



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH

Southern Hills

VISION STATEMENT

As a Catholic Eucharistic community, inspired by the Gospel message, we strive to grow in faith, using our gifts to live out our love for one another.

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A

7 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**
4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was

meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 3: 4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST - Fr Paul Mwaura

Ph: 0437 693 300

E: parishpriest@holyfamilyparish.org.au

DEACON - Dcn Tee Ping Koh

E: bwoodpar@gmail.com

Ph: 0409 538 328

For urgent Pastoral assistance please call the Parish Priest or Deacon on their mobile.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE - Mrs Bianca Cotton

E: parishassociate@holyfamilyparish.org.au

PARISH OFFICE

26 London Rd, Aberfoyle Park

Ph: (08) 8270 2158

E: info@holyfamilyparish.org.au

W: www.holyfamilyparish.org.au

FACEBOOK: [Holy Catholic Family Parish](#)

OFFICE HOURS - Tues & Thurs 10am - 2pm

SUPPORT CENTRE BLACKWOOD

4-6 Laffers Rd, Glenalta

Ph: (08) 8278 6100

E: bwoodpar@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS - Wed & Friday 10am - 12pm

COTTAGE BOOKINGS - (08) 8278 6371

VESPERS

As advertised.

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Please contact Pastoral Associate for further information on (08) 8270 2158.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIR: Mr Paul Ridings

E: ppc@holyfamilyparish.org.au

Ph: 0427 848 371

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

CHAIR: Mr. Tony Ward

E: bwoodpar@gmail.com

Ph: (08) 82786100

TREASURER: Mr Ron Mazzachi

E: pfc@holyfamilyparish.org.au

Ph: 0407 613 749

SCHOOL OF THE NATIVITY

Ph: (08) 8270 3177

E: info@nativity.catholic.edu.au

W: www.nativity.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Erika Dixon

MASS TIMES

Monday 10.30am Rosary St. Paul of the Cross

Tuesday 9.30am Mass St Paul of the Cross

Tuesday 11.30am Rosary and Mass 12pm Nativity

Wednesday 9.30am Mass St Paul of the Cross

Wednesday 7.00pm Mass Our Lady of the Way
and Exposition and Adoration 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 9.15am Mass Nativity

Friday 9.30am Mass and Reconciliation 10am -
10.30 am St Paul of the Cross

Friday Exposition and Adoration 11am - 12pm
and 12.00 p.m. Mass Nativity

Saturday 11am Rosary at Nativity

Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45 pm Reconciliation at
Nativity

Saturday Vigil 6pm Mass at Nativity

Sunday 7.30am Mass St Paul of the Cross

Sunday 9.00am Mass Our Lady of the Way

Sunday 11am Mass Nativity



REFLECTION

John the Baptist urged the people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom by repenting of their sins. Their baptism by John in the Jordan River was an important ritual act of sorrow. But he stresses on, to express their sorrow by reforming their lives. The sacrament of reconciliation, and right living, are excellent means through which we can prepare for the feast of Christmas.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Zion, 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.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

POPE LEO'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that those Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of hope, reconciliation and hope.

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

Sick: Baby Jackson, William Kidd, Alicia Arthur, David Gardiner, Winifred Gallagher , Andrew Wright, John and Marcel Baldaccino, Maurene Pate, Paul Watts, Steven Carnell, Robin Collet, Anthony Horne, Ted Galkowski, Monique Crabb, David Graetz, Siegfried Encarnada, Roger Matthews, Leonata Griffiths, Debra Dillon, Wendy Walter, Cecilia Quinn, Krystina Lekstan, Gail Dante, Celia O'Shaughnessy, Henry, Denis Pfeiffer, Peter Watts, Vincent Ward, Jacqueline Harrison, Vinko Sokol, Helen Worthington (nee Ward), Mary Wanjiku Gicheha, Robin Fogarty.

Recently deceased: Elizabeth Cowell, Jeffrey Tan, Donal O'Donnell, Gerard Secker

Anniversary: Maurice Walker, Nicholas Naidu, Nigel Reeves and Gary Reeves

Please contact the parish office to have names added to or removed



Church of the Nativity

26 Sunnymede Drive

Aberfoyle Park

St Paul of the Cross

cnr Simla & Coromandel Pde

Blackwood

Our Lady of the Way

4-6 Laffers Road

Glenalta

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 7th

Morning tea after 7.30am Mass at St Paul's in the meeting room.

Morning tea in the Cottage after 9am Mass at Our Lady of the Way.

TUESDAY 9th

POPE FRANCIS: THE DISRUPTIVE PILGRIM'S GUIDE LAUNCH BY FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ AO

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan DD will launch this book at the Parish Hall next to St Ignatius' Church, 137 William Street, Norwood at 2.00 p.m. Special price of book is \$25.00.

WEDNESDAY 10th

MANDATORY ONLINE TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

A reminder that the first course – Safeguarding Essentials is available at www.caasava.com
Username: your email Password: Safeguarding .

We are offering a face-to-face session on Wednesday 10 December at The Cottage, Glenalta at 1pm. Please contact the parish office if you are attending.

SUNDAY 14TH

CHRISTMAS BRUNCHEON in The Cottage at 10.30 after Mass. We celebrate the special occasion of Christmas and the opportunity to unite socially as a Parish. Parishioners from all Mass centres are invited to a shared meal. Please bring a plate of sweet or savoury fork/finger food to share. It has been great to regularly socialize over morning teas and brunches during the year. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these events happen and be successful. Wishing you all a peaceful and joy filled Christmas.

TUESDAY 16TH

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Where: Our Lady of the Way Church, Laffers Rd., Glenalta **Time:** 7:00pm



This is an ecumenical service of reflection and recognition that Christmas is not always a time of joy for everyone. It is a time

when we also remember those who are no longer with us and the difficulties they may be facing at this time.

For more information contact Jenny Horne mob. 0403712046

FRIDAY 19th

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Edwardstown Bunnings has offered St Vinnies another day to hold a sausage sizzle. This will be on Friday 19th December. **We are still looking for more volunteers to help out for a short time on the day.**

It will be a wonderful way to raise money, to share the Christmas spirit and connect with fellow parishioners. Please contact Eleonora on 0416866894 or Mary Procter on 04801005171. With much appreciation.



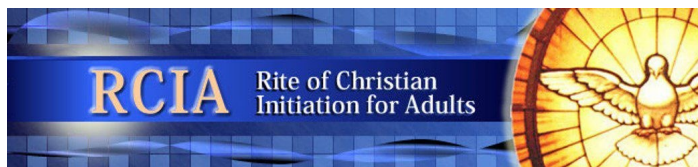
PARISH NEWS

VINNIES UPDATE

The Advent tree is up in the Nativity Church foyer; A suggestion list for food/gifts will be on the notice board in juxtaposition with the tree. (Please consider a gift voucher for children 12 and over of any monetary value.) The final date for collection is **6th December**.



A Christmas basket has been placed in both the foyers of St Paul of the Cross and Our Lady of the Way for donations of either food or gifts. Columban calendars (\$8) and Christmas cards (\$5) are now available for purchase at all Mass centres.



RCIA—BECOMING CATHOLIC

Have you been thinking about what it means to become a Catholic? The RCIA process, which is offered in this parish can give you the opportunity to explore your interest. There is no expectation of a commitment to become a Catholic and you are always in charge of how your faith journey evolves. It takes the form of weekly meetings. The focus of these meetings is to learn more about the beliefs, practices and traditions of the Catholic faith. To enquire further about the RCIA process, please contact any of the following members of the Parish: Fr Paul Mwaura, Mrs Bianca Cotton (Parish Associate), Deacon Tee Ping Koh, Carolyn Hastie Ph: 0414 205 819, Vee Pols Ph: 0407 694 374 or René Pols Ph: 0499 788 847.

ADVENT SHARINGS 2025

As part of our preparation for Advent, each week across all our Churches there will be parishioners sharing their faith story at the beginning of Mass. The themes of Advent, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love will be expressed each week. We hope this continues to build on our connections together as a community of believers.



RECONCILIATION

18th December 7pm Thursday at Nativity Church

20th December 10am Saturday at Our Lady of the Way

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

6pm Family Mass Nativity Church

9pm Our Lady of the Way Church

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

7:30am St Paul of the Cross Church

9.30am Nativity Church

(Please Note: There will be a special collection taken up at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.)

Note: There will be no Parish Masses on Friday 26 Dec. Normal Mass times resume from 27 December, 2025.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Nativity Parish Office and Blackwood Office will be closed from 29 December 2025 and reopen on January 13, 2026.

The Parish Associate (Bianca Cotton) will be on Leave from 29/12/25 until 30/1/2026.

Caritas Australia: This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to “be a light in the darkness” for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

PARISH WEEKEND ROSTER

14th December 2025

	St Paul of the Cross Sunday 7.30 am	Our Lady of the Way Sunday 9.00 am
SACRISTAN	Clare Jennings	Annette Harrison
WELCOMERS	Kit Stevens Peter Donovan	Barb Colla Brendan O’Leary
COMMENTATOR	Kay Conlon	Chris Wright
READERS	Phil Doyle	Corrie Frosco Anton F-R
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Peter Shepherd	Mary Ann Koh Barb Ward
MUSIC	Guy Palmer-Brown	Georgian Singers
CANTOR	Trish Roosa	
FLOWERS		
	Nativity Saturday 6.00 p.m.	Nativity Sunday 11.00 a.m.
GATES/SACRISTAN	John Gallagher	Kiara Ryan
WELCOMERS	Mary Procter	Smailes Family
COMMENTATOR	Nadia Procter	Rene Pols
READERS	Bev Cusack Brian Schumacher	Rochelle D’Souza Bianca Cotton
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Peter Hammer	Sue Lawless
CHILDREN’S LITURGY		Ewa Starrs
MUSIC	Loreen Tomas	Ryan Family
CUPPA		
FLOWERS		Belinda Boote Marilyn Monten
CLEANERS		Rosemary and Peter Hammer

Next week’s readings - 14th December, 2025

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

First Reading	Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 145:6-10
Second Reading	James 5:7-10
Gospel Acclamation	Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11



Please forward all Parish Bulletin requests by Wednesday 5pm to info@hollyfamilyparish.org.au

All the notices to go in our Parish Bulletin are to be sent to the Parish Office for approval before publication.