



ST PATRICK'S, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S, STELLA MARIS & ST JOSEPH'S

Partnered Parishes of Mentone-Parkdale and Ricketts Point (Beaumaris & Black Rock)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 30th November 2025

St Patrick's, 10 Rogers St, Mentone

St John Vianney's, Cnr Warren Rd & Brisbane Tce, Parkdale

Stella Maris, 2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris

St Joseph's, 542 Balcombe Rd, Black Rock

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm (Mentone)

Sunday: 8:00am (Black Rock)

Sunday: 9:00am (Parkdale)

Sunday: 10:30am (Beaumaris)

Sunday: 11:00am (Mentone)

Sunday: 5:00pm (Mentone)



**Sunday 30th
November - Tuesday
2nd December**

We pray for all ACYF pilgrims, especially those from our Partnered Parishes who after long preparation will attend 11am Mass at Mentone today, then journey to St Patrick's Cathedral for the launch of the Festival.

ACYF Launch Today: Reception of the WYD Cross & Icon, and Pilgrimage Walk

All are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral, today, Sunday 30 November, as we welcome over 6,000 young pilgrims from across Australia for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Let us gather together as the local Church in Melbourne to share their joy and offer a warm Melbourne welcome.

Cathedral Program: 1:30pm - Melbourne Catholic Festa: A joyful celebration of the diversity and beauty of our faith communities, gathering on the Cathedral forecourt.

2:30pm - Reception of the World Youth Day (WYD) Cross and Icon: Join us as we welcome these symbols of faith that have travelled the world inspiring young Catholics.

3:00pm - Pilgrimage Walk: A pilgrimage of hope, led by WYD Cross and Icon, journeying 5km from the Cathedral to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). (NOTE: only ticketed pilgrims can enter MCEC).

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey

Pope Leo XIV has formally recognised the heroic virtues of Sr Mary Glowrey (1887-1957), giving her the title 'Venerable' - the final stage before her hoped-for beatification. Born in Birregurra, Victoria, religious sister and doctor in India, she is the only Australian besides St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to have attained this title.

'FROM ADVENT TO ETERNITY' - A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

4:00pm this Saturday 6 December, St Patrick's Mentone.

Nicholas Matters, tenor; Alan Cook, organ.

Free Entry - donations gratefully accepted at the door.

Apostolic Journey of Pope Leo XIV to Turkey and Lebanon

We pray for the Holy Father at this time of his first Apostolic Journey, which is occasioned especially by this year's 1700th anniversary of the 1st Council of Nicaea (325) - first Ecumenical Council and origin of the Nicene Creed that we recite at Mass. His visit includes İznik (ancient Nicaea) in Turkey, and he has written an Apostolic Letter, *In Unitate Fidei*, for the anniversary.

With sadness we report that the amendments to Victoria's euthanasia laws were passed by State Parliament.

Archbishop Comensoli writes: 'While the Voluntary Assisted Dying Amendment Bill 2025 was ultimately passed, the efforts of Catholics and others of good will to highlight the dangers of the Bill bore fruit in significant amendments being made that reduce some of the Bill's negative impacts...

'To be clear, this is still a bad law that makes euthanasia and assisted suicide easier to access and compels conscientious objectors to provide patients with contact details to access information about euthanasia and assisted suicide. Nonetheless, the amendments that were made are evidence that our witness as Catholics to the inherent dignity of every human life from conception to natural death can be both powerful and effective.

'Please pass on my deep and sincere thanks to all those in your parishes who took up the call to contact their local parliamentarians. Many members of parliament noted the large volume of correspondence that had been received from the community on this issue.'

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Justin Ford **Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Nguyen

Presbytery: 10 Rogers St, Mentone 3194 **Office:** 3 Mitchell St, Mentone 3194 **Office hours:** 9am-5pm, Monday - Thursday.

Phone: 9583 2103 **Email:** mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au **Website:** www.sspjv.org

'You must stand ready': Spiritual Preparation for Death

Our gospel calling us to 'stay awake' and last week's gospel of the repentant 'Good Thief' both highlight the need to be spiritually prepared for death. People often avoid thinking about death. But this is not our attitude as people of faith, who believe that for those who die in God's grace, death is the gateway to eternal life. And the 'hour of death' itself is crucial – we must die in the state of grace, not unrepented mortal sin, in order to go to heaven and avoid hell. Thus in the 'Hail Mary', we ask Our Lady to 'pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death'. (A great custom is to pray a 'Hail Mary' every day for the grace of a happy death.)

Obviously it is best to live our whole life in the state of grace and with the dispositions of faith, hope and charity needed for salvation. For one thing, we never know when death may take us completely without warning. But especially if there is danger of death this is reason to make spiritual preparation:

1. Sooner better than later, ask for a priest to visit, who will give the 'last sacraments'

The priest takes care of the details – but for those interested, here is some more explanation of what happens:

A Catholic who is aware that death may be approaching, for themselves or for a loved one, should definitely ask a priest to visit. Any conscientious priest will be most amenable: in an emergency, a priest should be prepared to bring the sacraments to a dying person even in the middle of the night or at great inconvenience. So, do not hesitate to request this. Also, staff in hospitals and aged care usually have contact details for a priest, and can arrange his visit.

The priest gives the dying person **the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Anointing, as well as the Apostolic Blessing**. These bring an increase of grace and heavenly reward for those already living in the grace of God. But they are especially crucial for those not in the state of grace due to unforgiven mortal sin.

Someone in that state can indeed be forgiven and restored to grace even before receiving the Sacraments, if they have 'perfect contrition' – i.e. sorrow for sins motivated by love of God above all things, whom they have offended.

(This must include, at least implicitly, the intention to confess any mortal sins when it becomes possible.) God's infinite mercy could be arousing contrition in the heart even of one who appears unconscious – we despair of no one.

At the other extreme, someone who is not sorry at all is not forgiven, no matter how many sacraments they receive.

But where the sacraments are crucial for salvation is for someone in the intermediate state of **'imperfect contrition'** – sorrow for sin based on supernatural motives lesser than the love of God, such as fear of punishment after death, or the ugliness of sin. Without the sacraments, imperfect contrition is not sufficient – but in the actual reception of Reconciliation or Anointing, imperfect contrition does dispose a person to receive God's forgiveness and grace.

Reconciliation. Ideally, the person receiving the Sacrament is able to confess their sins, in particular any unconfessed mortal sins; and to make an Act of Contrition. Often a person close to death cannot do this, and the priest will give them Absolution in the trust that they have at least imperfect contrition for their sins (or at least had this before losing consciousness). (This highlights the benefit of a person receiving Reconciliation while still conscious, so that they are alerted to come to the needed contrition.)

The Eucharist – Viaticum. It is highly desirable for a dying person to receive the Eucharist. The Eucharist received by those in danger of death is termed 'Viaticum' (Latin for 'provision for the journey'). The Christian, making their final journey into eternity, should be sustained by the Bread of Life (indeed, repeatedly if possible). Often a person in the last hours of life is physically unable to receive, so this is another reason not to delay asking for the priest until the final day, but to ask him to visit days or weeks in advance.

Anointing of the Sick. Anointing should be received in the state of grace, so any mortal sins should be confessed beforehand in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, if the person's illness prevents them from confessing, Anointing forgives sins and restores grace, as long as there is at least imperfect contrition (before or during the sacrament – or even if contrition only comes later, this releases the grace of Anointing). (If it becomes possible mortal sins must still be confessed later, but in the meantime forgiveness has already been received.) Anointing also helps remove traces of sin, reducing the purification still required in purgatory before entering heaven.

The Apostolic Blessing. A priest giving the last sacraments should give the Apostolic Blessing, which brings a plenary indulgence at the moment of death – full remission of punishment in purgatory.

If a priest is unavailable, a person who is rightly disposed can still gain a plenary indulgence at the point of death, as long as they have been in the habit of reciting some prayers during their lifetime. (As with any plenary indulgence, for either of these indulgences to have full effect, the person must be free from all attachment to sin, even venial. However, the usual conditions of Communion, Confession and prayers for the Pope's intentions are dispensed with in both cases – again, as long as the person was in the habit of saying some prayers during their life.)

(It is good to form, even now as you read this, a general ongoing intention of gaining whatever indulgences are available for your actions – that way you receive even indulgences you are not specifically aware of, if all the conditions happen to be fulfilled.)

Sacraments can only be given to the living, so it is much more beneficial for the priest to attend before death – highlighting again the need to request the priest sooner rather than later, in case he does not arrive in time. (Occasionally a priest at his discretion will anoint ‘conditionally’ shortly after apparent death, on the chance the soul has not yet actually departed.)

The bad custom has arisen of only calling the priest in the final day or the last hours. Rather, **the earlier the priest is called, the better.** Sometimes families do not want the dying person to become anxious at the priest’s presence – as though avoiding this is more important than ensuring their salvation, and giving every possible grace. Indeed, it is important and beneficial for a person to know that they are dying: really, they have the right to be told. Though it might cause some anxiety, this knowledge can rouse them to necessary repentance, rather than slipping unaware to death in unrepented sin. Often enough the person knows they are dying anyway, and having the priest attend would *reduce* their anxiety, give them peace and even joy, by giving them the confidence of being in God’s grace.

ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I believe in you
and in all the holy
Catholic Church teaches,
because you have said it
and your word is true.

ACT OF HOPE

O my God, I hope in you
for grace and heavenly glory,
because of your promises,
your mercy and your power,
and I trust in the merits of my
Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

ACT OF LOVE

O my God, I love you
with my whole heart and soul,
because of your infinite
perfection and goodness,
and for your sake I love
my neighbour as myself.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am very sorry
that I have sinned against you,
because you are so good,
and with your help
I will not sin again.

**2. Personal spiritual preparation –
Acts of faith, hope, love and contrition**

A dying person does not need to know or think about all the theological details explained above. But whether or not a priest can be present, someone who finds themselves in danger of death from any cause can and should immediately turn to God in prayer, e.g. by saying the ‘Our Father’ and ‘Hail Mary’.

Of special value are **acts of faith, hope and love.** (Possible forms are given below.) These express the attitudes of soul necessary for salvation. One can even just say, ‘My God, I believe in you, I hope in you, I love you’.

And especially, a sincere act of perfect contrition brings forgiveness even of mortal sin, as long as one has the intention to confess as soon as reasonably possible. Ask God’s grace; reflect on the infinite goodness and love of God, whom your sin has offended; and think of the sufferings of Christ, nailed to the Cross for your sins.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon 1st Dec	11:00am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Tue 2nd Dec	9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>) (<i>School Mass</i>) Funeral Mass, Joan Burke 11:00am (<i>Beaumaris</i>)
Wed 3rd Dec	Memorial: St Francis Xavier 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 4th Dec	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)
Fri 5th Dec	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 6th Dec	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)

Exposition of the **Blessed Sacrament** at **St Patrick’s** every Friday after 9:15am Mass until 4:30pm **Benediction.**
Exposition of the **Blessed Sacrament** at **Stella Maris** every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

Wednesdays following 9:15am Mass (*Mentone*),
Saturdays following 9:15am Mass
(*Mentone & Beaumaris*) and at 5:15pm (*Mentone*).

Recently Deceased: Giovanna Casaceli, Margaret Betts, Joan Browne
Anniversaries: Laurie Pickett, Claude Callegher, Ben Coghlan, Francis & Florence Kelly
We pray for those who are sick: Fr James Grant, Max Byers, Jim Lacey, Janis Williams, Alan Laver, Ching Price, John Nicholson, Mirella Townsend, Michael Papworth, Margaret Rose Durston, Bernadette Chaplin, Peter & Kaye McCall

ROSTERS 6/7 December 2025

<u>St Patrick’s - Mentone</u>		
6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	B Cooling
	Extraordinary Minister	B Razga
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	K Phillips
	Extraordinary Minister	A Earle
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Renden
	Extraordinary Minister	C Giosis
<u>St Joseph’s - Black Rock</u>		
8:00am	Reader	A Traeger
	Commentator	W Maher
	Extraordinary Minister	M Shannon
<u>St John Vianney’s - Parkdale</u>		
9:00am	Reader	B Atherton
	Commentator	B Fitchet
	Extraordinary Minister	G Sullivan
	Extraordinary Minister to the sick	K Lowe
	Pilgrim Statue	S Lavery
<u>Stella Maris - Beaumaris</u>		
10:30am	Reader	F Yu
	Commentator	M Chenhall
	Extraordinary Minister	F Winkelmann
<u>Readings next week: 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A</u>		
	Isaiah:	11: 1-10
	Romans:	15: 4-9
	Matthew:	3: 1-12

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 30th November 2025

HYMNS: Mentone 6:00pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9:00am Sunday Mentone 5:00pm Sunday

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of Ralph Sherwin

Entrance: 246 Saviour of the Nations, Come

Offertory: *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*
BWV 599 - J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Communion: 236a Eternal God who Made the Stars

Recessional: 252 Wake, O Wake

Mentone 11:00am Sunday Choral Mass

Mass Setting: Missa Emmanuel - R. Proulx

Introit Antiphon: *Ad te levavi* - F. X. Witt

Offertory: Motet: *Creator of the stars of night* - 9th century plainsong (arr. N. Poole)

Communion: Motet: *Panis angelicus* - C. Casciolini
252 Wake, O Wake

Recessional: 246 Saviour of the Nations, Come

Black Rock 8:00am Sunday

Entrance: 657 Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Offertory: 850 To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul

Communion: 658 Come, O Jesus

Recessional: 763 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Offertory: To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul

Communion: Come, O Jesus

Recessional: O Come, O Come Emmanuel



Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



School-aged children are invited to join us for singing at the 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Mentone.
Rehearsal in the church Wednesday 24th December. Register your interest by contacting the Parish Office 9583 2103, mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au, by December 16th.

Mentone-Parkdale: St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

An opportunity to bring HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE to others

Dear Parishioners, as the Christmas season approaches, our hearts are filled with warmth and joy, and we find ourselves surrounded by the spirit of love and compassion. Christmas is a time for reflection, gratitude, and generosity - a time when we come together as a community to share the joy of giving.

This year has been marked by challenges and uncertainties for many in our parish and beyond. In the spirit of Christmas, we invite you to join us in a special **St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** to spread love and kindness. Your generosity can make a difference in the lives of those who may be struggling, lonely, or facing hardships during this Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL DETAILS

Next weekend, Saturday 6th / Sunday 7th December

Here are the ways you can contribute:

- 3rd collection at Masses (6pm Sat; 9am, 11am & 5pm Sun).
- Online at www.vinnies.org.au 1. Click yellow DONATE button
2. Select the Mentone or Parkdale Conference.
- Call 13 18 12, and select Mentone or Parkdale Conference.

Let's make this Christmas a season of
HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE for all!

'Hour of Grace'

Mon 8th December, 12 noon to 1 pm, St Patrick's Mentone
(after 11am Mass, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception).

We invite everyone to join us in prayer.

St Vincent De Paul - Christmas Hampers - Nazareth

400 hampers will be packed on Saturday 13th December in the Narthex at Stella Maris. Donations can also be made directly into the Christmas Hampers bank account - **BSB: 083 347 Account number: 24967 2590.**

This is our 21st year preparing the hampers and we thank you for your support again this year.

St Vincent de Paul - Parkdale Conference Christmas Giving Tree



Once again this year, the Giving Tree will be in the foyer at **SJV Parkdale**. Please peg a gift card from any store, for any amount, to the tree from Sunday 30 November.

This Christmas be part of something special.

Your donation will be distributed to needy families this Christmas.

St Vincent de Paul - Parkdale East conference, invites you to join with them for Morning Tea at **St John Vianney's** following 9am Mass, next **Sunday, 7th December.**

Morning tea in the Narthex at **Stella Maris** next **Sunday 7th December** after 10:30am Mass. **All Welcome!**

St Patrick's Mentone Piety Stall

Open after Sunday 11:00am Mass, now selling a delightful range of Christmas cards and gifts. **2026 Columban Calendars** NOW available. A limited number of calendars also available at **St John Vianney's Parkdale.**