once again today I learn that I need to "focus on HIM and understand what I am doing", then the happiness will come later.

Coming back to what I mentioned earlier. Things that I had planned to be done before I left the parish, most probably won't be happening. And it's okay. The focus is not on my self-satisfaction, but the well being of the community and God's glory. I need to understand this and what I am doing. And I am good enough and capable, even though I can't do everything. When I come to this stage, I feel happy and relieved.

Have a blessed day.



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

SATURDAY 5 DEC

6:00pm Mass

SUNDAY 6 DEC

9:30am Mass + Morning Tea

11:00am Baptisms

3:30pm Indonesian Community Mass

6:00pm Mass

MONDAY 7 DEC

9:00am Mass

6:00pm Adoration

WEDNESDAY 9 DEC

9:00am Mass

THURSDAY 10 DEC

6:00pm Mass

FRIDAY 11 DEC

9:00am Mass

SATURDAY 12 DEC

6:00pm Mass

SUNDAY 13 DEC

9:30am Mass + Morning Tea

3:30pm Indonesian Community Mass

6:00pm Mass



PARISH DIRECTORY

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PARISH PRIEST

Fr Aloysius Lamere msc

PARISH SECRETARY

Maria Caetano

(9:30am - 2:00pm Mon to Fri)

MASS TIMES

Sat 6pm (Vigil),

Sun 9:30am (Family), 6pm

Mon, Wed, Fri - 9am, Thurs 6pm

Indonesian Mass Sun 3:30pm

RECONCILIATION

Mon 9:30am or by appointment

ROSARY

First Saturday at 3.00pm Rosary Room

INDONESIAN COMMUNITY

Fr Petrus Suroto msc - 0450 625 757

BAPTISMS

First Sunday - 11am, bookings required

WEDDINGS

By Appointment

SACRAMENTS

Contact parish office

OLR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Marie Nilon - 9663 3346

OLSH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Jenny Fowler - 9662 4088

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Roy Rigotti - 9313 8334

John Hill - 9663 3222

Sr Pauline Richards - 0419 482 408

Nani Widarto - 0411 850 350

RESPONSES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3: 8-14

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1: 1-8

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

OREMUS

Let us Pray

SICK

Grace Veronica, Salvatore Messina, Sr Margaret McKay rscj, Sr Mary D'Apice rscj, Amina Chahrouk, Elisabetta Nesci, Umberto Vaccarella, Xavier Stratton, Maria Zic, Rose Alessio, Joanna & family, David Lai, John Roberts, Gavin Robertson, Chris (Cindy's husband), Manuel Mouco, Eva (Nicole's mum), Paul Galea, A.L., Plutarco Cadornigara, Olga Nasser, Lynne Chaundhuri

PARISHIONERS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE/HOMEBOUND

Malcolm MacDonald, Nella Custorella, Rose Kelter, Jill Rees, Mario De Roit, John Borg, Gwen Smith, Laura Leonard, Sebastiano Gentile, Margaret Stocker, Maria Pockaj, Frances McLaughlin, Lucienne Radzynski, Nicole Chiaradia

BELOVED DECEASED

John Nasser, Clare Georgey

ANNIVERSARIES

Jack Moon, James Maher msc, Mollie Brereton, Fr Peter McGrath ofm, Pam Boreham, Simone Armstrong, Pierre Langy, Keira Donnelly, Maureen & John Lawlor, John McClusky, Swee Tan, Jack Papallo, Therese Margaret Gaskin, Marie Anne Therese Hage, Michael David Moyle

ROSTER

5/6 DEC	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 9:30am	Sun 6:00pm
Acolyte	Handojo Widjaja	John Allen	Danny Tjahjadi
Readers	John Dorahy Br Rory Higgins	Lily Murcutt Ross Martin	Isabel Reyes Patricia Reyes
Comm to Sick	Trish Veness	Thomas Chia	
12/13 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 9:30am	Sun 6:00pm
Acolyte	Brian Koh	Gus Alimhamzah	Danny Tjahjadi
Readers	Thelma Slunsky Sr Diana Hayes	Scott Murcutt Michelle Alimhamzah	Bella Siauwidjaja Mandalena Hermawan
Comm to Sick	Nubia Suarez		



WHATSAPP MESSENGER

To connect to the OLR Parish Community WhatsApp Group, scan the QR code with your mobile phone.

Alternatively, please contact the parish office by email, phone, or you can txt Jock Marmotta on 0412 116 133 with

your name.

COLLECTIONS - 28/29 NOV

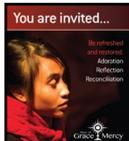
1st Collection \$500

2nd Collection \$380

Env Collection \$4,468

CWF \$50

Catholic Mission \$840



HOLY HOUR

Join us for Adoration Monday 7 Dec
6pm-7pm (*call in for a few minutes or
stay the whole hour*)



*For the Joy of the Lord
is your Strength
(Nehemiah 8:10)*

Thank you for supporting Catholic Mission's Church Appeal again this year through your generous gifts and prayers. Your contributions make it possible, through programs like The Arrupe Centre in Cambodia, to continue to support and empower individuals like Chen and his family.

With your help, Jesuit Bishop Kike, can continue to reach out and help rebuild the lives of those who are suffering from trauma and depression brought on through illness and injury caused by landmines.

- Keep up to date with Cambodia and The Arrupe Centre program by visiting online at catholicmission.org.au/cambodia
- Find out more about other programs and partners across the world via their website catholicmission.org.au
- Subscribe to the [Catholic Mission Facebook channel](#) for ongoing relevant and engaging catholic content

Catholic Mission would also like to thank so many of you who have become regular monthly-giving partners. For more information about how to become a partner, or to find out more about our projects across the world, please contact one of their friendly team at **freecall: 1800 257 296** or at catholicmission.org.au/contact.

COVID-19 UPDATE

In a welcome step forward for our churches in the lead up to Christmas, NSW Health has announced that from Monday 7 December, churches will be able to have unlimited numbers at all religious services, as long as a two square metre rule is observed.

You'll find more information here: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS GIVING

Due to Covid we did not have a Winter Appeal this year, nor can we have a Christmas Giving Tree.

This Christmas we are asking for **GIFT CARDS: \$20 OR \$50 FOR ALDI, WOOLWORTHS, BIG W, TARGET, COLES, MYER, WESTFIELD.**

OR Money/Credit Card donations can be placed in the Vinnies Christmas Appeal envelopes.

A box will be at the side door of the church where donations can be placed. Please give generously to those in our community who are struggling at this time.

God bless you for your kindness.

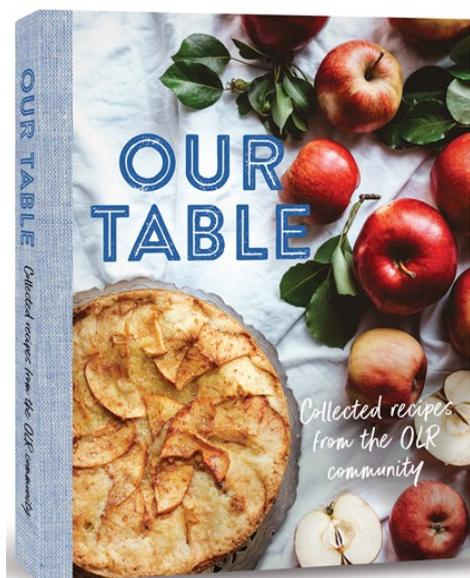
OLR PRIMARY SCHOOL 2020 COOKBOOK

This year, the Parents and Friends Association of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School have been busy creating a community cookbook, filled with over 100 delicious recipes.

Each recipe has been curated by the dedicated families within the OLR community. From simple breakfasts, to crowd-pleasing dinners, lunchbox snacks and knockout desserts. We hope that our cookbook will come in handy and add a little more flavour to your home.

There is even a special recipe from Father Alo.

To purchase a cookbook and support the school's fundraising efforts, please visit the following website: <https://bit.ly/OLRcookbookorderform>.



lights OF CHRISTMAS

PRESENTED BY **PAYNTER DIXON**

Sydney's favourite **FREE** Christmas event

10-25 December 2020

Lights 8.30pm until 11:00pm

lightsofchristmas.com.au



PD **SHINE**

SHINE

Saturday
12 December 2020
11 am Sydney time

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven - Matt 5: 16

Guest Speaker
Dr. Scott Hahn

Tickets on Sale Now

Admission (per person) **\$20**
Not-for-profit event

Early Bird **\$15**
Limited until 22 November or sold out prior
Registration closes 6 December

Contact person: Jeff
pdmkksydevent@gmail.com

TO REGISTER :
<https://pdmkksydneyshine.eventbrite.com.au>

NEW WEBSITE AND SOCIAL PLATFORMS TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD OF EILEEN O'CONNOR



The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new website, Facebook and Instagram pages today, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the Co-Founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor.

Eileen's great courage in serving the sick poor, despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all.

Visit the new website at this address: www.eileenconnor.com.au and follow the new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram page at this address: www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/

The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries.

As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL AT HOME

CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community. To learn more call our Home Care Team 13 18 19 | connect@catholiccare.org.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5810. 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.