



**The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner**  
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### Advent – November 22, 2020 Year B

**Wandering Off:** In this Reading from Isaiah the prophet is longing for the love of God. But what he finds instead is what he cannot bear: God angry, God gone.

The experience the prophet gives voice to is familiar to all of us. God is angry and has hidden his face; he is somewhere above the heavens, and we cannot find him there.

How can this be? How can this be? Doesn't God love us? Where is he? Why isn't he here?

The prophet answers these questions, and in the saddest way. The reason lies in our sinfulness, the prophet says. God is not gone from us because he has forsaken us. Our sins—our weaknesses, our willfulness, our pride, our failure to love, our failure even to accept the love of others—all these things have made us wither. Desiccated and unclean, we have been blown away from God by the winds of life.

But how are we supposed to be holy—clean and good—for the Lord, except by the Lord's own doing? We reject as Pelagian the thought that any one of us can make himself holy by his own efforts. Only God's grace can make a person lovely in holiness.

And so the prophet cries out to God, "Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways?" (First Reading)

There is an answer in the Responsorial Psalm. The Psalmist says, "Lord, make us turn to you!" This is a cry from a person who wanders from the Lord. He wanders because he wants to—that is the sad truth. But when he can't find God in his wandering, he cries to God, "make me turn to you!" Then he wants fervently not to want the very wandering he is so prone to want.

It may be then that God lets us do what we want to do, including wandering from him, so that finally we at least want to want him. Maybe we will find God when we cry with the Psalmist, "Lord, make me turn to you!" (Eleonore Stump)

**The need for Christian alertness:** Jesus illustrates the need for alertness and readiness by comparing the situation of his followers to that of a gate-keeper in a house when the owner was out of the country. Since the gate-keeper did not know when the owner of the house would return, "in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning," he must always be ready if he did not want the owner to find him asleep. In the same way, there is no reason for Christ's followers to be fearful, provided we are ready every day for Jesus' return. If we are awake and ready, the coming of the Son of Man is an event to be greeted with joy. Thus, our whole life should be a preparation to meet the master. We base this constant watch not on fear but on hope in God's promise of eternal life. (Fr. Tony)

The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamona, Nola, Eleanor Priest, Judiel Teodoro, John Markis, Kathy Romanow, Wladyslaw Stopa, Rosa Latanzio, Leanne Blanchflower, Carmela Bovezza, Giovanna Gamberale, Elda Taranto, Frank Cichello

Recently deceased: Antonio Vocale, Frank Andriccida

We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda McCabe, Paola Cutello, Kevin Ahern

We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel.

December for Vinnies

The "Giving tree" will be present in the church during the month of December. Cards will be attached to the tree for gift suggestions. Parishioners will also be able to leave packages of food in bags at the foot of the tree.

Donations will be forwarded to the St. Vincent de Paul conference for distribution to the needy in our community. Envelopes will also be available for cash donations on the church pews. Envelopes can be taken home and returned at a later date.

Through our efforts we can make a difference to those in need in our local community and helps ease their pain.

#### Volunteers needed

- **BUS (VAN) DRIVERS:** to pick up elderly parishioners for the Saturday (Vigil) 6.00 pm and the Sunday mass (Italian) 10.30 am. Once every 3 weeks.
- **ALTAR & Sanctuary:** Flower arrangement & general cleaning (training will be provided). Once per month.
- **Church cleaning:** Vacuuming, mopping the entrance & cleaning the entrance doors. Once per month
- **Gardening:** Tidying & weeding. Once per month.
- **Lectors:** Reading at month. (training will be provided)

#### Joke of the week

"God won!"

A little boy walked into his Dad's room just as his Dad finished reading the Bible. The son asked, "What are you reading?" The Father replied, "I am reading the book of Revelation, the last book of the Holy Bible." The little boy curiously asked, "What's it about?" His dad replied, "It's about God's final battle against evil." The little boy excitedly asked, "Who won?" The Father stooped down to his boy's eye level and said, "God won." (Fr. Tony)