



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

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

24 December 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

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

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 (September - April)
Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER

First Friday Devotions: 6:30pm

OTHER CONNECT GROUPS

Playgroup: Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm

Facebook: Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

Facebook: [credo.stpats](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au



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The "Hand-made" of the Lord

DAVID HAD THE right instinct when he observed the injustice apparent in the comparison between his dwelling and that of the ark of the covenant. There was the ark of God with a mere tent for its dwelling, while he, a mere man, dwelt in a house built from the finest cedarwood. The balance wasn't quite right.



When he goes to rectify this situation and sets out to build a temple for the Lord, David is questioned by God, "are you...to build me a house to dwell in?" He goes on to remind David of all that he himself has done for him, that all David's achievements were really God's doing, that it was God who settled David into this fine house, and that finally God will establish for him a house that will endure through his offspring.

It isn't until the line of David is all but wiped out and the kings of Israel have seemingly vanished from among the Jews that God elects to fulfil that promise made to David, to once and for all erect a house whose sovereignty will be secure. He goes to this obscure, backwater town called Nazareth, a nothing place, to this young virgin (a lowly status in the Jewish world), betrothed to this ancestor of David, Joseph, a mere carpenter. It is from these people in this town in these conditions that God decides to once and for all erect the House of David, to establish an everlasting kingdom.

It is from within the womb of this lowly virgin, the handmaid of the Lord, that God himself builds his house, builds this tent of flesh whom the maiden will call Jesus. It is not the high and mighty that God chooses in order to establish his sovereignty amongst men. It is the lowly. It is those who are nothing. It is the ones who recognise that what they are is given to them by God, that all that they do is at his bidding, "I am the handmaid of the Lord". It is the ones that know that they and all that they have is wrought by God, that he has made them by hand, as it were.

And so, we are reminded this Christmas Eve that our God doesn't seek out those who can do great things for him, perhaps as David thought he might. God seeks out those who know their place before God, he wants to use those who know that they are the handiwork of God himself and that there is nothing they can do to earn the approval of Him who has thought of them before the beginning of time. He seeks out little handmaids like Mary, who know they are hand made by God.

Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas,

Fr Tom

LITURGY GUIDE

ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Procession O Come, O come Emmanuel

Verses

1. O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el,
2. O come, O branch of Jes - se, free
3. O come, O key of Da - vid, come
4. O come, de - sire of na - tions, bind

1. and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. your child - ren from all ty - ran - ny;
3. and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
4. in one the hearts of hu - man - kind.

1. that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
2. from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
3. make safe the way that leads on high,
4. Bid ev - 'ry sad di - vi - sion cease

1. un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2. and give them vict' - ry o'er the grave.
3. and close the path to mi - se - ry.
4. and be your - self our Prince of Peace.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - ma - nu - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel* from the Great 'O Antiphons', c.12th Cent. trans. John Mason Neale 1818-1866 & *Catholic Worship Book* 1985.
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 88.88 and refrain; from a 15th-century plainchant melody adapt. Thomas Helmore 1811-1890

Introit 11:00am

Rorate coeli desuper

Is 45: 8; Ps 18

The Introit is sung by the choir during the entrance procession and incensation of the altar.

Drop down you heavens the Just One, like the dew from above. Let him descend from the clouds like the rain. The earth will open up and give birth to our Saviour.

V. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

PENITENTIAL ACT

The Cantors: The people reply:

Have mercy on us, O Lord. For we have sinned a - gainst you.

The Cantors: The people:

Show us, O Lord, your mer-cy. And grant us your sal - va-tion.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

Focusing the Gospel



Key words and phrases

- Rejoice, so highly favoured!
- The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.
- His reign will have no end.
- The child will be holy and will be called Son of God.
- For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

to the point...

The Scriptures this Sunday speak with one voice of the relentless action of God on our behalf: God adopts David's descendants as his children forever (first reading), God reveals the secret mystery of salvation (second reading), and God gives the mystery flesh in Christ (gospel). Our living of the Christmas mystery is a continuing participation in this relentless action of God.

Connecting the Gospel

- to Advent and salvation history
God's saving action neither begins nor ends with Christ or Christmas. Nor is our understanding of this action to be contained by the weeks of Advent and the celebration of Christmas. Salvation history is ongoing and demands ongoing contemplation on our part..
- to Christian experience
Advent is both waiting and preparing. Waiting focuses on what God does; preparing focuses on what we do. These divine and human activities come together in Christ.

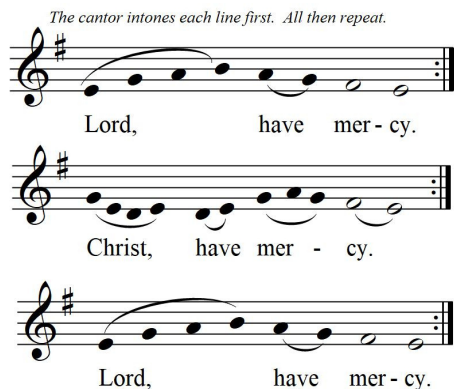
LITURGY GUIDE

Kyrie

Mass Emmanuel

R. Proulx

The cantor intones then all repeat



Kyrie 11:00am Missa 'De beata Virgine' G.da Palestrina

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the second book of Samuel (7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16)

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me.'

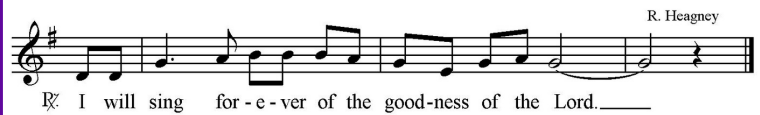
Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29



Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (16:25-27)

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Twynham

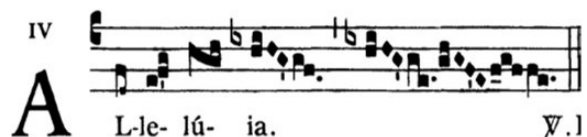
The cantor, alone, intones the Alleluia. All repeat



Cantor: I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done. R.

Gospel Acclamation 11:00am

Chant Mode IV



Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (1:26-38)

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus.'

.... / cont'd

LITURGY GUIDE

.../ He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Universal Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE OFFERINGS

To donate via credit card, please use the
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Motet 11:00am

Ave Maria

F. Biebl

Hail, Mary! Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Sanctus (Holy, Holy)

Mass Emmanuel

R. Proulx

Cantor(s) *All*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly Lord, God of hosts.

Cantor(s)

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.

All

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Cantor(s)

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Mystery of Faith

Missal Tone

ICEL

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-claim your Death,

O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

Amen

Mass Emmanuel

R. Proulx

All

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

COMMUNION RITE

Agnus Dei

Chant Mass ad lib. II

Cantor

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:

Cantor, then all *repeat.*

have mer - cy on us.

Cantor

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:

Cantor, then all

grant us peace.

Agnus Dei 11:00am

Missa 'De beata Virgine' G.da Palestrina

LITURGY GUIDE

Communion Antiphon

Ecce virgo concipiet

Is.7

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Communion Hymn

Hail, to the Lord's anointed



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er
2. He comes with help and mer - cy to those who suf - fer
3. He shall come down like sho - wers up - on the fruit - ful
4. O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall



1. Son; hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his
2. wrong, to raise the poor and need - y, and
3. earth, love, joy and hope, like flo - wers, spring
4. rest, from age to age more glo - rious, all -



1. reign on earth be - gun! He comes to break op -
2. bid the weak be strong, to give them songs for
3. in his path to birth. Be - fore him on the
4. bless - ing and all - blest. the tide of time shall



1. pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free, to
2. sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light, whose
3. moun - tains shall peace the he - rald go, and
4. nev - er his co - ve - nant re - move; his



1. take a - way trans - gress - ion, and rule in e - qui - ty.
2. souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
3. right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
4. name shall stand for ev - er, that name to us is love.

Text: Based on Psalm 72 (71) by James Montgomery 1771-1854 in *Songs of Zion*, London, 1822, alt.
Tune: CRÜGER 76.76D; adapt. William Henry Monk 1823-1889 from a melody in Johann Crüger's *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1640



8:00am Mass Propers

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the
heavens. R.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. R.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

R. Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next Week's Readings:

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Readings

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3 (Yr B): Your own son shall be your heir.

Ps 104:1-6, 8-9 (Yr B): R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 (Yr B): The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

Lk 2:22-40: The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling
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Priest in Residence

Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen
Vietnamese Community Chaplain

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Youth Coordinator: Parish Team
8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Minnie Harb
0419 153 195 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays. Contact the parish office to book or fill out the form on the website.

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!



Thank You to Our Carolling Volunteers

We extend our warmest gratitude to the small group of young volunteers who brought the joy of Christmas to ArcCare Nursing Home last weekend. In these challenging times, with Covid once again making its presence felt, your efforts shone like a beacon of hope and joy.

Despite the necessary precautions, which included masking up to ensure everyone's safety, the singers were not deterred from giving their best performance bringing smiles and festive cheer to both the residents and staff. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the caroling, and many expressed how it uplifted their spirits.

Thank you for spreading Christmas cheer and for being a wonderful example of the power of community and caring.

Thank You - from Vinnies

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a massive thank you to our very generous Parish Community for your outstanding support for the call to provide hamper items for the Christmas Vinnies hampers.

This is the first time in many years that we have had to rely on the generosity of St Patrick's Parish for this most important program, and you have delivered in a very generous way.



The goods received have been distributed to our clients to make their family Christmas celebration just that little bit more special. It is so encouraging that this spirit of generosity and care is so entrenched in our Christian Community. Thank you again.

A big thank you also to the Parish staff for your assistance in facilitating this program. Your support has made a real difference.

This year has seen an increase in the number of people seeking out hampers and needing additional support. Your help has enabled us to provide extra hampers to make a happier Christmas for so many people who are struggling.

We also should acknowledge the support of Vinnies Blacktown in providing additional goods as they have done so generously in the last couple of years.

Marilyn has also made a great effort to ensure that the children's presents donated have been delivered with great presentation to the numerous children of varying ages. This will make their family celebration that much better.

Thank you again, and we wish you all a very Holy Christmas for 2023.

Graham Cook
President, Vinnies Parramatta

PARISH and DIOCESAN NOTICES



Christmas Mass Times

Sunday, 24 December - Christmas Eve

6:00pm - Vigil (Family Mass)

9:00pm - Vigil

Midnight Mass

starts at 11:30pm with Carols Service and Readings

12:00midnight - Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir

Monday, 25 December - Christmas Day

8:00am

9:30am

11:00am - Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir
6:00pm



Weekday Mass Times post-Christmas

Please take note...

Weekday Masses from **26 December to 12 January** will be held at **8:00am only**. There will be no Adoration or Reconciliation on these days, except for the usual celebration of Reconciliation at 8:30am & 5.00pm on Saturdays.

Please note that the cathedral and the precinct will be locked after the 8:00am Mass from Monday to Friday.

For emergencies, please call our emergency telephone number 0407 289 360.

Weekday Mass times, with Adoration and Reconciliation, will resume as normal on **Monday 15 January**.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

to Our Beloved Parishioners



As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, we extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you, our cherished parishioners. This blessed time of year offers us a renewed opportunity to reflect on the miraculous birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to embrace the profound message of love, hope, and peace He brought into the world.

May the light of Christ's love shine brightly in your hearts and homes this Christmas. Let us remember that the greatest gift we can offer is the gift of love to those around us - our families, friends, and even strangers. In the spirit of the Holy Family, may we find strength and solace in our own families and communities, drawing closer to one another and to God.

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us also pray for those less fortunate, for those who are suffering, and for peace in our world. May the grace of the Holy Child, Jesus, guide us in being instruments of His peace and love.

We look forward to celebrating this holy season with you through our various parish Masses. Let us come together in faith and joy, as we commemorate the wondrous gift of Christ's birth.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with the blessings of love, joy, and peace.

With prayers and blessings,

St Patrick's Cathedral Clergy and Staff



Thank you from the clergy

Fr Robert, Fr Tom, Fr Joseph and Deacon David would like to thank all those parishioners who have been kind enough to offer their good wishes for this Christmas Season.

We thank all those who have given us Christmas cards and generous gifts. We are blessed to have such caring and thoughtful parishioners here at the Cathedral. Thank you once again and, once again, we wish you and your loved ones a Christmas and New Year filled with God's abundant blessings.



Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

PARISH and DIOCESAN NOTICES

Cathedral Office Christmas Closure

In the spirit of the festive season and to allow our staff to spend quality time with their families, our office will be closed for a brief period.

Closure Dates:

- The Cathedral office will close on Friday, 22nd December 2023 at 4:00pm.
- We will reopen on Monday, 8th January 2024.

During this period, the regular office services and administrative support will be temporarily unavailable. We encourage everyone to plan their visits and inquiries accordingly.

For any urgent matters during this closure, please call 0407 289 360 or refer to our website for contact details and further information.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding and support.

We wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas season and look forward to serving you again in the New Year.

St Patrick's Giftshop - Christmas Hours

The giftshop is open this Sunday, **Christmas Eve**. This is a great opportunity for those looking for last minute religious gifts to pick up a bargain.

The giftshop will be closed from Christmas Day and will reopen on Tuesday 30 January.

St Pat's Matters

The Christmas edition of our wonderful parish magazine, St Pat's Matters, is now available free of charge. Take one home and enjoy reading about all the terrific activity in our parish!



Red Mass - 2024

The annual Red Mass to commemorate the commencement of the legal year will again be held in the Cathedral in 2024.

This special event, celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long, is an opportunity to come together in prayer and reflection, particularly honouring those in the legal profession for their dedication to justice and service.

When: Monday 05 February 2024 at 7:00pm

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral

Please send RSVP to mili@stpatscathedral.com.au

Wanted - Parish Esky

Our very handy parish-owned esky for keeping drinks cool has had its day. Just a thought that someone has one tucked away in the back of their garage collecting dust. We could give it a good home. Around 40-60 litres would be a good size. Give Pat or Donna a call. Thanks!

It's that wonderful time of the year again!

Time to take the family to explore the magical Christmas displays lighting up our city. Here are two displays that we recommend:

• Christmas Lights at St Mary's Cathedral

Christmas will once again take over St Mary's Cathedral's façade with a show of glowing projections, digital animations, Christmas trees, food trucks, market stalls and carols this December.

From 14 December to 25 December, the Cathedral will be shining with vivid Christmas projections. The entertainment runs from 5:30pm to 10:30pm each day.

• Lighting up for Children

Andy and Carmen, two of our incredibly kind-hearted parish members, are once again transforming their home into a festive spectacle for a charitable cause. For those who enjoy touring elaborately decorated houses during the holiday season, their display is a must-see. Your visit will not only spread holiday cheer but also contribute to a noble cause, as all proceeds will be donated to support children's cancer research.

Location: 45 Grasmere Ave, Northmead

Dates: 01 December to 31 December

Don't miss this opportunity to experience their holiday spirit and generosity!



New Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

New Years Eve at Parramatta Park

Farewell 2023 in Parramatta Park with a FREE concert headlined by ARIA award-winning band Sneaky Sound System, a fantastic line-up of family-friendly activities, and a spectacular fireworks display. Grab your picnic blanket and pick a spot to relax in beautiful Parramatta Park. The entertainment kicks off at 5:00pm culminating in a stunning fireworks display at 9:00pm. On-site food trucks will offer delicious meals or sip a refreshing beverage from the bar.

Admission is free!

Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15 October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

We now look forward to its implementation!

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for our beloved dead...

Recently Deceased: Barbara Joass, Mark Fletcher, Francisca Olay, Maximilian Epondulan, Emile F Khouri

Deceased: Karam Karam, Houda Chehade, Yolanda & Donald Muir, Bienvenido Sumagui, Fidel & Remigio Perez, Francisco Llanillo, Valentina Aguirre, Philip guirre Jr., Benjamin Giverson, Buggy Davao, Fr Augustus Patacsil, Artemis, Abraham & Rebecca Patacsil, Edgardo Perez, Tranquilina Llanillo, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Teresa Kim Pil Ju, Kamille Biscocho, Miguel Gentile, Val Davis, Carmelo Attard, Tenille Mousalli

Anniversaries: Maximina Manlangit, Robert Dearie, Vincent Jines, Nelia Styenes, Rodney Jayatilaka

Perpetuals: Paul Mahoney, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Nat Fedyk, 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 & 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 & 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: Orvil Noe M Villalobos, Olivia Harb, Nasr Nasr, Maria, Samira, Maria & Tony Obeid, Tony Chang, Baldo Polizzi, Francisca Olay, Maximilian Epondulan, Vasvi V Arcot, Nasr Nasr, Stephen Borg, Nicole Slatter, Leonardo Perez Close, Vic Moran, Christopher Doughty, Fr Bob Bossini, Seini Loto'aniu, Joseph Lin, Hildegard Schulz, Fr Peter Zytka, Leonardo Close, Pina Ferrero, James Vargas, Rachael Sumagui, Fred & Odette Harb, Jenny Cheung, Hilgerdaro Schole, Finn McConnor, Sharon Webb

Special Intentions: Hewitt Edward, Carmelita Perez, Raveen, Ankica, Nikola, Mara, Stephen & Bozo Senjak, Peachy Romulo, Pedro & Sheila Romulo, James, Anastasia & Sophia Royals, Philip Lysewycz, Lucy, Anita & Jean Claude Perrottet, Ankica, Nikola, Mara & Stephen Senjak, Ruzica Chmielewski, Tian, Kumavan Guuasagaran, BVM & Infant Jesus, Rachel & Kathleen, Tracy, Deborah L John, N.N, Michelle Travis, Leonardo P Close, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Napoleon, Agnes & John Patacsil, Naveen, Harry Perrottet, Dra Julie Lee, Nima, Jorge & Lyn Vargas Patacsil, Franz Tito, Santiago & Antonio Tito, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Terry Joseph, Michael Perez, Tian, Kumaran Gunasagaran, Amarro Bumactao, Raveen, Jewel Peterson, Joe Suttie

BAPTISMS



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here...

Claudia Wallace & Benjamin Khouri
Natalia Creighton & Arya D'Souza

WEDDINGS



We also pray for the following couple recently married here...

Karina Ieroianni & Anthony Leo

POPE FRANCIS'

Prayer Intention for December



For persons with disabilities

"We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."

From Pope Francis...

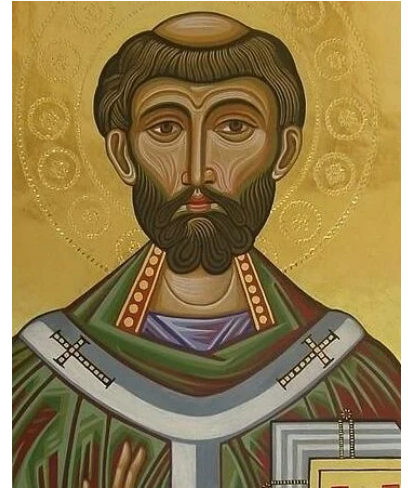
*From a tweet
dated 18 December*

"Let us pray together before the Nativity scene for children who will experience a difficult Christmas in places where there is war, in refugee camps, in situations of profound misery."

Saint of the Week

29 December - St Thomas Becket (1118-1170), Bishop, Martyr

He was born in London and became a close friend of King Henry II. He was only a deacon when he was appointed chancellor of England. When he was ordained as archbishop of Canterbury, he underwent an abrupt conversion of life and began to defend the Church's rights against the king. He had to take refuge in a French monastery for six years, and when he returned to his diocese four knights, inspired by careless words from the king, assassinated him in his cathedral on 29 December 1170. He was immediately acknowledged as a martyr and the king later did penance and endowed his shrine. He is remembered for his courage in defence of the rights of the Church.



Information: Universalis

"Quote of the Week"

"The unbreakable bond between love of God and love of neighbour is emphasised [in the Gospel of John]. One is so closely connected to the other that to say that we love God becomes a lie if we are closed to our neighbour or hate them. John's words should rather be interpreted to mean that love of neighbour is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God."



Pope Benedict XVI
(1927-2022)
From *Deus Caritas Est*, 16

Did You Know...?

...that the fourth candle to be lit on the Advent wreath, the final one before the lighting of the white Christmas candle, is often referred to as the Angels' Candle?

The fourth candle symbolises peace and invites us to reflect on the peace which the angel of the Lord brought to an anxious Joseph in a dream. May we too be agents of peace in our troubled world.



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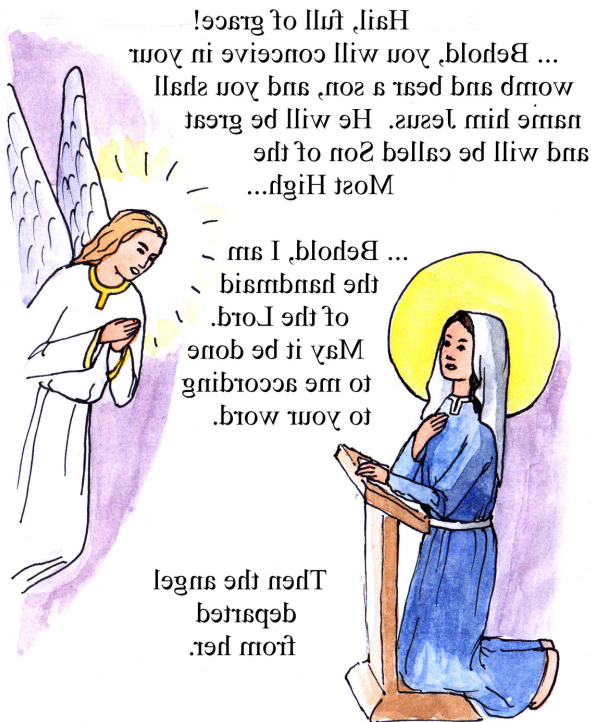
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The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24th, 2023



Hail, full of grace!
... Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called Son of the Most High...

... Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

Then the angel departed from her.

What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary?
What did she reply to him?
Look in the mirror to find out!

True or False?

Today's Gospel Reading: The Angel Visits Mary

How well do you know the story of the Annunciation?
See if you know which are true and which are false:

1. God sent the angel Michael to bring His message to Our Lady. True or false?
2. When Mary saw the angel, she covered her eyes. True or false?
3. The angel told Mary, "Do not be afraid." True or false?
4. The angel told Our Lady that she would have a Son that she would name 'Jesus.' True or false?
5. Mary just said okay and the angel left right away. True or false?
6. When Mary said she didn't understand, Gabriel told her that the baby would be the Son of God. True or false?
7. Before he left, the angel told Mary that her old cousin, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby too. True or false?



Christmas is almost here!



Christmas is almost here! Isn't it exciting? It's like when it's getting really close to your birthday, except that people all over the world are going to be celebrating Christmas! We should help make Jesus' birthday as special as we can!

I CAN WASH THE SINK FOR MOM!



If your family has an Advent wreath, today all four of the candles will be lit. This represents the light of Jesus coming

closer and getting brighter. Jesus is the light of the world. If we want to make Christmas beautiful, then we should make our own lives shine with the love of Jesus.

HERE, I'LL HELP YOU PICK UP THE TOYS.



HI DAD! I VACUUMED UNDER YOUR DESK!

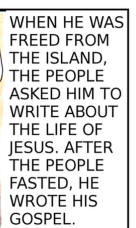
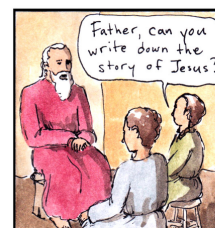
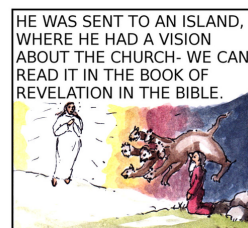
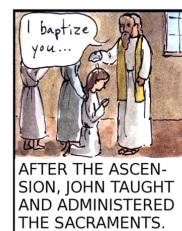
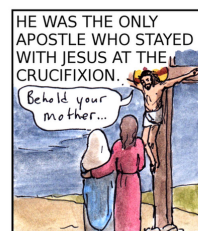
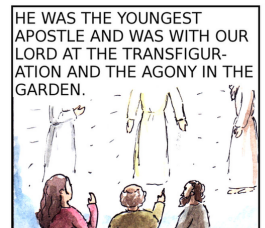


Does your family have a Christmas tree? Are there lights on it? Do you have Christmas lights on your house? All the little lights you see can represent all the people whose lives are lit up with the love of God. Or maybe they can represent all the good things you can do to brighten up other people's lives! Think of some things you can do to love God and bring His love to your family and your friends and neighbours this Christmas!

Answers to True or False: 1. false, 2. false, 3. true, 4. true, 5. false, 6. true, 7. true. (the baby was John the Baptist!)

www.thekidsbulletin.com

Saint John the Evangelist December 27



IN HIS GOSPEL SAINT JOHN CALLS HIMSELF "THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED." HIS HEART WAS PURE AND DEDICATED TO JESUS, SO HE WAS OPEN TO RECEIVING JESUS' LOVE. WHEN HE GREW TOO OLD TO GO OUT AND PREACH, SAINT JOHN JUST TOLD THE PEOPLE, "LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

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