



# ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

Cathedral Office: 1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400 Emergency: 0407 289 360 [www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, DD

04 December 2022 - Second 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](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)  
**Email:** [credo@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)



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## Preparing for Christ's Coming in 2022

IN LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN, Fr Robert explained that our era sits between Christ's two major advents (or comings) in history: his First Coming as a child in Bethlehem two millennia ago, and his Second Coming in glory at some unspecified point in the future. But Christ is not absent in the meantime. Christ is continually arriving in the present moment: in the daily Eucharist, in the Scriptures, in the communion of the Church, and in the ordinary events of life through which God speaks and works. The Lord is near!



Before every instance of Christ's coming, God graciously prepares his people to receive him and his graces. For his Second Coming, Christ warned us in last's weeks readings that we must stay awake and stand alert. For Christ's First Coming, God sent the prophets, who exhorted Israel to prepare by getting rid of their false idols and returning to God wholeheartedly. And the last and greatest of the prophets is St John the Baptist, who appears on the scene in today's Gospel with a simple message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

John is unique among the prophets in that he precedes and announces Christ at every major event of his life. Six months before Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, John heralded a new era of salvation history when he was also conceived miraculously in his parents' old age. When Christ arrived at the house of Zechariah, shrouded as he was in the tabernacle of his Mother's womb, John announced his presence by leaping for joy in Elizabeth's womb. John lays the foundation for Christ's public ministry by first undertaking his own ministry of baptising and preaching repentance. And it was only after John was beheaded that Christ began the journey toward Jerusalem so that he too might give his life.

And John continues to fulfill this role even after death. Just as John the Baptist preceded Christ at every appearance of his earthly life, John precedes Christ's coming in the Church today. As we look forward to receiving the extraordinary graces of Christ's birth this Christmas, John proclaims to our Eucharistic assembly what he preached to the Jews expecting the promised Messiah: repent.

The Greek word used for repentance is metanoia, and it means having a change of mind and heart; going beyond our fallen ways of thinking, seeing and acting; moving in a different direction. In John's day, the crowds expressed their repentance by "confess[ing] their sin" and being baptised in the Jordan, which signifies being washed from stains and harms that sin produces.

In our own time, a similar way that we can express our repentance is in the sacrament of reconciliation. It is an opportunity to confess our sins and be washed clean of them as John exhorts us. When we can freely acknowledge our sins and failures, we become humble, honest and vulnerable before God. A penitent heart such as this is docile and open to God, and it allows God to enter, embrace, heal and cleanse it. Confession, among other forms of repentance, is an excellent way to prepare for the arrival of our infant Lord this Christmas, who himself became humble, vulnerable and weak for love of us.

*Have a blessed week,*

*Deacon Matthew*

# THE BULLETIN

## STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

### Dean and Administrator

Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling  
8839 8420 or [frrobert@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:frrobert@stpatcathedral.com.au)

### Assistant Priest

Rev Fr Chris del Rosario  
8839 8423 or [frchris@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:frchris@stpatcathedral.com.au)

### Deacon

Rev Mr Matthew Dimian  
8839 8415 or [deacon@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:deacon@stpatcathedral.com.au)

### Priest in Residence

Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen  
Vietnamese Community Chaplain

Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm weekdays

**Receptionist:** Donna Missio (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri)  
8839 8400 or [enquiry@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:enquiry@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Pat Preca (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)  
8839 8412 or [secretary@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Cathedral Parish Manager:** Mili Lee (Tue - Fri)  
8839 8419 or [admin@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:admin@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Parish Team  
8839 8400 or [secretary@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Director of Music:** Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS  
8839 8400 or [music@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:music@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan:** Fr Chris del Rosario  
8839 8423 or [frchris@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:frchris@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Youth Coordinator:** Parish Team  
8839 8400 or [credo@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatcathedral.com.au)

**Gift Shop Manager:** Minnie Harb  
8839 8400 or [giftshop@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:giftshop@stpatcathedral.com.au)

## 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@stpatcathedral.com.au](mailto:enquiry@stpatcathedral.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!

## World Youth Day Raffle

Last week we introduced Caitlin, Kayleigh and Stacey, our WYD pilgrims. To help fund their trip, the girls will be joined by other young people from the parish who have been to WYD, to help with the sale of raffle tickets. The girls have served the parish for at least eight years as altar servers and now add singing, reading, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist etc, to their volunteering roles.

Please support them as they look to learn more about their faith at WYD 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.



## 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](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan the QR code below. Thank you for stretching out your hand in compassion for our homeless community.



 PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

**No one should be without a place to call home**

Help Catholic Care end homelessness in our community.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal [DONATE NOW](#)

“

*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

## Advent Groups

Advent, the season of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, begins this weekend. Apart from decorating your homes, we encourage you to join an Advent group being organised in the parish to help prepare for this holy season. Join a group at any time!

Advent groups will be held on:

- Mondays at 6.30pm and
- Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Presbytery meeting room.

This year we are using the Diocese of Wollongong's Advent program.



## 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.

## Giftshop - Christmas Sale

**Up to 50% off!**

The Giftshop's Christmas Sale is now on!

Visit the shop for quality gifts at a bargain price.

You can also browse for items via the giftshop website, Instagram and Facebook page. Scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to connect.

## Concert @ St Pat's Cathedral

After a two-year absence, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra is returning to St Patrick's Cathedral for a Christmas Concert this year. The Noel! Noel! Christmas concert will be held in the Cathedral on **Monday 12 December at 7:00pm.**

Tickets available on <https://www.brandenburg.com.au/live-concerts/>  
Flyers are available at the entry to the church.

## 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!

## JRS Christmas Food Drive

This year, we are again holding a food drive for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) during the first three weeks of Advent (until 15 December). 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.

Please drop off your donation under the Christmas tree which is located in the Chapel. Gift cards to the office, please!

## Priestly Ordination

We've had plenty of good news lately about diaconate ordinations (see next page) and now for some wonderful news about priestly ordinations. We can confirm that Bishop Vincent will ordain three men to the priesthood here at St Patrick's on **Thursday, 02 February**, including our own **Deacon Matthew**. Mark your diary and pray for them.

## Seniors' Ministry Lunch

**Tuesday, 13 December at 1:00pm**

The last event this year will be a Christmas lunch in the Cloister Function room. This is a free event for all seniors.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of food and Christmas festivity with other senior members of the parish.

Please RSVP by **Friday, 09 December** to the Cathedral Office.

## A night of Carols in the Cathedral

**Saturday, 10 December at 7:30pm**



Join the Cathedral community on Saturday, 10 December for a night of carols. The carols will start after the 6:00pm vigil Mass. The event will begin with carols in the Cathedral followed by festivity in the cloister area.

Carols will be led by the Cathedral choir, St Patrick's Primary School students and members of the Credo Youth Group.

A visit from Santa is confirmed.

There will be stalls to pick up last minute Christmas presents and a free sausage sizzle for everyone.

Bring your family next Saturday and enjoy an evening of beautiful singing and community celebration!

## 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!

## Birthday Celebrations

Fr Chris is shortly turning 30 (an old man!) Come join us for lunch in the Cloister Hall following the 11:00am Mass on Sunday 18 December. Please bring a plate to share!



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# Prayer Intentions

## Diaconate news...

CONGRATULATIONS to **Deacon Tom Green**, ordained by Bishop Vincent last Sunday evening at St Patrick's, Blacktown. Tom is the brother of Fr Jack Green, currently staying with us here at the Cathedral on a brief trip home from studies in England. Please keep Tom in your prayers as he begins his service as an ordained minister in our Diocese.

We also pray for the five men who will be ordained by Bishop Vincent to the permanent diaconate on **Saturday 10 December**. Let us pray for these men, their wives and families, as they begin their ministry in the Church.



## 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](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

## We pray for...

**Sick:** Renish & Rita Pasanah, Ishander Singh, Poh Yeen Log, Maria Kipek, 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, Maureen Sewell, James McMasters, Praxedes Torres, Pedro Romulo, Maria Vernich, Bp Kevin Manning, Tony Meldrum, Paul Peters, Terry O'Brien

**Special Intentions:** Raveen, Firela Kamille Gonzales, Paul E, Tian, Noel, Marilie, Marielle & Raphael, Luise, Napoleon & Patria Yanua, Habib Worait, Harry Perrottet, Fr Peter Henry, Lucia & Bonifacio, Allwyn Lobo, Finela & Reejem Gonzales, Holy Father, Jake & Emilia Smith, Mariam, Elizabeth, Elsa, So Tin Thio, Johnny Del Mar, Sidney & Fatima Rodricks, Stephen & Melorie Roth, George & Penny Roth, Ostelio Tantini, Poor & Homeless



## BAPTISMS

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



**Lucas Tohme**  
**Kate Saturno**  
**Christian Jones**  
**Ryujin Gregorio**  
**Bronte Ward**  
**Charlee Ward**

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 28 November*

"In this season of Advent, let us be shaken out of our torpor to recognise God's presence in daily situations. If we are unaware of his coming today, we will also be unprepared when He arrives at the end of time. Let us remain vigilant!"

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## Saint of the Week

09 December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Juan Diego was born in about 1474 in Cuauhtitlan in the kingdom of Texcoco, part of present-day Mexico. As an adult he embraced Christianity and he and his wife were baptised. In 1531 the Mother of God appeared to him, on the hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City, and told him to ask the bishop to have a church built on the spot. Through the purity of his faith, his humility and his fervour, a church was built, in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe (whose feast is celebrated on 12 December). He left everything and devoted himself to the care of the sanctuary and the reception of pilgrims until his death in 1548.

*(Information taken from Universalis)*



## “Quote of the Week”

"Optimism and hope are radically different attitudes. Optimism is the expectation that things - the weather, human relationships, the economy, the political situation, and so on - will get better. Hope is trust that God will fulfil God's promises to us in a way that leads us to true freedom. The optimist speaks about concrete changes in the future. The person of hope lives in the moment with the knowledge and trust that all of life is in good hands."

**Henri Nouwen**  
(1932-1996)  
Priest, Spiritual Writer and  
Theologian



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## GETTING TO KNOW...

### Silvana Rechichi

Greetings, fellow parishioners of St Pat's! My name is Silvana Rechichi. I was born in Italy; with my family, I migrated to the Land of Oz in 1968. I was 13. We settled in Parramatta and became parishioners from those very first days, all told 55 years! We spoke not a word of English, yet we felt at home from the very first moment we set foot inside the church.

I remember with fondness the first people we met the very first day we attended Mass: Frank Keane, Molly Boyle, sisters Noreen Mclean and Marie Ray, Paula Cowling and many more who, through their faithful dedication and loving example, helped me grow into the faith and encouraged me to participate more fully in the life of the church here in Parramatta.

Over all this time I have been involved in various ministries: Reader, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and Communion to the sick at Westmead Hospital, Rosary and Lenten groups; Novena to Mary and Taize prayer groups, just to name a few. I was also a chorister in the Parish Choir and later also a cantor at the 6:00pm Vigil Mass, which I still attend to this day. Each of the ministries mentioned has brought with it its own spiritual rewards and enriched my life in many ways.

In 55 years, the parish has experienced its share of painful episodes but none more so than the disastrous fire of 1996 which destroyed our spiritual home and saw its parishioners scattered to nearby parishes. What a joy it was to be part of a combined Diocesan Choir at the dedication of the new Cathedral in 2003 and, like a phoenix rising, witness its rebirth.

Sadly, one by one, I had to let go of all the ministries when the time came to care for my mum in the final years of her life. Some years after her death, I "reprised" the Novena to Mary Full of Grace, originally started by then Dean, Fr. Kevin Walsh, and which takes place on the last Tuesday of the month, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

From a very young age I was encouraged to let faith reside in my heart and reason in my mind, together they continue to shape and direct my life. Now that I am older, and hopefully wiser, I am beginning to understand a glimmer of that great commission entrusted to us by our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, and that is to "love the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my strength and with all my mind" and to "Love my neighbour as myself".

Pax et Bonum

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# The Kids' Bulletin

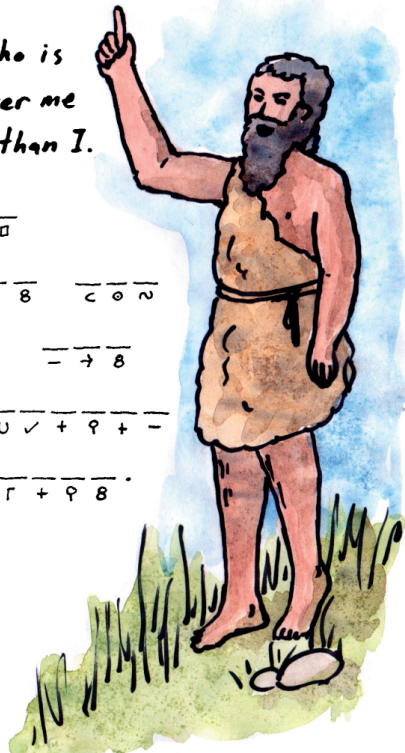
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4th, 2022

The one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

→ 8    Δ + □ □  
 x n v - + l 8    c o n  
 Δ + - →    - → 8  
 → o □ c    u v + q + -  
 n < 7    r + p 8

What did Saint John the Baptist say about the one who was coming after him? Use the code to find out!

U X 7 8 r → + □ < o v p u - ~ Δ c l  
 A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z



## The Immaculate Conception

This Thursday we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

Answer to puzzle on front: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Answer to "Peace Among Animals" puzzle: lamb, leopard, calf, bear, lion, baby.

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

## Peace Among the Animals

In today's first reading, the prophet describes peace between animals and people in God's kingdom. Can you figure out which animals (or people) go with which?

Clue: the pictures might help!



Then the wolf shall be a guest of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_



shall lie down with the kid; the \_\_\_\_\_ and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest;

the \_\_\_\_\_ shall eat hay like the ox.

The \_\_\_\_\_ shall play by the cobra's den,



baby leopard  
calf bear  
lamb lion



## SAINT AMBROSE DECEMBER 7

AMBROSE WAS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 340 TO A VERY IMPORTANT ROMAN FAMILY. HE RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION.

Ambrose, this man is going to be your tutor.

HE BECAME A LAWYER AND WAS LIKED BY BOTH THE CHRISTIANS AND THE HERETICS.

Sir, this man refuses to pay...

WHEN THE HERETIC BISHOP DIED EVERYONE CALLED FOR AMBROSE TO BE THE NEW BISHOP.

I think Ambrose would be a great bishop!

HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE CHOSEN BUT THE EMPEROR INSISTED THAT HE ACCEPT.

AMBROSE LOVED THE POOR AND GAVE HIS TREASURES TO FREE CAPTIVES.

Will you take this gold for his freedom?

WHEN THE EMPEROR KILLED MANY HERETICS AMBROSE WOULD NOT LET HIM INTO THE CHURCH UNTIL HE REPENTED.

You will not enter until you repent!

ONCE THE HERETICS WERE TRYING TO SEIZE THE CHURCH BUT AMBROSE WOULDN'T GIVE IT UP. FINALLY THE SOLDIERS WENT INSIDE TO PRAY!

SAINT AMBROSE WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT KEEPING PEOPLE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. HE STOPPED ARMIES FROM ATTACKING, AND KEPT THE CHRISTIANS AND HERETICS FROM FIGHTING AS WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY AND SCHOOL?

[thekidsbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:thekidsbulletin@gmail.com)



# Christmas Mass Schedule

**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



## Carols Service

This year we will once again be hosting an Advent Carols Service. It will be held here at the Cathedral at **7:15pm** after the Vigil Mass next **Saturday, 10 December**. The service should last approximately one hour. All are welcome!



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## TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE INC.

Since 13 October 2007, Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc. has been providing free legal assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged persons from Parish Hall at St Anthony's Church.

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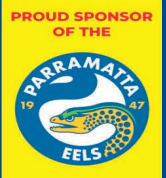
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