



PARISH TEAM: Fr Leonard Caldera, Fr Vinco Muriyadan, Fr Jonas Donasco MLCC
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OFFICE HOURS: 10.00AM - 3.00PM WEEKDAYS; CLOSED ON TUESDAYS

First Sunday of Advent — Year A— 30th November 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

Advent is not just about preparing for Christmas; it's about lifting our eyes to a horizon shaped by God's dreams, not our tired routines.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your enthusiastic participation in the recent celebrations marking the 2nd anniversary of my Priestly Ordination. Your presence at the commemorative Mass and the accompanying festivities was truly heartwarming and contributed immensely to the joyous atmosphere of the day. The meaningful moments we shared during the Mass, and the fellowship thereafter highlighted the spirit of unity and faith that defines our parish. As I always say I would like to begin with something funny.

They say Advent is the only season where Christians are encouraged to "stay awake," which is ironic because it comes right after big Christmas planning meetings where half the parish falls asleep. But Isaiah and Paul remind us that God's alarm clock has no snooze button.

In the first reading, Isaiah paints a breathtaking picture of what life looks like when God's people finally wake up and walk in his light. Nations stream to the mountain of the Lord, swords become ploughshares, and peace—real peace—takes root. Isaiah is essentially saying: Look, God has a bigger vision than your daily grind. [Advent is not just about preparing for Christmas; it's about lifting our eyes to a horizon shaped by God's dreams, not our tired routines.](#) We get caught in the cycle of work deadlines, school pickups, and social commitments that drain our energy. Isaiah calls us out of that fog and invites us to step into God's world, where hope is possible and peace is not just a slogan.

Paul takes the same theme further in Romans 13:11–14 by sounding the morning bell: "You know what time it is... now is the moment to wake from sleep." Advent is the Church's new year, a spiritual reset button. Paul knows how easily we sleepwalk through life, not physically but spiritually. We can drift into habits that dull our faith—resentments we carry, temptations we entertain, distractions we justify. Paul's message is not meant to scold but to energize. He invites us to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ," not as a heavy burden but as our true clothing, our identity, our direction.

In a world full of noise, Advent calls us to wake up—not to anxiously run around but to recognise that life with Jesus is the greatest adventure we can choose. It's not an adventure of reckless decisions but of courageous love, surprising grace, and renewed purpose. Think of how every new year people make resolutions hoping for transformation. Advent offers something better: not wishful thinking but God's promise to reshape our hearts and lives.

So as our parish enters this Advent season, let's hear Isaiah's vision and Paul's alarm. Let's walk in the light, shake off the spiritual sleepiness, and embrace the adventure Christ sets before us. This is our new year in faith—an opportunity not just to begin again, but to begin deeper, braver, and more awake than ever. Amen, **Fr Vinco**

Dear Parishioners, Last Friday 21st of November, Mr. Hans Wanders was awarded the Gilford Young Medal for 20 years of faithful service to the Launceston parish community. Han's currently serves as chair of our Finance, Building and Maintenance council, he is an active member of the St Patrick's Chapel community and single handedly coordinates the live streaming of Sunday Masses from the Chapel from Covid times until now, so that those who are home bound may have an ongoing spiritual connection to the parish community. We wish him all the best and God's choicest blessings.

Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. I would like to present a small article on the season of Advent. May I also turn your attention to some parish activities in December.

Advent Carol Service – Saturday 6th December @ 2.30 pm (Free Event) Led by the choir of the Launceston Catholic Parish with items by Hetty Binns, Janet Hoare and Kitty Ransom. Please come and Joyfully prepare for Christmas. (see newsletter for details)

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 6pm Sacred Heart Church, Newstead
Sunday 7.30am Carmelite Monastery
9am St Patrick's Chapel, Prospect
9am St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay
10.30am Church of the Apostles, Launceston
6.30pm Church of the Apostles, Launceston

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.30am-10.30am Apostles
5.15pm– 5.45pm Newstead

WEEKDAY MASSES 1– 6th December

Monday-Saturday **7.30am**
Carmelite Monastery
Tuesday 12noon Newstead
Wednesday 12noon Apostles
Thursday 12noon Mass Invermay
Friday 12noon Mass Apostles

MASS LIVE-STREAMED

Every Sunday at 9am

Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston or:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)

[CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.

SACRAMENTAL BOOKINGS

Baptisms, Wedding and Funeral Enquiries
Please contact the Parish Office

Interested in becoming Catholic

(RCIA Programme)

Enquiries: Parish Office

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

1st and 3rd Sundays –9am Invermay
2nd and 4th Sundays –10.30am Apostles

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Teens Group: Gr 6-12
2nd and 4th Sundays, Pastoral Centre
4.30pm-5.30pm

YAS currently on hold
Enquiries: Parish Office

We are located on the country of the Tyerenotepanner, the Panninher and the Litarimirina people of the Stoney Creek Nation. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners, who have cared for land, sea, waterways and sky, as the ongoing custodians, for thousands of years. We honour Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

ONE HOUR WITH JESUS *Next Sunday, 7th December at the Carmelite Monastery.* You are welcome to join the Carmelite nuns in spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: 2.00pm Office of None (afternoon prayer of the Church); 2.15 - 3.00pm Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; 3.00pm Benediction

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION will be held in the Nano Nagle Room on Wednesdays at 11am and at 5pm. Christian Meditation is a method of prayer to help us set our eyes on God, in silence and grow closer to Him with Gratitude and Love. All are welcome. Enquires: Tina: 0417305546

LECTIO DIVINA Every Friday morning 10.30 am for 1 hour, at the Pastoral Centre, Lectio Divina - Contemplating and praying the scriptures for the upcoming weekend Mass readings. A time to slow down, to listen with the ears of your heart. Everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for one hour every Friday when the 12noon Mass is held at the Church of the Apostles.

HEALING MASS for all the sick and aged in our parish for all those who are in need of Our Good Lord's anointing and mercy. *Every First Friday at Church of the Apostles at 12 noon.*

THE CARMEL SHOP: The Carmel Shop, 7 Cambridge St, West Launceston is open between 11am—4pm on Wednesdays. Enquiries: carmelshop@yahoo.com

COLUMBAN CALENDARS ON SALE IN THE CHURCH- \$10 each

The Choir of the Catholic Parish of Launceston presents...

ADVENT FESTIVAL

*an afternoon of song and
Advent inspiration*

Church of the Apostles
Margaret Street Launceston
on Saturday 6th December 2025 at 2.30pm



Featuring the Catholic Parish choir
with items from Hetty Binns, Janet Hoare and Kitty Ransom.

Narration by Father Leonard Caldera

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL... AND BRING A FRIEND



This is a free event

GUILFORD YOUNG MEDAL 2025

Congratulations to Hans Wanders, Fran and Max Keegan in our parish who are worthy recipients of this award.

We also thank Helen Wanders who has been a wonderful support to Hans in his work and especially for her contribution to the St Patrick's Chapel community.

Seeking Volunteers for Parish Bulletin Folding –Fridays

After many years of helping to fold bulletins, Dot O'Connor and Beatrice Bird are taking a well earned retirement and we thank them for their ministry.

Can you help out to fold bulletins on a Friday after 12noon for approximately 45minutes on a roster basis?

Usual volunteer paperwork will be required. Please contact the Parish Office during office hours for further information.

A VOCATION VIEW

In our materialistic society, our hearts can be hardened by the desires of the flesh. Stay awake and pray for the strength to stand with confidence before Jesus, by following His authentic call for your life.

SAFE COMMUNITIES NOTICE

- **CHILDREN** must be supervised at all times and must not be allowed to wander in the church grounds with church doors open to parking areas and main streets. Children must also be accompanied by an adult (and not another child) if visiting toilets as these can be accessed by the public.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our parish communities safe, Fr Leonard

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Neave Cripps** (Melissa) and **Arthur Bingley** (Andrew and Erin) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Fr Ed Travers, Sr Mary Joseph OCD, Vyvyan Allchin, Merril Thompson, Marcus Hughes, Jenny Bowe, Christina Waiss, Kath Aldred, Carol Cleary, Irene La Palombara, Noelene Bye, Tina La Palombara, Joanne Foley, Brigitte, Louisa Buttazzoni, Alida Moolenschot, Peter Brumby, Pat McCarthy, Shirley O'Byrne, Will Smith, Therese Brennan, Kees Moolenschot, Elsie Saltmarsh, Ruth Adams, Egidio Tosello, Maria Holton, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Alfred Weeding, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan,.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED We pray for Mark Aspinall, Greg Hopwood, Charlie Maher, Patrick Cannon, Ellen Williams, Ron Butterworth, Mel Cuschieri, Marueen Cronin, Robert Parkes, John Juhasz, all those whose names appear in the our November prayer list and all those anniversaries which occur at this time.

Faith and Catechesis *Understanding Advent: A Season of Hope and Preparation*

The Dual Meaning of Advent - Advent holds a dual purpose. First, it commemorates the historical coming of Jesus, the Incarnation, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). It calls us to reflect on the humility and love of God, who chose to be born as a vulnerable child to redeem humanity. Second, Advent looks forward to the Second Coming of Christ in glory, when He will fulfill His promise to bring about the fullness of His Kingdom.

Thus, Advent is not merely about looking back on an event that happened over 2,000 years ago. It is also about looking forward with hope and vigilance, preparing our hearts for when Christ will come again.

Symbols of Advent - The Advent wreath is a powerful symbol of this season. Its circular shape represents God's eternal nature, while the evergreen signifies everlasting life. Four candles adorn the wreath, each lit on successive Sundays. Three are purple, symbolizing penance and preparation, and one is rose, lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, signifying joy as we near the celebration of Christ's birth.

The Advent calendar is another tool used by families to journey spiritually through the season. It offers daily Scripture readings, prayers, or acts of kindness, helping individuals deepen their faith.

How to Observe Advent - Advent is a call to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, echoing the penitential aspects of Lent. It is a time to cleanse our hearts of distractions and sin, making room for Christ to enter. Catholics are encouraged to frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend daily Mass when possible, and engage in acts of charity.

Additionally, families can cultivate a spirit of Advent through traditions such as the blessing of the Christmas tree, lighting the Advent candles at home, or praying the O Antiphons during the final days of Advent, which emphasize the different titles of Christ.

A Season of Hope - Advent is ultimately a season of hope. In a world often darkened by despair, Advent reminds us that the light of Christ has already overcome the darkness. As the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). It is this light we prepare for during Advent, confident that Christ will come again and make all things new.

As Catholics journey through Advent, may it be a time of spiritual renewal, deepening faith, and joyful expectation. With hearts open and ready, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

Fr Leonard

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

34 Cameron Street, Launceston

Extends an invitation to parishioners to their

Launceston Nativity Display

3rd—24th December

Open daily 11am-2pm;

Thursdays/ Sundays 12noon-3pm

Explore a diverse display of Christmas nativity scenes and discover how stars, angels, wreaths, bells, candy canes and gifts all point to the story of Jesus' birth. Fun activities for children. Pick your favourite nativity scene when you visit for a chance to win your own nativity set.

www.htl.org.au/christmas



Vinnies Christmas Hamper Donations

We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items; Christmas treats or gifts to help us fill our hampers. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference. Vinnies is also conducting a **Toy drive** this year and are seeking toys to help make Christmas brighter for children in need. Some suggestions are:

0–2 years: Soft toys, sensory play sets, picture books, stacking blocks.

3–5 years: Puzzles, LEGO/Duplo, craft sets, dolls/action figures, dress-up kits.

6–9 years: Board games, sports balls, science kits, art packs.

10–12 years: Headphones, journals, books, sports equipment, craft kits.

13–16 years: Gift cards (\$25 value), skincare packs, sportswear, headphones, books, accessories.

Please ensure all toys are unwrapped and do not exceed \$25 in value.

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office during business hours or to Vinnies Community Hub, 179 Invermay Road by **Friday 5 December 2025 between 10am-2pm.**

Your kindness helps bring joy to families who might otherwise go without this Christmas. On behalf of everyone at the St Vincent de Paul Society, thank you for your continued generosity and compassion.

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading

Isaiah 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. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(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

Romans 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.

ADVENT WREATH RESPONSORY

Priest: The Lord is our faith and our life
All: *May the Lord's peace be with us all*
Priest: May his love shine in our hearts
All: *Our hope is in the coming of the Lord*

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
**Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 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.'



The First Sunday of
Advent

In the flame of this first candle
we see HOPE in the
coming of Jesus Christ—
the Messiah

Next Sunday's readings— Second Sunday of Advent

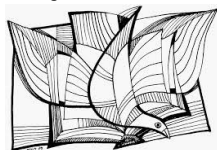
Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

Ponder and pray the living Word of God



Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish

BSB: 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.

Reference: "your surname"

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

