



## HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH GLEN WAVERLEY NORTH

Church: 765 Highbury Road, Vermont South 3133  
Presbytery: 5 Sherwood Rise, Vermont South, 3133  
Telephone: 9401 6340

Website: <https://holysaviourparishvs.com.au/> Email: [glenwaverleynorth@cam.org.au](mailto:glenwaverleynorth@cam.org.au)

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**  
Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 10.00am

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**  
Wednesday & Friday: 9.15am  
**Reconciliation: By Appointment or after 9.15am mass on Wednesday & Friday**

### OUR VISION

Our Parish leads and supports all members on their journey of faith.

### OUR MISSION

We welcome and engage everyone in our faith community at Holy Saviour so that all may feel at home.  
We provide opportunities for people to encounter God through liturgy and community.  
We actively live God's message of love and justice in a way that is relevant for today.

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Ralph Besterwitch SAC  
[fralph1@gmail.com](mailto:fralph1@gmail.com)

### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr. Steve Evans  
[principal@hsvs.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@hsvs.catholic.edu.au)

### PARISH PRAYER

God of all creation, may your Spirit inspire us to do your will. Bless us in your service, strengthen us in our support of each other. Unite us as we grow in faith and love, to be a welcoming, caring community, enabling all to flourish, especially our children and the most vulnerable. This we pray in the name of our Holy Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.



**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023—3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Sandra Kenyon, Con Nolan, Elio Russo, Patricia Quinn, Jessie Mullett, Margaret Watson, Jean Ah-Mew

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Christine Mendis, Helen Styring, Leonie Gallagher, Serge Nayna, Connor Hodge, John Baird, Aidan Carroll, Graeme Potter



*WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU*

If you are new to Holy Saviour, or if you haven't yet had a chance to get to know any fellow parishioners, please get in touch and let us know you're here.

Welcome events are scheduled periodically to facilitate the formation of new friendships and kick-start that very important sense of belonging within our community.

Let us know you're here via one of the following methods:

1. Email [holysaviourPPC@gmail.com](mailto:holysaviourPPC@gmail.com)
2. Call Helen Forer, Welcoming Committee Leader, on 0417 428 004
3. Write your details on the new parishioners sheet located in the church foyer and include contact details which will allow us to reach out to you.

*We look forward to meeting you.*



### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

23rd December 6.00pm Vigil Mass

24th December 10.00am Mass

24th December, 6.00pm **Family Mass**  
(Carols from 5.45pm)



All children are welcome to dress up in their favourite Nativity Scene characters: Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wisemen/wisewomen, angels ...

24th December, 8.00pm **Christmas Eve Mass**  
(Carols from 7.45pm)

25th December, 10.00am **Christmas Day Mass**



### MORNING TEA & A CHAT

All parishioners are invited to stay for a cuppa & a chat after the Sunday 10.00am mass.

Tea/coffee/biscuits are provided.

### CARE AND SHARE APPEAL

The collections at Christmas Masses support the work of TWIG (The World Interest Group) who has nominated Children's Ground as the beneficiary this year.

This organisation is a not for profit working in indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. Children's Ground is dedicated to transforming the lives of First Nations people through a wholistic approach that empowers children through education, health and wellbeing initiatives and provides economic and cultural development in their communities.

See the foyer notice board for more information on this Organisation.

Visit their website - [childrensground.org.au](http://childrensground.org.au)

Donations can be made to the TWIG bank account:

BSB: 083 347

Account No: 47397 5027

Account Name: Holy Saviour Parish TWIG Group

### MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY

Are you unable to attend Mass or feeling isolated?

Holy Saviour Parish has a visiting team of parishioners to support you.

If you would like to receive Holy Communion, or just a friendly home visit,

Or if you know someone in that situation.

Please ring the team coordinator,  
Rosemarie Lawrenson 0411 706 016

### New Year's Day Mass 1st January @ 10.00am

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This group is taking a break from now till end of January 2024 and the first gathering for 2024 will be Thursday 1st February from 9.30am to 11.00am in the Chapel.

The meetings are usually held on 1st Thursdays of the month.

### ADVENT 2023 @ ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL

Fellowship Hub

Advent Week 4: Love

Monday 18 December, 7-8.30pm

All are welcome

### OVER 39ERS / SENIORS MONTHLY MASS

Next gathering will be on:  
Wednesday 14th February  
@ Holy Saviour

### ROSTERS FOR 23/24 DECEMBER 2023

**READINGS: 4th Sunday of Advent:** 1st Reading: 2 Sam 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Resp Psalm: Ps 89.1-2, 3-4, 26+28 (*R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*); 2nd Reading: Rms 16.25-27, Gospel: Lk 1.26-38

	Saturday, 6.00pm	Sunday, 10.00am
<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST:</b>	Brian Rice	Dennis Cavagna
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Deana Copley	Jim Lawrenson
<b>MASS CO-ORDINATORS:</b>	Larry Dent	Ed Lemanski
<b>MUSIC:</b>	Henry & Netty	Joe & Bernadette
<b>HALL CLEANING:</b>	Summer Break	
<b>COUNTERS:</b>	Joe Yardin, Brian Rice	
<b>SACRISTANS:</b>	Nancy Mazza, Marie Tjio	

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

Holy Saviour Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to them and their cultures.*

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank You for supporting the SVDP Christmas appeal last weekend. We will publish the results of the appeal soon.

You can still donate by using the appeal envelope and dropping your donation into the SVDP's collection box. Alternatively, you can donate directly by phoning 13 18 12 or online, [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) followed by clicking on the DONATE button, then fill in the details

(important to insert: **Conference No. 462**)

Receipts for financial donations are available when required.

*You can make a difference to people living on the edge by support our SVDP Christmas Appeal.*

Enquiries: Please contact Kevin, 0422 296 819

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

SVDP are selling Christmas cards in the Church Foyer.

The cards with envelopes are in packs of 5 different cards and are selling for only \$5.00 a pack.

Please drop your payment in the SVDP collection box.



Catholic Mission thanks the parish of Holy Saviour for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal.

Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$851.60 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need.

Many thanks!

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

By your contribution to Christmas Offering, you help to support your priests. Your kind consideration of this indispensable part of clergy support is appreciated.

Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church foyer. *Thank You*

## REFLECTION

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Have you thought? A time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained.

The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

## 1ST COLLECTION (PRESBYTERY OFFERING)

to be taken up after the **Homily** is for the Presbytery Account, which supports not only Fr Ralph, but also supports the other priests in our Parish.

## 2ND COLLECTION (THANKSGIVING OFFERING)

will be taken up immediately after the **Prayers of the Faithful**. All monies from this collection go towards meeting the running costs of the Parish and paying off debt.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said:  
The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorned herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE: Luke 1.47-48, 59-50, 53-54**

**R. My Soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul magnifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour  
on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

The Lord has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy.

**R. My Soul rejoices in my God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters,  
rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing  
give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
Do not quench the Spirit.  
Do not despise the words of prophets,  
but test everything; hold fast to what is good,  
abstain from every form of evil.  
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body  
be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful,  
and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 4.18**

Alleluia, Alleluia  
The Spirit of the Lord now upon me  
has sent me to bring good news to the poor.  
Alleluia

**GOSPEL: John 1.6-8, 19-28**

*Among you stands one whom you do not know,  
the one who is coming after me.*

