



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede

**Parish Office:** 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 9am – 12pm

**Phone:** 9401 6355  
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**E-mail:** [balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au](mailto:balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [parishofstanneandstbede.org.au](http://parishofstanneandstbede.org.au)

**For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account  
Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347 Account no.  
666017079**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church  
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734**

**Please click on the link below from 5pm on Saturday, 12 December, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests: <https://youtu.be/DxShwUIYcZE>**

### **First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Responsorial Psalm – Luke 1:46-50,53-54**

**R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
Henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy is his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. **R.**

### **Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Gospel – John 1:6-8,19-28**

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.'

'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered,

'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** The will of God for us is to give thanks for all things. Ever mindful that we can trust in Gods care for all creation, we bring these prayers of petition to our Almighty Father.

We pray for Pope Francis and the Bishops of our Church. May they be guided by the Spirit to spread the message of hope and trust in the Good News.

Lord hear us

We pray for the leaders of our world. May justice and peace be at the very heart of their words and actions.

Lord hear us

We pray for all the people of our world whose lives have been devastated by the pandemic. May we all show care and compassion towards each other.

Lord hear us

We pray for all of us in this time of Advent. May we seek quiet spaces in the busy-ness of our lives to welcome Jesus.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish and for all who have asked for our prayers. We pray for the recently deceased, especially **Ulla Rustrom** and **Rocco Tallarida** and for those whose anniversaries we recall at this time especially **Pia DiStasio, Domenico Larobina, Antonio and Carmela Russo, Jack Lynch, Patricia Lynch, Phil McLaughlin** and **Noel Woodford**. May the God of Mercy fulfill the promise of Baptism by welcoming them into eternal life.

Lord hear us

**Celebrant:** Your mercy, of God is on all those who call to you. Receive these petitions and come to the help of your servant people. We ask this through Chris our Lord. Amen.

### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;

never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

## PARISH NEWS

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### Christmas Eve

St Anne's

5pm, 7:30pm, 10pm

St Bede's

5pm, 7:30pm, 10pm

St Bridget's

5pm, 7pm, 9pm

#### Christmas Day

St Anne's

10:30am

St Bede's

9am, 11am

St Bridget's

10am

St Joachim's

8:30am

### Volunteers for Christmas Masses Needed

Christmas is moving swiftly towards us. We are so fortunate to be able to celebrate a covid normal Christmas and summer. At last we can go to Mass. However we are still restricted by government guidelines.

Over the next few weeks and in particular on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, we will need doorkeepers to check people in for Mass as well as altar servers, special ministers and lectors. Can you help? If you are available, please let us know via email or by calling the parish office. It is going to be a very different Christmas this year but it is wonderful that we can celebrate Jesus' birth together. We can still make it memorable.

### Booking for Christmas Masses

In order to accommodate as much people as possible this Christmas, we kindly ask that you book your place for Christmas Mass in advance. TryBooking links for Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses will be sent out on Friday 18 December and bookings will open at 12pm Sunday 20 December. For those who need assistance with booking, please contact the parish office.

## **St Vincent De Paul Annual Christmas Appeal**

### **“To serve the poor is to go to God” – St Vincent De Paul**

To parishioners of St Bede’s Balwyn North, St Anne’s Kew East and St Joachim’s Kew.

The local St Vincent de Paul Conference is holding a Christmas Appeal to assist those in need. We have been servicing our local community for the past 60 years and our primary work is to help those struggling usually through no fault of their own. Some of the types of assistance are food vouchers that maybe used at the local supermarket, phone vouchers, furniture or financial assistance towards utilities, education or rent assistance. Usually just listening to those who have no one, brings joy to those we visit.

In our Christmas Appeal, we are asking for assistance with non-perishable foods or possibly a gift card obtained at a variety of supermarkets.

In this time of COVID-19 as we know, collections are very difficult. We are asking that you do your best to assist us.

There is only one entrance and exit at our churches at present. Boxes will be set up inside the entrance/ exit for the deposit of non-perishable foods.

For those who wish to gift a card, we request that you place the card in the presbytery collection box during Mass. Cards will be collected after each Mass or if you wish, your card donation may be handed into the parish office.

We at SVDP thank you in advance for your donation.

Gary Mooney

President

St Anne’s, St Joachim’s and St Bede’s St Vincent de Paul Conference

## **Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal - 12th & 13th December 2020”**

Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate

### **SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.