

Advent

A Season of Preparation

OUR LADY OF THE PINES CHURCH

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 4TH AND 5TH OF DECEMBER 2021

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VOLUNTEER

5TH DECEMBER

So this weekend, I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to the many volunteers we have at Our Lady of the Pines. We have over 32 groups and ministries in our parish, all coordinated and manned by large number of generous people who unselfishly volunteer their time and skills. Within those groups are a total of 365 positions filled by 173 people!

I never cease to be amazed at the willingness of OLOP Parishioners to step up and get involved whenever there is a need. We all live very busy lives and have many outside pressures and yet, all of you are so pro-active in putting your parish community first whenever you are asked (and quite often without being asked!). I feel very privileged to be supported by such a warm, friendly and giving community.

It's true that there are some uncertain changes on the horizon which we are trying to navigate through, however I have every confidence that if we continue to be there for one another, the spirit of Our Lady of the Pines will thrive.

I will keep you all in my prayers and I thank you once again for your generous support.

God Bless you all. Fr Jerald.



OUR LADY OF THE PINES CHURCH
77 CARBINE STREET, DONVALE VIC 3111
TEL: 9841 8354

EMAIL: DONVALE@CAM.ORG.AU

WEBSITE:

WWW.OURLADYOFTHEPINESCHURCH.ORG

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Mon and Tues 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Wed : 9-5pm

CAN ALSO BE CONTACTED AT SS PETER
AND PAUL PARISH, ON 9842 1480 ON
MON, THURS AND FRI.

Our Lady of the Pines Parish is a welcoming, inclusive community that aims to live our Christian faith by example in our daily lives.

Our Lady of the Pines Parish is committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person, ensuring they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment within our parish. Visit our parish website or contact our parish office for our child-safe policy."

Christmas Mass times at Our Lady of the Pines Church **Masses for the Vaccinated**

Thu 16th of Dec: Reconciliation - 7.30pm at Ss Peter and Paul's Church

Fri 24th of Dec: Christmas Eve Mass - 6.10pm Carols, 6.30pm Mass

Sat 25th of December: Christmas Day Mass - 9.10am Carols, 9.30am Mass

Mass for the Unvaccinated

24th of December : Christmas Eve Mass : 7.30pm Mass at Ss Peter and Paul's Church

We pray for Better Health: : Brian Sullivan, Kath Potger, Alden Ong, Lisa Dallow, Josephine Noli, Teresa Talia, Sharon Rodrigo, Laurel Wood, John Goid, Meredith Barnes, Judith Frood, Jean Rive and Kathy Given.

**Anniversary and Mass offering for :
Recent Death and Mass Offering for
Eric Lim**

Update to guidelines—5th of December 2021

Following our Covid incident on the 28th of November—please note the following.

- **Face covering—whilst face coverings is no longer a requirement within the Church setting, we would like to encourage all parishioners to continue to wear a face covering within our Church setting. Please also continue to socially distance whilst seated. The chairs have been pushed back to the setup that we have all become accustomed to with a 1.5meter distance between the chairs. If you do move the chairs to be closer to family members, please push them back to the original position. We thank you all for your patience with this. Fr Jerald's priority is the well being and safety of all, and if we can continue to wear a face covering and socially distance, we can do our bit to help keep everyone safe.— PLEASE NOTE, THE WEARING OF FACE MASK IS NOT MANDATORY BUT A SUGGESTION ONLY. Thank you.**
- **Fully Vaccinated 12 years + 2 months and over:** Places of worship may open for all celebrations for the fully vaccinated with no capacity or density limits.
- **Unknown Vaccination Status:** For all of our unvaccinated masses, the mass is restricted to one person per 4sqm up to a maximum of 50 parishioners.
- **Community (Parish) Facilities:** Is limited to the fully vaccinated only and no limits will apply.

Weekday zoom masses will continue for the time being on our normal zoom details as follows :-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2597564312?pwd=NGpkK2RsQTNlWkszdEdTTW5KSnl0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 259 756 4312

Password: 689922

Weekday Masses (Wed and Friday 9.00am) Up to 50 people may attend, Vaccinations is not required. Bookings are not required.

Weekend Masses (Sat 5.00pm and Sunday 9.30am) No limits apply. All attendees aged 12+ must be fully vaccinated. Bookings are not required. Please arrive early to allow time to check-in and show your Vaccination Certificate to the Covid Marshall.

5pm Sunday Mass at Ss Peter and Paul's Church for those not fully vaccinated. If you have had only one dose of the vaccine or prefer to remain unvaccinated, there will be an extra Mass each Sunday at 5.00pm at Ss Peter and Paul's Church for both SSPP and OLOP parishioners only. 50 people are permitted. Bookings are no longer required.

Check in Requirements. Please ensure you check in on arrival using the Service Victoria App. For all weekend masses except for the Sunday 5.00pm mass at SSPP, you will also need to show Proof of Vaccinate to the Covid Marshall.

Family Groups—Hamper donations

Unfortunately, due to the delay in the lifting of restrictions and associated problems, it is again not possible to proceed with our annual donation of hampers to CatholicCare. CatholicCare will be distributing food hampers and welcome our continuing support – via monetary donation. Within the process of donating, an option will be available to record OLOP as a supporting community – see the relevant methods. If you are able to give a monetary donation it can be made via the following methods; By phone or bank transfer - contact the fundraising team on (03) 9287 5513 or fundraising@ccam.org.au _mention you are from OLOP

Or <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/CAMPAIGN/DONATE/15/FOODHAMPERS>

(remember to tick the “_THIS PAYMENT IS ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANISATION” box and nominate Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale).

Message from Fr Jerald
Welcome to the Season of Advent

After living with Covid restrictions for so long, we have now all come out of this with a huge sign of relief and gratitude that we have come this far. It is wonderful that we can now all gather once again to celebrate this very special season together as a community. Whilst we are thrilled that we can all gather in person once again for Masses and other parish activities, we understand if anyone is not comfortable joining us for the time being. Our first priority is that everyone feels safe and well.

Our Advent theme this year is "Healing and Restoration". Jeremiah 30:17 springs to mind :- "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds declares the Lord." But what does Jeremiah 30:17 mean for us today? When we search for healing Scriptures it can be tempting to forget that God's people went through many of the same difficulties that we face today. Distressing reports, a technologically-distracted society, a broken spirit and a hurting body can nag at the edges of our hearts. It is easy to be pulled away from the truth that exists in this verse. Yet even in our brokenness, God's wholeness shines through.

God uses restoration to bring healing. He is not only able to restore us, but He makes a strong affirmative statement that he is willing to do so. The Bible demonstrates that God's restorative power is different than our natural human concept of how to heal wounds or illnesses. When God restores an aspect of our lives, it is better than it was before. As believers who are cleansed by Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we can come to God with our prayers for healing and restoration knowing that God's grace will be there to meet us in our sickness.

When God restores health it is more beautiful than our human minds can comprehend. We can put our faith in the willingness of our Savior to redeem us and lead us back to him. As we keep our eyes on Christ this advent, let us lay our troubles at the foot of the cross with faith that he will restore and heal.

Fr Jerald.

Advent Reflection Program

To prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's arrival at Christmas, we will be holding an Advent Reflection Program together with Ss Peter and Paul's Church. This weekly program begins Tues 23 Nov at 10.15am in the SSPP church foyer. All materials will be provided. For those who are unable to make it during the day, a repeat session will be held on Wed 24th Nov at 7.30pm over Zoom. Please contact Trish at the parish office to register your interest for either session to assist with planning.

Festive Music for Christmas

Wednesday 15 December, 7.00pm

Cathedral Brass, with Anthony Halliday, organ. Brett Kelly, conductor.

\$25 - tickets online or at the door. Children under 15 are admitted free of charge.

Online tickets: www.trybooking.com/BVJPD



ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 3rd Sunday of Advent

HOSPITALITY TEAMS— Payne, Delzoppo,
Keating and Yang

READERS & COMMENTATORS

Sat 5.00 pm: Rita Latimour and Trish Gurney

Sun 9.30 am: Jo Ann Ng and Ross Stewart

PROJECTOR OPERATORS

Sat 5.00pm : Ophelia Wong

Sun 9.30am : Alex Alexander

Covid Captain:

5.00pm : Gill and James Beckford

9.30am : Joan McDonald and Luzanne

Argaet

Money Counting Roster:

Group 5 : Geoff Mullane, David Sowersby,
Anna Basa and Clair Davis

Parish Priest : Fr Jerald Mariadas—98418354

Email: gerald.cecil@cam.org.au

CHAIR OF PARISH SERVERS

Peter Given 9841 8354

Email: olopchair@gmail.com

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Brendan Keeling: 9842 2991

Email: principal@olopdonvale.catholic.edu.au

PASTORAL WORKER :

Trish Keley—9841 8354—Mon and Tues.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Wed : Liza Jansz 9841 8354

Email: donvale@cam.org.au

Year C – 3rd Sunday of Advent

12th of December 2022

GOSPEL

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them. (Luke 3:10-18)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tax collectors at the time of Jesus were disliked immensely for two reasons: they collaborated with the Roman oppressors and they skimmed additional monies from the people for themselves.
- The Jewish people of this time were hopeful that a messiah would come to overthrow the tyranny of the Roman Empire and set them free

Extract from "The Summit" Online

MASS TIMES for partner Parishes of Our Lady of The Pines, Donvale & Ss Peter & Paul's, Doncaster East

	OLOP	SSPP
Monday	No Mass	9.00am Communion Service
Tuesday	9.00am Zoom Mass	9.00am in Person Mass
Wednesday	9.00am in person Mass— Rosary after Morning Mass	9.00am Communion Service
Thursday	9.00am Zoom Mass	9.00am in person Mass
Friday	9.00am in person Mass— Rosary after Morning Mass	9.00am Communion Service
Saturday	5.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am Mass and 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.30am Morning Mass— Rosary after mass	8.00 and 11.15am Morning Mass