

*St. Mary MacKillop  
Church  
Keilor Downs*



*St. Paul's  
Church  
Kealba*

**PARISH OF ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Year B - 9th & 10th December, 2017

**MASS TIMES**

<u>St Paul's</u>	
Wednesday	9.30am
Thursday	9.30am
Saturday	5:00 pm (Latin)
	6:30 pm
Sunday	8:00am (Maltese)
	10:00am
<u>Reconciliation</u>	
Saturday	6:00pm
<u>St Mary MacKillop</u>	
Monday	9.30am
Tuesday	9.30am
	7.00pm—8.00pm Holy Hour
Friday	9.30am
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
	11:00am
	5:30pm
<u>Reconciliation</u>	
Saturday	4pm—4.50pm



Most of us in our lives have had a change of heart over a particular person, issue or task. In this week's Gospel, we hear how John the Baptist invited all believers to be baptized and repent their sins.

John the Baptist emphasises on many occasions, that he is not the Messiah, but that *'someone else is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not worthy to undo the strap of his sandal.'*

John the Baptist was a great prophet who called for people to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Messiah. That message is as strong today as it was in the early days of Christianity - *'Prepare a way for the Lord, make straight his path.'*

**Entrance Antiphon:**

People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

**1st Reading:**

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11  
Psalms 84:9-14

**Responsorial Psalm:**

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

**2nd Reading:**

2 St. Peter 3:8-14

**Gospel 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

**Before Communion:**

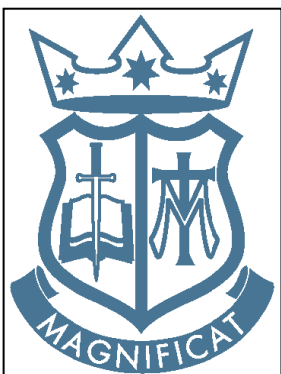
Lord, we are nothing without you. As you sustain us with your mercy, receive our prayers and offerings.

**Communion Antiphon:**

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

**After Communion:**

Father, you give us food from heaven. By our sharing in this mystery, teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and to love the things of heaven.

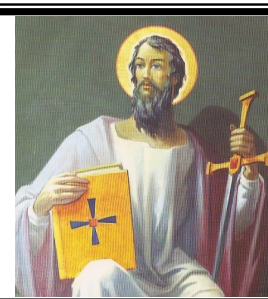


**ST. MARY  
MACKILLOP**

*'Pray humbly with confidence and fear nothing.'*

**ST. PAUL**

*'We wait for new heavens and a new earth.'*



**Parish Priest:** Rev. Monsignor Charles Portelli **In Residence:** Rev Gerard Johnson

**Faith Development:** Mr Joseph Zahra—St Paul's

**St Mary MacKillop Church & Parish Office (both Churches):**

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Victoria 3038

**Office Hours:** Mon—Fri 9am—1.30pm

**Office Staff:** Joseph Camenzuli & Melinda Xerri

**Phone:** 9364 0440 **Fax:** 9364 6913

**Email:** mgrcep@stma.com.au  
reception@stma.com.au

**St Paul's Church & Presbytery:**

230 Sunshine Avenue, Kealba, Victoria 3021

**Phone:** 9366 4040 **Fax:** 9364 2706

**Website:** www.stmaryoftheassumption.org.au



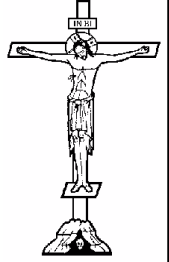
## CHOIR PRACTICE

MONDAY, 11TH DECEMBER  
AT 7pm sharp to rehearse for Christmas.  
Enquiries: Rosanna 0425 751 230



## In Remembrance...

**Recently Deceased:**  
Betty Warren, Paul Chircop.



### Anniversaries:

Jane Jordan,  
Armenio Diccico,  
Anthony Rodrigues,  
George & Josephine Pecchiar,  
Pietro Lacoviello,  
Lloyd, Hyacinta & Neville Pereira,  
Thelma & Clarence Gomezez,  
Ilario & Rafaela Nuciforo,  
Maria & Angelo Lanteri,  
Maria Iljas, Josephine & Teresa Commisso,  
Alessandro & Carmela, Elizabeth Kucznski,  
Rosarid Zammit, Maria Fenech, Zaren Fenech,  
Maria Zarb, Emmanuel Zarb, Miriam Bonett,  
Carmena Zammit, Sacco Family, Muscat  
Family, Portelli Family, Michael O'Connor.

*We pray for all those who are sick especially,  
Stewart.*

## SHOPPING WITH A DIFFERENCE:

Last Advent a young couple with a 6-month-old-child wrote this letter to their extended family. Hello from us and happy Advent! We are writing to share with you our Christmas plans, and to invite you to join us. To break the back of commercialism in this holy season we are limiting our Christmas shopping to gifts under \$10. Kids are an exception (that's anyone under the age of 15 for those claiming to be big kids!) The plan is to keep things simple. The money we are not spending on gifts will be given to the Sisters in our local parish to assist with their missionary work with families in poverty-stricken areas overseas and in remote parts of Australia. We have chosen them because a) we know them and some of our friends are connected with their work, b) because we know they really need the funds, and the funds will get to their destination and make a difference to people's lives. We will be giving them the donation on the feast of the Holy Family. This is our Christmas gift to families in need. We are conscious of your generosity in giving us Christmas gifts over the years; so if you are thinking of buying us a gift this year, we invite you to give that money to these Sisters instead. What's really important is that you do what you wish! We have chosen a plan that feels true to us, but we are not putting expectations on anyone else. Everyone has their own way of making Christmas special. So feel free to join us (or not), modify the plan, proceed as usual or do something completely different - it's up to you! We look forward to sharing this holy season with you. Lots of love, (C & S) What will you do 'differently' this Advent?

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## Same Sex Marriage – 'The Aftermath'

As you know the 'Yes' campaign were successful in achieving majority support from the public who voted in the recent marriage postal survey. It is accepted that same-sex marriage will now become legal for the purposes of Australian law. However, despite the change in law, marriage is based on an unchangeable truth: that only man and woman can create new life; only man and woman can give a child her mother and father, her biological identity and ancestry. In the Church's opinion no other relationship, however important, is Marriage. It will remain unjust to those future children who will now be compelled, by an Act of Parliament, to miss out on their mother or father; unnecessary, since same-sex couples already have the same legal status and benefits as any other couple in Australian law.

Further we are apprehensive at the "Safe-Schools-on-Steroids" material that may now be forced on our kids and the intimidation that will be brought to bear on conscientious objectors. But due the campaign we have increased awareness of such programs and their exposure may result in some positive changes. As parents and grandparents it will be up to you to monitor the programs in primary & secondary schools.

Those involved in the No campaign did their best. The campaign moved over a million extra votes our way - from the baseline 28% support to 38%. In our electorate 57% voted 'No', which is a great result however the fact is that we are in the minority.

The Bill was debated in the Lower House of Federal Parliament and passed unamended on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. Amendments put forward to protect freedom of religion and freedom of speech by certain Christian parliamentarians was defeated.

Finally, if you are not already linked in to a key organisation that will continue this struggle for our families and our liberties, we would encourage you to sign up with the Australian Christian Lobby at [www.acl.org.au](http://www.acl.org.au).

## SVDP Christmas Hamper Appeal 2017



On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Keilor Downs Conference is seeking your generous support once again this year for

our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. With more families continuing to face difficult times, we are asking that together we can make a difference within our community this Christmas. We are appealing for items such as non-perishable Christmas foods and drinks as well as toys for children and gifts / gift vouchers for both teenagers and adults. Please leave any donated goods either in the church foyer or at the parish office anytime up until Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>. We kindly ask that you do not wrap the toys, gifts, food, etc. Please ensure that all food and drink items are not past their expiry date and that they have not been opened.

**Donation envelopes will also be available at all masses during the weekend of December 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

On behalf of the families, we would like to say 'THANK YOU' for your continued support and hope that together we can bring nourishment, peace and prosperity to those who might otherwise not recognise the joy of this Christmas season.

## CLEANERS REQUIRED



Cleaners for St Mary MacKillop Church **urgently needed**. If you are available for approximately 1 hour on a Friday morning (after Mass) to assist with the cleaning of the church, please contact the Parish Office on 9364 0440. Cleaners will be on a rostered basis. Light cleaning i.e. dusting, vacuuming and mopping/buffing only.

## THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is one of the largest apostolic organisations of lay people in the Catholic Church with approximately 10 million active members. Legion of Mary members have been gathering for their weekly meeting at Mary MacKillop for the last 20 years. Then during the week the members are required to do 2 hours of substantial assigned apostolic tasks with a colleague or staff member. Work includes religious education, taking Our Lady's statue home to home, door to door evangelisation, soup kitchen, taking Rosary Home residents shopping. For further information phone Juneanne 9366 7516.

### URGENTLY REQUIRED ST MARY MACKILLOP COUNTERS, READERS & SPECIAL MINISTERS

~ We need MORE help ~

If you are available to help with these vital ministries please contact the Parish Office on 9364 0440. All Counters, Readers and Special Ministers will be on a rostered basis.

## PARISH CHOIRS

Parishioners are invited to join the Choirs at all masses to praise the Lord in song. If you would like to be involved in this vital Ministry, please contact :-

**St Mary MacKillop Choir: Rosanna 0425 751 230**  
**St Paul's Choir: Hung 0402 171 733**

## PRAYER GROUPS

### MONDAY MORNING

Following 9.30am Mass  
10am Fellowship  
10.30am - 11.30am Devotions

Join us in praying the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** 10am-10.30am

### TUESDAY EVENING

#### SAMOAN DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

Samoan Divine Mercy Prayer Group - at St Pauls Church every Tuesday at 6pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 3pm. Info: Deacon David 0451240713

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

#### ST PAUL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

St. Paul's Charismatic Prayer Group would like to wish all a Blessed and Joyous Christmas with many blessings in the New Year.

We will resume meetings on 7th February, 2018.

For more information call Doris: 9367 4126

### THURSDAY MORNING

#### ST MARY MACKILLOP MORNING PRAYER GROUP

We would like to wish all a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

We will resume in February.

Enquiries: Teresa 0411 233 625

### THURSDAY EVENING

#### ST MARY MACKILLOP EVENING PRAYER GROUP

We are taking a break over the Christmas season, we will return on Thursday, 8th February, 7.30pm, and having worship, intercessory prayer and individual prayer ministry. Have a Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Enquiries: Christina 0431 955 975

### LEGION OF MARY

Wednesday 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room  
All Welcome

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

EVERY TUESDAY 7:00pm-8:00pm  
St Mary MacKillop Church

*"Will you not stay with me one hour with me?"*



### ST. PAUL'S ROSTER WEEKEND 16TH & 17TH DEC

**SAT 16TH DECEMBER 6.30PM**  
R Marita Tobin  
**Special Ministers**  
J. Tabone.

**SUN 17TH DECEMBER 10AM**  
R Sharon Grass  
**Special Ministers**  
J. Zahra, F. Mamo.

### St Mary MacKillop Cleaning

**FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER**  
Rita Haig  
Herwin Allen  
Millie Monteiro

### Counting Team

**COUNTING TEAM NO. 1:**  
Ray Basile  
Robert Stoppa  
Mickie Cavka  
James Barberi  
Wanda Peplow

### ST. MARY MACKILLOP ROSTER WEEKEND 16TH & 17TH DEC

**SAT 16TH DECEMBER 5PM**  
R Joe Sammut  
**Special Ministers**  
Victor Sammut, Joe Camilleri, Laurie Xerri.

**SUN 17TH DECEMBER 9AM**  
R Christina Santalucia  
**Special Ministers**  
Mickie Cavka, Doris Pace, Regina Duggan.

**SUN 17TH DECEMBER 11AM**  
R Rosa Grabovac  
**Special Ministers**  
Merlyn DeCotta, Justin Wejak, Carmen LaBruna.

**SUN 17TH DECEMBER 5.30PM**  
R Anne Abeyasinghases  
**Special Ministers**  
Peter Schwegler, Marcia Schwegler, Georgina Sant.

### Music Group Rehearsals

### This Week in the Parish ....

**ST MARY MACKILLOP GROUP**  
Monday, 11th Dec-7pm

**ST PAUL'S MUSIC GROUP**  
To be advised

### Feast Days

**Monday, 11th December**  
St. Damasus I

**Tuesday, 12th December**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Wednesday, 13th December**  
St. Lucy

**Thursday, 14th December**  
St. John of the Cross

**Monday, 11th December**  
10.30am Prayer Group

**Tuesday, 12th December**  
7.00pm Eucharistic Adoration  
- St. Mary MacKillop  
6.00pm Samoan Prayer Group  
- St. Paul's Church

**Wednesday, 13th December**  
7.00pm Legion of Mary



# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Entrance:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

## Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O wisdom from on high,  
Who orders all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

O come, o come, great Lord of might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law,  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
From every foe deliver them  
That trust your mighty power to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Refrain

## Responsorial Psalm:

Let us see your kindness Lord,  
Grant us your salvation.  
Let us see your kindness Lord,  
Grant us your salvation.

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight his paths  
All people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## Offertory:

Refrain:  
Ready the way, ready the way,  
ready the way of the Lord.  
Ready the way, ready the way,  
ready the way of the Lord.

Make straight the road,  
raise the valleys, and mountains make  
low.  
Turning from sin, let the broken be whole,  
and ready the way of the Lord. Refrain.

As we wait for you,  
give us the strength to walk in your truth,  
so we may love, more like you  
and ready the way for you, Lord. Refrain.

Let us see your face;  
in our hearts we prepare a place.  
Come bring this world  
your mercy and grace,  
as we ready the way for you, Lord.  
Refrain.

## Communion:

There was a man of God whose name  
was John  
He came to speak for the light  
The voice of one in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord"

## Refrain:

Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way of the Lord





Mountains and hills shall be brought to  
the ground  
The winding paths be straightened  
And all on earth shall see his face;  
Prepare the way of the Lord Refrain

He's the lamb of God and you must follow  
him  
Who takes the sin of the world,  
For he has come to give you life.  
Prepare the way of the Lord Refrain

## Recessional:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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