ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

Cathedral Office: 1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150 (02) 8839 8400 Emergency: 0407 289 360 www.stpatscathedral.com.au Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD **18 December 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

Mass Schedule

SUNDAY

6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Mass 9:30am Mass 11:00am Solemn Mass *with Cathedral Choir* 6:00pm Mass 6:00pm Youth-led Mass (3rd Sunday)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6:10am Morning Prayer 6:30am Mass 11:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:15am Reconciliation (till 12:15pm) Rosary after Angelus at 12:00 noon 12:30pm Mass

SATURDAY

7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Mass 8:30am Reconciliation (till 9:00am) 9:30am Mass (Old Rite)

5:00pm Sacrament of Penance (till 5:30pm)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Mass at 8:00am (No Adoration or Confession)

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation Tuesday 6:30pm - Legion of Mary Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUPS Last Tuesday of the month - Novena to Mary, Full of Grace First Friday Devotions: 6:30pm

OTHER CONNECT GROUPS Playgroup: Wednesdays 9:30am - 11:00am Facebook: Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

Credo Youth Ministries Contact Fr Chris or find information on Facebook: credo.stpats Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au





Support us! Scan to donate

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"God-is-with-us"

HAVING AN EXTENDED ADVENT season this year, the longest it can be, has hopefully given us adequate opportunity to reflect on the meaning of our Christian faith in light of Christ's three advents, or "comings", into the world: in the stable in Bethlehem, at the end of time, and each day through various means, some explicitly religious and some, frankly, quite pedestrian.



As we move into the final week of Advent, our focus is on the first coming of Christ into the world, the time when God

broke into history with the concrete event of Christ's birth in the humble circumstances of the stable at Bethlehem. The Christmas novena, as it is known, began yesterday, on 17 December, and it is a time when the focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary, helping us to prepare for the Lord's birth. Yet, when we ponder on Christ's birth and all it means for us, there must be an understanding that though Christ was born for us and died for us, his presence on earth was not fleeting as it is for any regular human being, but is a source of strength, encouragement and inspiration for us here and now.

To help us understand this truth, it might benefit us to pause and prayerfully focus on the word we hear uttered in today's readings by the prophet Isaiah and quoted by the Evangelist Matthew: Emmanuel, meaning, "God-is-with-us". It is important to focus on the little words that carry so much weight and meaning, not just in relation to religious texts but in all forms of communication. The word "is", (omitted in some translations), helps us to understand that God is a constant presence amongst us, even, perhaps especially, in those times when God seems absent and uninterested in the struggles of our lives. It is not only the passages we hear today that affirm this truth. The last words of Jesus' Great Commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel are, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (28:20)

As we enjoy the Christmas festivities, it is not too difficult to believe that God is present amongst us in a special way. For those of us who are fortunate to gather with people we love at Christmas and share gifts and meals with them, to believe that God is present in our midst doesn't require a stretch of the imagination. We can help those who aren't so fortunate to know the presence of God at this time through our charitable giving and other assistance, of course. Yet, it is when Christmas and the holiday season is over that we can, through the sheer busyness or dullness of life, fail to make the effort to seek God's presence in the here and now. Yet, to make an attempt to reflect at the end of each day, even for a few minutes, on where Christ may have been present to us during the day, will enrich our faith remarkably and lead us to prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude, to say nothing of other spiritual benefits that may ensue.

Yes, Christ was born for us, and Christ died for us, but let us not allow these two earth-shattering events blind us to the presence of God in our lives each day.

Emmanuel, God-is-with-us, every day, to the end of the age. Thanks be to God!

Wishing you a blessed final week of Advent,

Fr Robert

THE BULLETIN

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Priest in Residence Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen Vietnamese Community Chaplain

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SACRAMENTS

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays. Check for exceptions. Family members and guests are requested to be present at the Cathedral at least fifteen minutes before the usual commencement time of 12:45pm.

Weddings are by appointment only.

At least six months' notice is necessary. Contact the Parish Secretary on 8839 8412.

First Eucharist and Confirmation Please contact the Parish Secretary.

HIRING of ROOMS

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretary, Pat, by **12:00noon on Thursday.** Please note that material must relate to the parish and its mission. Don't forget that businesses can advertise on the rear page of the bulletin too!

🦇 Christmas - A Time To Give

JRS Christmas Food Drive

Wow. As always, when we put out a call to help those in need, you don't disappoint. The chapel is overflowing with donations for JRS and we can't thank you enough.

This weekend is your **last opportunity** to leave goods in the chapel. You can help refugees and people seeking asylum celebrate Christmas by donating non-perishable food items, toiletries and Coles or Woolworths gift cards. A list of items is available at the back of the cathedral and in the narthex.

Gift cards to the office, please. Thank you again!

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan the QR code below. Thank you for stretching out your hand in compassion for our homeless community.



Scan the QR code to donate by credit card to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal.



World Youth Day Raffle

Congratulations to the following people who won the prizes in the WYD raffle to support our three pilgrims:

First Prize: Patrick NEWMAN Second Prize: Jake HARDWICK Third Prize: Aiden THOMAS Fourth Prize: Fatima R Fifth Prize: George MKARI





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For too many disadvantaged people, 'home' is a damp, mouldy garage. A mattress on the floor. Or a piece of cardboard on the street. Please help Catholic Care provide safe, secure shelter, and end homelessness in our community.

> Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta



St Patrick's Giftshop EXTENDED TRADING HOURS

A great opportunity now exists to get in your Christmas shopping at the giftshop before Christmas. As well as the usual hours we will also have the shop open an extra day:

Monday 19 December: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Last day of trading for 2022 is **Friday 23 December** and we will reopen on **Tuesday 17 January 2023**.

Birthday Celebrations

Fr Chris is shortly turning thirty. Come and join us for lunch in the Cloister Hall following the 11:00am Mass today, **Sunday 18 December.**

Cloister Cafe

To our very generous and wonderful parishioners and friends of St Pars, thank you for your generosity and companionship over the last year. Today, 9:30am, is the last morning tea 'get together' for this year. After the 11:00am Mass, the kitchen will be busy with preparations for Fr Chris' 30th birthday celebrations (see above).

We will be back with 'bells on' in February.

We take this moment to extend our most humblest appreciation for all the donations that keep pouring in during the year.

We wish you and your families a safe and blessed Christmas season. *The Hospitality Team*

Priestly Ordinations

Bishop Vincent will ordain three men to the priesthood here at St Patrick's Cathedral on **Thursday**, **02 February at 7:30pm**, including our own **Deacon Matthew Dimian**.

Deacon Matthew's Thanksgiving Mass will be held on the following day, Friday 03 February at 7:00pm at St Mark's Coptic Catholic Church, Prospect.

Mark your diary and please pray for them!

Parking on weekends

Thank you to all those who are being considerate and using the parking facilities here correctly for weekend Masses. A gentle reminder to NOT park in the turning circle as it is used not only by those who need to quickly turn and exit the car park but also by **emergency vehicles**. Please make use of the overflow car park, parking within the marked spaces or on the grassed area on the left as you enter the overflow parking area. Thank you!

OPENING

HOURS







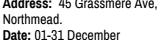
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY – 10:00AM TO 3:00PM SUNDAY – 9:00AM TO 1:00PM MONDAY & SATURDAY – CLOSED

Murphy House, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta

Web: www.stpatricksgiftshop.com | Phone: 0419 153 195 | Email: giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

Christmas Lights Spectacular

After a bit of a hiatus, thanks to Covid, Andy & Carmen (two of our very generous parishioners) are lighting up their house again. If you like to travel around looking at highly decorated homes, this will not disappoint. Please pay them a visit. Proceeds go to support children's cancer research. Address: 45 Grassmere Ave,





Skoolbag App

Please note that circumstances beyond our control mean that the parish is no longer using the Skoolbag app to communicate news and bulletins etc. The parish bulletin is available digitally via the Cathedral website and Twitter account, usually late each Friday afternoon. Should you wish to receive the bulletin via email, please contact the parish office with your email address and you will be added to the mailing list. We are currently exploring options for another app for administrative purposes which we hope to have up and running early next year.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit the folowing website to download an enrolment form: https://officeforworship.org.au/

Catholic Outlook

The Advent/Summer edition is now available from all parishes. You can also view this on the diocesan website https://parracatholic.org

Thank you...

...to all those who took on board the recent notice about maintaining a spirit of silence and reverence before and after Mass in the cathedral and the chapel. Our places of worship ought to be oases of stillness and contemplation in a world of noise and bustle. Thank you again!



Prayer Intentions

We pray for our beloved dead...

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them..."

Recently Deceased: Edmond Matta, Brett Gray, Guindina Garcia, Francis Catlin, William Richardson, , Rev Joachim Tan, Rocco Volona, Jamir A Divinagracia, Louisa P Garcia, George Anokotta

Deceased: Valentina, James Ermac, Lucy D'Mello, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, YT & Deanna Hsu, Michel Tuyan, Danny Doulub, Percy & Philip Deguara, Renato Dela Cruz, Cedric Cunningham, Sr Joan Keogh, Salim Khamo,Nazar Nissan, Lewis Nissan, Marie Perera, Leo Lobo, George, Ante & Perina Bartulovic, Ana & Jozefina Tomasevic, Ivan & Vlado Tomasevic

Anniversaries: Anton Basa, Marie Saldanha, Maximina Manlangit, Umberto & Frank Papagno, Erlic de Noronha, Joe & Hannah Joseph, Honorato & Wilhelmina Dela Cruz, Claudio Varudo, Jennifer Tellis, Deonisia Antonio, Agnes Nethercott, Vincenzo Sorgiovanni, Vic Care & Anton Basa

Perpetuals: Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, Royan & Andrews families, Don Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, Frank Agostino, Bernadette Melhen and Sally Boujandy, Jack & June Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Watson Lee, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Hooper family, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam & McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester family, Rogan family, Adcock and McMillan families, Love family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families, Repose of the Souls in Purgatory and all deceased parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's

We also pray for...

Sick: Baldo Polizzi, Richard Gosling, Lester Dunnetio, Renish & Rita Pasanah, Ishander Singh, Poh Yeen Log, Maria Lipec, Mounira Epenian, William Peropert, John Fajarao, Diosdada Penollar, Flor Ocampo, Christie Penollar, Merle Bailie, Teresita Zafiro, Joshua Peric, Fatima, Lou & Sue Tantini, Miriam Jayatilaka, Joshua Peric, Sharon Webb, James McMasters, Praxedes Torres, Pedro Romulo, Maria Vernich, Bp Kevin Manning, Tony Meldrum, Paul Peters, Terry O'Brien

Special Intentions: Sebastiau Bugo, Paul Elogious, Ermie Valones, Luise, Peter, Priscilla & Patrick Newman, Naleen, Tian & Raveen, Paul Elogious, James Royals, Philip Lysewcyt, Lucy Perrottet, Sophia royals, Anita Perrottet, Jean Claude Perrottet, Anastasia Royals, Anne-Marie Kutasi, Mary & Bill Perrottet, Raveen, Firela Kamille Gonzales, Paul E, Tian, Noel, Marilie, Marielle & Raphael, Luise, Napoleon & Patria Yanua, Habib Worait



BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Catholic Christian family, the Body of Christ, these children who have been baptised recently...



Ilija Popic-O-Donnell Isabella Morgan Michael Johnston Maverick Miller

Please pray for these children and their families.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December



Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

From Pope Francis...

From a Tweet dated **13 December** "This is a difficult time for humanity, but it is also a propitious time of salvation, in which the Lord, through the Virgin Mary, continues to give us His Son, who calls us to fraternity, to set aside selfishness, indifference and enmity, and to get involved with each other."

Saint of the Week

21 December - St Peter Canisius

Peter Canisius was born in Nijmegen (now in the Netherlands) in 1521. He studied at Cologne and joined the Society of Jesus: he was ordained priest in 1546. He was sent to Germany, where for many years he worked hard to defend and strengthen the Catholic faith both by writing and by preaching. He wrote many books, of which *The Catechism* is particularly noteworthy. He died at Fribourg in Switzerland on 21 November 1597.

(Information taken from Universalis)



"Quote of the Week"

"The blessing of Christmas for any one of us will be in proportion to our willingness to have our eyes and ears opened by the Lord. An attitude of smug and closed satisfaction prevents anything new from coming into our lives."



Fr Don Talafous (b.1926) Benedictine monk and academic *Homilies for Weekdays (2006)*

Getting to know... Maria Wales

I am by contrast a fairly new addition to St Pat's. I moved to Parramatta about one and a half years ago.

At that time, I was quite house-bound and so Fr Robert sent me Paula as my Sunday carer. She has a soul so pure. She worries that I get my church needs and when my legs permit, Paula will help me to get to church so I can enjoy more than a home visit that Paula kindly obliges me with.

Well, I am so lucky. I have so many to care for me. Others don't always get care when they are on their own because of pride. I'm not on my own. I'm outgoing and people help me like Donna, Patricia, Paula, Kerley, Marilyn and the fathers. I'm so full of care and can only say 'thank you' and hope to meet others.

My real name is Marie but I'm known as Maria.

Thank you and God's blessings.



Did You Know...

...that the season of Advent this year is the longest it can be?

Though Christmas is not a "movable feast" like Easter, falling as it does on the same day of the same month each year, it can fall on any day of the week. Because Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, this means that the Fourth Sunday of Advent will fall a full week before Christmas Day, and so the Advent season extends a full four weeks. Next year, with Christmas falling on a Monday, the Fourth Sunday of Advent will fall the day before Christmas Day, making the season of Advent the shortest it can be!

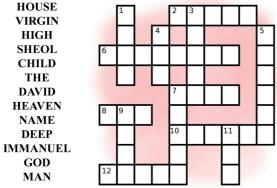




An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.



8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your <u>11D;</u> let it be <u>7A</u> as 2A or 9D as 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O 3D_of___ 7D ! Is it too little for you to weary 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the 12A, and bear a shall be with son, and shall 1D him 6A.

Jesus' Birthday is almost here!

Now there is only a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the

baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.

God has given us a



responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much

as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.

Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 2.Sheol 6. Immanuel Arseep 8. the 10. virgin 12. child. Down: 1. nane 3. house 4. man 5. Heaven 7. David 9. high 11. God

www.thekidsbulletin.com

Saint John of Kanty December 23





Saturday, 24 December - Christmas Eve

6:00pm Vigil - Family Mass

> 9:00pm Vigil

Midnight Mass (11:30pm Readings) Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir (Carols service with readings starts at 11:30pm)

Sunday, 25 December - Christmas Day

8:00am

9:30am

11:00am

Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir

6:00pm

Weekday Mass

26 December - 14 January 8:00am

Public holiday timetable to be observed No adoration or confession

Weekend Masses as normal during this time.

Normal weekday Masses resume on Monday, 16 January.

