



Welcome to

# Noarlunga/Seaford Catholic Parish

St Luke's, Noarlunga and SCC, Seaford

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

Vol 11 : No 03

## NOARLUNGA/SEAFORD CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE

Cnr Goldsmith Drive and Honeypot Rd, (PO Box 406) NOARLUNGA, SA 5168 Phone: 8382 1717

*(Please leave a message outside office hours and we will get back to you as soon as we can)*

Email: [nswcp@tpg.com.au](mailto:nswcp@tpg.com.au)

Web: [www.noarlunga-seafordparish.org.au](http://www.noarlunga-seafordparish.org.au)

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday  
10.00am - 3.00pm

### PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

#### • PARISH PRIEST

Fr Josy Sebastian - (8382 1717;  
in an emergency 0452 524 169;  
[jponnambal@gmail.com](mailto:jponnambal@gmail.com))

#### • ASSISTANT PRIEST

Fr Dominick Okwadha  
(8382 1717; [okwadha@yahoo.com](mailto:okwadha@yahoo.com))

#### • PARISH MANAGER NEWSLETTER

Mrs Toni Fishlock - 0417 801 241;  
[fishlock11@tpg.com.au](mailto:fishlock11@tpg.com.au)

*(Please submit newsletter items to the Parish Office by 11.30am each Wednesday)*

#### • SEAFORD

Sr Bernie Sontrop SGS – SCC  
(Catholic Community Coordinator  
- 0400 035 462)

### CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159

### REGULAR WEEKEND MASSES

#### • SATURDAY EVENING

6.00pm - St Luke's, Noarlunga

#### • SUNDAYS

9.00am - St Luke's, Noarlunga

10.45am - SCC, Seaford

11.00am - 1<sup>st</sup> Sun - St Luke's: Spanish

2.00pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun - St Luke's: Filipino

5.30pm - St Luke's: Youth Mass



### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts,

'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 145:6-10*

*Lord, come and save us.*

### SECOND READING

*James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

*Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,

*(Continued page 4)*

**Baptism of Infants:** 8382 1717

**Children's Faith Formation**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Each Saturday 9.00am - 9.30am and  
Half an hour before all weekend masses

**Pastoral Coordinator:**

Gabrielle Byrne 0422 804 579

**Child Safe Contact Person:**

Nicoline Henderson

**0404 297 930**

**Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council:**

Dr Paul Rijken

**Chairperson Liturgy Group:**

Margaret Burns

**Parish Schools and Colleges:**

**St John the Apostle** 8382 2064

Principal - Ms Lee-Anne Johansen

**All Saints** 83270020

Principal - Mrs Liz Keogh

**Cardijn College** 8392 9500

Acting Principal - Mr Patrick Harmer

Heads of Campus:

Cardijn College—Mr Wade Champion

Galilee—Mr Nick Wright 8557 9000

Marcellin—Mr Gianni Petrucci

**Church Cleaning**

**17 Dec:**

Cleaning:

Vacuuming: Bill Aldridge

**Finances 3/4 December :**

1st Collection \$921

Support for Archdiocesan Priests

2nd Collection \$461 (30 envelopes)

Open Plate \$531

Thank you for your ongoing support and  
commitment to the community.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

10.00am—3.00pm

Tuesday—Friday

For any emergencies please contact

Fr Josy 0452 524 169 or

Toni Fishlock 0417 801 241.

**Noticeboard:**

Dec 13 Keeping Families Safe

(after Domestic Violence)-Centacare

2023-2024—Magi Pilgrimages

**CHANGES TO COVID RULES ARE LISTED ON THE BACK OF  
THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION**

Our God is a God of surprises. We do not expect the deserts to be places where flowers bloom, or that the blind will suddenly see again, the deaf hear and the lame walk. And yet those are the signs that God is present. This is what the prophets promised the Chosen People would be coming their way, John the Baptist was among those who had been patiently waiting for the Messiah, Jesus sends him the message to look around and see what is happening: the very signs of salvation foretold by Isaiah are happening before his eyes! Can we imagine the joy that must have come to the blind person whose sight was restored or the deaf person who could suddenly hear again?

As Christians we live in the era of salvation, but we are still called upon to be patient and trusting as we await Christ's second coming in glory.

This patience—as St Paul describes it—is not an attitude to 'grin and bear it' but the anticipatory patience of the farmer who looks forward to the time of harvest when the earth will bring forth its precious fruits. It is a patience that has complete trust in God as its foundation.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY  
OUR GIVING TREE - LET'S "PLAY TAG"**

St Vincent de Paul is under a mammoth strain at this time of the year, helping those less fortunate than ourselves to have a happy Christmas.

Let's "PLAY TAG" and empty all the tags off the Giving Tree.

\*\*\*Please note that all gifts need to be returned by 10/11 Dec.\*\*\*



**2023 Calendars \$8 Christmas Cards \$5  
available after all Masses.**

**Anyone requiring a food hamper for Christmas please contact St Vinnies  
1300 729 202 and leave your details.**

**ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE - to be held next weekend 9/10**



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections in dioceses, eparchies and parishes on the Third Sunday of Advent will support *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas:

Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at: [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

**CRAFT CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ON SALE**

**AFTER MASSES**

**POLISH SPEAKING PERSON** A Volunteer is needed to visit a lady in a nursing home. If you are able to help please contact Gabrielle in the Parish Office.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
ST LUKE'S CHURCH - NOARLUNGA  
CANCELLED 15 DECEMBER**



**Pray for the healing of:** Angela Young, Catherine Kelley, Alex MacDonald, William Tanti, Gentile Monardo, Gerry Rice, Suzanne Pearce, Joan Lavender, John Stanley, Gene Field, Pauline Gilbert, Pat & Jack Vaughan, Astrid Houareau, David Healey, Noorline Zerah, Damian Mihalovic, Cate Lavelle, Alison Pyne, Marlene Hemming



**Deceased:  
Anniversaries:**

*We keep in mind and our prayers those who have died and those who grieve.*

(Names will remain on the Prayer for Healing list for one month).

### Rosters for weekend 17/18 December

	6.00pm	9.00am	5.30pm
P1	Brenda Byrne	Julie Lindur	Maria Thomas
P2	Annabelle F.	Danielle Grieg	Paul Knobloch
W	Christine Jones	Espi Tilbrook	Therese Tanti

### CHRISTMAS TIMES

#### Christmas Eve—Saturday 24 December

St Luke's	6.00pm	SCC	7.30pm
Carols	11.20pm		
	MIDNIGHT		

#### Christmas Day—Sunday 25 December

St Luke's 9.00am

#### 2nd FORM OF THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER at ST LUKE'S—7.00PM



Cleaners are urgently needed at St Luke's for Church cleaning. If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office on 8382 1717.

Sunday evening myself and a group of friends gathered with others to join the St Luke's Music Ministry Team's "Carols By Candlelight". What a delightful evening it was and what a beautiful way to begin the Christmas season. Unfortunately, after two very hot days, the weather decided we all needed to cool down, but we kept warm by heartily joining in all the carolling.

The evening was so well planned and whoever had the idea to place a the photos and brief introduction to each choir /singing group in the booklet, well done! A brilliant idea.

For anyone such as myself who doesn't get to the big carols events, this evening, bubbling over with fun and friendship, was an absolute treat.

Congratulations and a very big thank you to those ever -willing people who worked so hard to organize the evening. God bless you all richly this Christmas.

Mary Thomson

### WHAT'S ON

Mon	12 Dec	Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's
Tues	13 Dec	Feast St Lucy Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's Mass at 10.00am—St John's Mass at 11.45 am—All Saints
Wed	14 Dec	St John of the Cross Mass at 9.15am—SCC Mass at 7.30pm—St Luke's
Thurs	15 Dec	Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's Prayer Meeting 10am Cardijn Thanksgiving Mass Rosary at 6.45pm—St Luke's
Fri	16 Dec	Rosary at 9.30am—St Luke's Mass 10.00am—St Luke's
Sat	17 Dec	Reconciliation St Luke's—9.00am Mass at 6.00pm—St Luke's
Sun	18 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at 9.00am & 5.30pm— St Luke's Mass at 10.45am—SCC

### READERS & WELCOMERS

If you are available for any Masses from Christmas weekend till 29 January could you please write your name on the sheets on the Information Desk.

### SEAFORD CHRISTIAN CHURCHES NEWS

#### SCC Christmas Appeal

As Christmas approaches we would once again like to reach out to the wider community through local schools and health services. We would like to bring a little unexpected joy to some who, for various reasons, are experiencing hardship or sadness. If you would like to make a financial contribution please place your money in a sealed envelope, marked 'SCC Christmas Appeal'. If you would like a receipt please put your name and congregation on the back of the envelope.

During the week you can give your envelope to Christine McNicol or on Sunday to Jan Hicks or Angela McDonough.  
Many thanks for your ongoing support.

#### SCC ECUMENICAL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DAY

School age children are invited to participate in a variety of Christmas activities including reflection on the Christmas Story, Christmas craft, and games on

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.**

To assist with preparation and catering, please complete the registration form available at the back of the worship space asap. Registration closes Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

If any adults would like to assist, please let Sr Bernie know.

#### SCC ECUMENICAL ADVENT RECONCILIATION TAIZE SERVICE

All are invited to the Reconciliation Taize Prayer Service in preparation for Christmas,

**11.00 am Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**  
in the Large Worship Space.

**COMPLIANCE WITH  
COVID-19 REGULATIONS**  
(Current from 08/12/22)



- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 please follow the instructions as per SA Health in terms of contact tracing and isolating yourself as per government health protocols. Please stay home and do not attend church services until you have fully recovered.
- Wearing of face-masks in Church is recommended.
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are requested to stay home and not attend services.
- Hand sanitiser is available at church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands. Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches.
- Procession of gifts has resumed.
- Collection plates are to be passed around with minimum contact

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The Word Messiah means ‘anointed one’ in Hebrew. The word Christ means the same thing in Greek.
- The healing of those who are afflicted was one of the signs given in the Hebrew Scriptures that the Messiah had come. When the blind see and the deaf hear; when the downtrodden are raised up and the lame walk, the reign of God will have come.
- John the Baptist was arrested and executed by Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great and ruler of Galilee, because John had criticised Antipas for his marriage to his brother’s wife, Herodias, who was also his niece.

**THIRD CANDLE**

The third candle on the Advent wreath is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

*(Continued from page 1)*

and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor;

and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No?’

Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

‘Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

‘I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

**A QUESTION OF FAITH**

“Are you the one who is to come?” is among the most fascinating questions in the New Testament. First, it is the question on the minds of anyone who encounters Jesus (then and now). A simple yes or no would suffice, but in typical Jesus fashion the answer is rich, layered, and challenging. We all are looking for a Messiah, but is one who cures and comforts outcasts the person we had in mind? Basically, Jesus’ message to John is: “Here are the facts. It is for you to decide”.

Second, what is so amazing about John’s question is the level of trust it implies. John was confident Jesus would tell him the truth. In fact, John already knew the truth. If he hadn’t been convinced Jesus was the Messiah, he would not have posed the question.

When you find yourself in doubt who Jesus is, first think about Jesus’ answer to John: Is the one who brings good news to the poor, helps the blind see, and deaf hear the saviour you had in mind? If not, then perhaps you’re on the wrong path – or more probably

unaware of your own needs. Second think about John’s question. If you are asking Jesus whether or not he is your saviour, chances are you already know the answer.

Friends of Jesus, go confidently from this place. We will question fearlessly. We will support one another consistently. We will go forward carefully. We will meet trouble compassionately. We will meet troublemakers patiently. We will meet injustice creatively. We will meet the apathetic with a challenge. You are the friends of Jesus, and your eyes are wide open as you walk his way. *GPBS eNews*

**EXPLORING THE WORD**

As we have already noted, one of the main purposes of Matthew’s Gospel is to reveal Jesus as the long awaited Messiah of the Jews to Matthew’s largely Jewish community. In this text, Matthew cites the evidence that is before their eyes. Why is it necessary for John to question the identity of Jesus when his own eyes and ears will give him the answer he seeks? The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and good news is proclaimed to the poor! Such were the signs of the coming of the Lord that Isaiah had prophesied. Such are the actions that Jesus undertakes! His identity is clear for all who have the eyes to see it.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

*(12 - 18 December)*

- **Monday, 12:** Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Advent (Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27)
- **Tuesday, 13:** St Lucy (Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32)
- **Wednesday, 14:** St John of the Cross, (Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7:19-23)
- **Thursday, 15:** Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Advent (Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30)
- **Friday, 16:** Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Advent (Is 56:1-3, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36:)
- **Saturday, 17:** Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Advent (Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17)
- **Sunday 18:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24)

**PASTORAL CARE**

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8382 1717; or in an emergency 0452 524 169.