

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Serving the communities of:

DEERAGUN / ROLLINGSTONE / BURDELL / BUSHLAND BEACH / MOUNT LOW
JENSEN / YABULU / BLUEWATER / TOOLAKEA / TOOMULLA

30th November 2025

1st Sunday of Advent, Year A

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

8.00am – St Anthony's Church

10am – 11am Reconciliation

5.00pm – St Clare's Chapel

SUNDAY

7.30am – Rollingstone

9.00am – St Anthony's Church

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MONDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

TUESDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

8.40am – St Clare's Chapel

WEDNESDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

THURSDAY

8.40am St Anthony's School Mass

5.30pm – St Anthony's Church

FRIDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

**Baptisms & Weddings
By Appointment**

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am to 11am

PARISH OFFICE

58 Veales Road Deeragun

4818

Ph. (07) 4751 5217

Office Time

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Friday 9 am to 11am.

PARISH EMAIL:

deeragunparish@tsv.catholic.org.au

Advent Pastoral Letter – 2025

Today we begin a new liturgical year.

Advent opens before us like the gentle light of dawn – quiet, yes, but full of promise and full of purpose – and at its heart is a simple, urgent message:

Wake up. Look ahead. God in Jesus Christ is our greatest gift.

The readings for this weekend from Isaiah, Paul and Matthew show us what this waking up looks like for us as individuals, as parishes and as a Diocese.

The Prophet Isaiah gives us a broad vision of hope: nations streaming toward God, swords reshaped into ploughshares, and people longing to walk in the ways of the Lord. This vision doesn't let us stay small or passive. It lifts our gaze and stretches our imagination. Isaiah is surely telling us: "Don't keep your eyes on the ground. Look for something more lifegiving. God is bigger than our fears."

In this Year of Hope, I pray that we have at least taken some time to come to understand even more richly that our hope is Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and tomorrow. A Christian without hope makes no sense. We can't be a follower of Christ if we are not full of hope. Hope isn't something we sit and wait for. Hope moves us to somewhere much better. Hope sends us outward in Christ's name and then we truly become His disciples.

The Psalm today sings: "Let us go rejoicing into the house of the Lord". In this song we become pilgrim people – a people on the move. Our mission is in the world. We come to God's house every weekend only to be sent back out to live what we have just proclaimed. This is exactly who we are called to be as Church: not a people stuck in a rut, not a people standing still, but a community always moving toward God and living and sharing the good news with all.

That is why the preparations for our Diocesan Synod next year matter so much.

Already the spirit is stirring among us. The synod is a sign that we are not a Church frozen in time. Every one of us needs to be shaken and stirred. To do nothing is not an option. We must listen to each other in order to change and grow and move. But this movement must also be visible in every parish.

Our parishes cannot be simply places where mass is celebrated as important as that is – they must be signs of hope in the communities they serve. Your pastors must always be Prophets of Hope. They have a special role of leadership amongst you as do your Mission Councils.

Parishes must become places where people find welcome, compassion, prayer, healing and purpose; places that remind our neighbourhood that God is close, that faith is alive and that help is on the way. A parish that stands still becomes invisible. A parish on the move becomes a light for the world. St Paul tells us this weekend: "The time has come. Wake up from your sleep". He's not scolding us – he's offering us a new heart – and a new start. Put on Christ, he is saying and start again.

In the Gospel, Jesus adds the final piece: "Stay Awake. Be Ready". Not out of fear, but out of attentiveness. So, as Advent begins, the Church hands us a sacred task: Prepare the way. Pay attention. Do something. Open your heart. Move with purpose.

How can we prepare our parishes to be signs of hope in your communities – alive – outward looking - and full of joy and ready to serve? We are pilgrims on a journey. Let us not waste this opportunity. Get rid of cynicism as if to say we have given up hope. NO. We are pilgrims of hope not because life is simple – it's not – but because God is faithful. Not because the road is smooth – it's not – but because Christ walks with us. Come Lord Jesus. Come, and renew the face of the Earth.

MOST REV TIMOTHY J HARRIS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

St Anthony's Catholic Parish, Deeragun, acknowledges the Wulgurukaba group, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our parish sits. We also acknowledge and pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging.

Find us on



Becoming New in Christ...

Saint of the Week: November 30: SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE (c. 5-65)

As one of the disciples blessed to be called an Apostle, according to the Gospel of John, St. Andrew was the first of the Twelve to be led to Christ. One day, John the Baptist was with two of his disciples "and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus... Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. (John 1:36-37, 40). Andrew began following Jesus after a simple indication from John the Baptist, without ever hearing a word come out of Jesus' mouth. What incredible faith! In the same light, we could also consider him the very first evangelist, since after meeting Jesus and finding out where he was staying, he immediately went to find his brother Peter and bring him to the Lord as well. All he had to say was, "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41). And that is how his mission began, following the Messiah and learning all he could from Him so as to continue leading others to Him. After Christ's death and resurrection, Tradition holds that Andrew preached in modern day Greece and Turkey. He was crucified at Patras on an X-shaped cross because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as Our Lord. St. Andrew, intercede for us, that we too may become disciples and evangelists for Christ.

Tami Urcia

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Heaven is surely the place without war and tools of destruction. Why can't earth also be such a place? Why can't swords and spears and tools of war and violence be turned into ploughshares and pruning hooks and tools for growing things and cultivating life? It would be the best way to get ready for Jesus.

Name some personality traits that could be thought of as 'swords and spears', such as gossiping or using sarcasm and put-downs. Are there 'swords and spears' in your personality?

How can you cultivate spiritual life and growth in your own personality? The world seems to be getting more violent. We see it all the time on television.

Why is the world such a violent place?

What do you think are the contributing factors to the attitude that violence is an acceptable way to respond to conflict?

How can a group of young people concerned about violence affect their neighbourhood or school?

...I will not forget you

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

Isaiah 49:16

Parish Prayer

O my God, I adore you, and I love you with all my heart. In your own tender love, accept us who adore You and give thanks to You. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that our church may grow. May the Holy Spirit transform, teach and lead us in our faith. Thank you for our church and its people. You gather us as your people and have formed us into a community of faith, hope and love. We ask your blessing upon our Parish. Let our families, especially our children experience your love and your presence in their lives. St. Anthony, pray for us and help us to love Jesus.

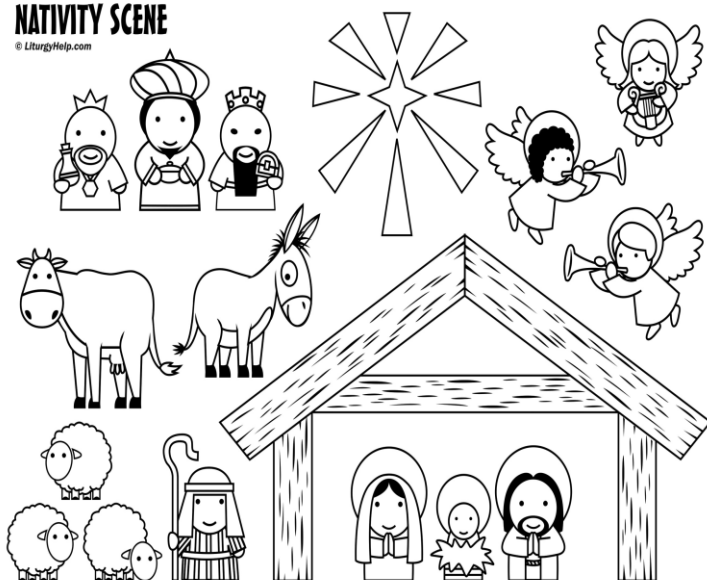
Mary Mother of Jesus, we ask for your care and protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



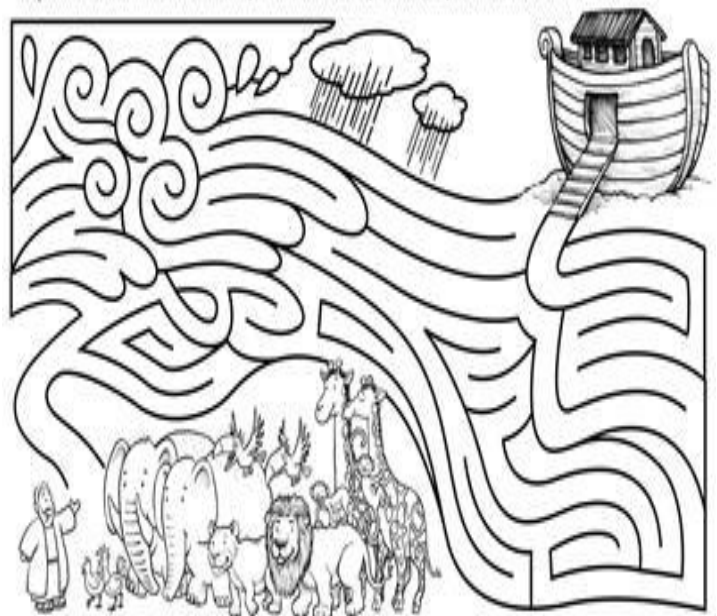
CHILDREN'S CORNER

NATIVITY SCENE

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Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.



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First Reading Is 2: 1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-2.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of Judgement of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,

and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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Do What You Can

The reading from the prophet Isaiah this Sunday contains a remarkable prediction—the end of war between nations (Isaiah 2:4). While most of the good predictions of the prophets were fulfilled in Jesus, we still await the end of all wars. So why hasn't that one been fulfilled? We can look to the second reading and the Gospel for some hints. Both readings talk about being awake and ready for our salvation (Romans 13:12) or the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:39). Being awake doesn't mean consuming lots of coffee or turning the music volume all the way up. Paul calls it "putting on the Lord Jesus Christ" as a soldier would put on armor before a battle. He even mentions rivalry and jealousy as attitudes to avoid. Both of those vices have been the cause of many wars in our history. What if we not only avoided them, but also taught our children to avoid them? What if everyone eventually learned not to be jealous and hateful? We are a long way from ending all wars. There are still people who teach hate to the poor instead of helping to feed them. There are still people who get rich selling the weapons of war. This brings

us back to the first reading, in which Isaiah speaks of beating swords into plowshares. Do we have enough faith in God's love to stop building weapons and use those resources to feed the hungry or cure diseases in underprivileged countries? Until we convert everyone to following Jesus, that's not likely. The Gospel calls us to be ready. Maybe we need to be ready to share our faith. Maybe we have to be awake to any opportunity to show God's love to those around us. Are we afraid to offer to pray for someone in need? Maybe we need to put on the "armor of light," as St. Paul calls it. Instead of trying to stop all wars, could we at least show forgiveness to someone who has hurt us?

Jesus never said to do the impossible. If we can be ready to see Jesus in those around us, to show his love to those who need it, or just be patient with other people's faults and weaknesses, we may not stop all wars, but we will be prepared for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Tom Schmidt

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"People in love make signs of love," wrote our bishops in a document guiding the renewal of liturgical music. They were not merely urging us to sing at Mass, but suggesting that the song itself is a sign of the love of Christ. Love never expressed dies, as we know from experience. Flowers for no special reason, a caress, a hug, a turn around the dance floor, a note on the pillow or in the lunchbox, the aroma of fresh bread in the kitchen, all are signs of love's vitality. A significant treasure in our Catholic tradition is the place of the sacraments as signs of Christ's love. We can trace the sacraments back to scriptural sources, through centuries of history. They are woven through family tradition and our own life story. Sacraments are the way Christ makes signs of love for the Church.



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