

# ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

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

**10 December 2023 - Second 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](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)



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## Peace amidst the cacophony of Christmas capitalism

ONE OF THE ironies of this time of year, as we draw closer to the Christmas season, is the Christian message of peace being drowned out by the noise of secular activity. As people crowd shopping centres and social venues in the weeks leading up to Christmas, noise and busyness hit a high and the frenetic activity makes it difficult for us to focus on the message entrusted to us through the Incarnation. Many of us may even feel obliged to engage in this noise and busyness, hoping to ameliorate some of its more unpleasant aspects by engaging in some religious ritual when, and if, the opportunity arises.



Of course, the peace that is the hallmark of Christian living is not about an absence of noise, but something more profound: a manner of living which gives us an inner stability and sense of calm because of the intimacy we experience with Christ and our Creator. Nonetheless, we cannot hope to have this intimacy if we are engaging in relentless activity that demands our attention be elsewhere. Most certainly, this time of year finds us at the greatest disadvantage because of the coincidence of end-of-year celebrations, Christmas, New Year, and, in this part of the world at least, summer holidays and the various distractions that accompany them.

Yet we cannot ignore the obligation to do as John the Baptist did when he arrived on the scene to "prepare a way for the Lord." John was a curiously striking figure. Unlike Jesus, for whose coming he laid the foundations, John was an ascetic individual whose manner of operation was nothing if not blunt. Regardless of the nature of our spirituality, we cannot prepare the way for Jesus' entry into the lives of others unless we ourselves choose to approach this season in a way which differs considerably from the madness and conspicuous consumption that seems to be the hallmark of a western Christmas.

One way that we can do this is to ask ourselves if there is a better way we can give a gift as a mark of our love yet at the same time confer a benefit on someone in true need. Much of the time we are scratching our heads to think of a gift to buy someone who needs nothing. Why not consider purchasing something from Caritas Australia's Global Gift program (see inside bulletin for details) in which you purchase a practical gift (clean water supply, a goat, a hygiene station) for someone in a developing nation? Your loved one will get an acknowledgment of what has been purchased whilst a person really in need gets the benefit. No more gift-induced anxiety, only to have your unwanted gift thrown in the back of a cupboard never to be seen again. This novel approach to the madness of the season is a wonderful way to witness to your faith by opening up a way for the Lord in the life of another!

This is just one way we can avoid at least a little of the "cacophony of Christmas capitalism." I'm sure that many other ways can be found to help rope in some of the madness which seizes many people at this time, understandably encouraged by those with a vested interest in unrestrained consumerism.

In doing so, we can be small but significant lights, pointing to the real meaning of Christmas to those who perhaps need reminding.

*Wishing you a blessed Advent season,*

*Fr Robert*

# LITURGY GUIDE

## ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Procession On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry heart from sin; make  
3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4. To heal the sick, stretch out your hand and  
5. To God the Son all glo - ry be whose



1. nunc - es that the Lord is nigh; a -  
2. straight the way for God with - in; and  
3. re - fuge and our great re - ward; with -  
4. bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine  
5. ad - vent sets your peo - ple free; whom



1. wake and heark - en, for he brings glad  
2. let each heart pre - pare a home where  
3. out your grace we waste a - way, like  
4. forth and let your light re - store earth's  
5. with the Fa - ther we a - dore and



1. tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2. such a might - y guest may come.  
3. flow'rs that wi - ther and de - cay.  
4. own true love - li - ness once more.  
5. Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Text: *Jordanis oras praevia*; Charles Coffin 1676-1749, trans. John Chandler 1806-1876, alt.  
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW 88.88, melody adapt. William Henry Havergal, 1793-1870  
from a chorale in *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

## Second Sunday of Advent - Year B Focusing the Gospel

*"I have  
baptised you  
with water, but  
he will baptise  
you with the  
Holy Spirit."*



### Key words and phrases

- The Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Prepare a way for the Lord.
- Someone is following me who is more powerful than I am.
- Here is your God; here is the Lord coming with power.
- He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

### to the point...

The gospel is more about Jesus than John. Similarly, Advent is more about Jesus' present and future comings than about his past coming in Bethlehem. We prepare for Jesus' coming now by 'living holy and saintly lives' and by living 'without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace' (second reading). In this way we also hasten his future coming.

### Connecting the Gospel

• to the first readings  
Isaiah proclaimed an Old Testament 'good news': 'Here is the Lord coming with power.' This is fulfilled in Jesus, the one 'who is more powerful than I am' who has come to save us.

• to living our Advent experience  
We spend Advent preparing for Christmas and this is appropriate. These readings, however, broaden our understanding of Advent to include the ways Jesus comes to us every day and the way he will come in final glory.

Introit 11:00am

Populus Sion

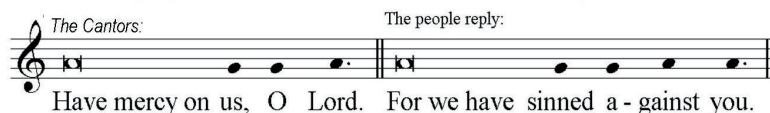
Is 10: 19, 10; Ps 79

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

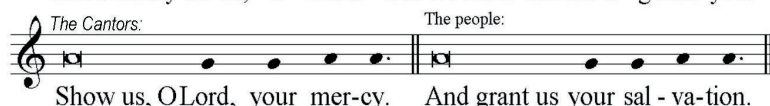
People of Zion behold, the Lord is coming to save all nations;  
and the Lord shall cause you to hear his majestic voice for the joy of your heart.  
V. O Shepherd of Israel hear us, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

## PENITENTIAL ACT

*Cel:* Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.



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



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

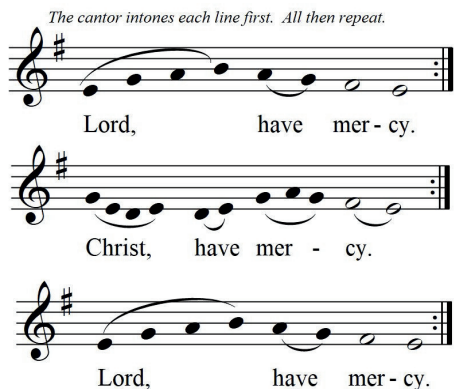
# LITURGY GUIDE

## Kyrie

Mass Emmanuel

R. Proulx

*The cantor intones then all repeat*



Kyrie: 11:00am

Missa Brevis

A. Gabrieli

## Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
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 prophet Isaiah

(40:1-5, 9-11)

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the  
Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'  
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'  
Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother  
ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14



## Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

(3:8-14)

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

R. Twynham

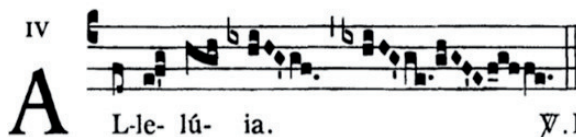
*The cantor, alone, intones the Alleluia. All repeat*



**Cantor:** Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God. R.

## Gospel Acclamation: 11:00am

Chant Mode IV



## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

(1:1-8)

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:  
Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

.... / cont'd



# LITURGY GUIDE

.../ All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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  
QR code shown here.



**Motet: 11:00am** Canite Tuba F. Guerrero

Blow the trumpet in Zion, for the day of the Lord is at hand:  
behold, He comes to save us.  
The crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways plain:  
come, Lord, do not delay.

## 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 Brevis

A. Gabrieli



# LITURGY GUIDE

## Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem surge et sta

Bar 5: 5; 4: 16

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high;  
and behold the joy that shall come to you from your God.

## Communion Hymn

## Advent Litany



- |    |      |    |        |       |      |      |      |     |
|----|------|----|--------|-------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1. | Word | of | jus -  | tice, | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 2. | Word | of | mer -  | cy,   | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 3. | Word | of | po -   | wer,  | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 4. | Word | of | free - | dom,  | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 5. | Word | of | heal - | ing,  | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 6. | Word | of | com -  | fort, | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 7. | Word | of | glad - | ness, | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |
| 8. | Word | of | wis -  | dom,  | Al - | le - | lu - | ia, |



- |    |       |        |        |       |      |      |      |      |
|----|-------|--------|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Come  | to     | dwell  | here. | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 2. | Live  | a -    | mong   | us.   | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 3. | Live  | with - | in     | us.   | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 4. | Save  | your   | peo -  | ple.  | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 5. | Heal  | our    | sor -  | row.  | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 6. | Bring | us     | hope   | now.  | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 7. | Fill  | our    | hearts | now.  | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |
| 8. | Come  | re -   | new    | us.   | Ma - | ra - | na - | tha! |

## Communion Hymn 11:00am

Saviour of the nations, come



- |    |       |       |        |     |       |        |         |
|----|-------|-------|--------|-----|-------|--------|---------|
| 1. | Sa -  | viour | of     | the | na -  | tions, | come;   |
| 2. | Not   | by    | hu -   | man | flesh | and    | blood,  |
| 3. | Won - | drous | birth! | O   | won - | drous  | child   |
| 4. | God   | Cre - | a -    | tor | is    | his    | source, |
| 5. | Now   | your  | low -  | ly  | man - | ger    | bright  |



- |    |       |      |       |      |       |      |         |
|----|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|---------|
| 1. | show  | the  | glo - | ry   | of    | the  | Son!    |
| 2. | by    | the  | Spi - | rit  | of    | our  | God     |
| 3. | of    | the  | Vir - | gin  | un -  | de - | filed!  |
| 4. | back  | to   | God   | he   | runs  | his  | course, |
| 5. | hal - | lows | night | with | new - | born | light;  |



- |    |         |     |       |      |        |       |         |
|----|---------|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|---------|
| 1. | Mar -   | vel | now,  | O    | heav'n | and   | earth,  |
| 2. | was     | the | Word  | of   | God    | made  | flesh   |
| 3. | Might - | y   | God   | and  | man    | in    | one,    |
| 4. | down    | to  | death | and  | hell   | de -  | scends, |
| 5. | let     | no  | night | this | light  | sub - | due,    |



- |    |       |       |        |         |      |      |        |
|----|-------|-------|--------|---------|------|------|--------|
| 1. | that  | our   | Lord   | chose   | such | a    | birth. |
| 2. | wo -  | man's | off -  | spring, | pure | and  | fresh. |
| 3. | ea -  | ger   | now    | his     | race | to   | run.   |
| 4. | God's | high  | throne | he      | re - | as - | cends. |
| 5. | let   | our   | faith  | shine   | ev - | er   | new.   |

Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; from *Veni, Redemptor gentium* attr. St. Ambrose, 340-397;  
Trans. vv.1-3a, William Reynolds, 1812-1876; vv.3b-5, Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967  
Tune: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, 77 77; Melody as in Martin Luther's *Enchiridia*, Erfurt, 1524



## 8:00am Mass Propers

### Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness,  
and grant us your salvation.

O! will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. R.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. R.

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. R.

### Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## Next Week's Readings:

### THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

#### Readings

Is 61:1-2, 10-11: I exult for joy in the Lord.

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54: R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1 Thess 5:16-24: May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul  
and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28: There stands among you, unknown to you,  
the one who is coming after me.

# 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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8839 8400 or [credo@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)

**Gift Shop Manager:** Minnie Harb  
0419 153 195 or [giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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!

## Caritas Australia - Global Gifts Collection



Each year many of us spend a lot of money buying gifts for others who usually have plenty of material wealth and will often not make good use of whatever we give. Indeed, we are often scratching our heads trying to determine what we can buy them!

Why not consider this wonderful idea that Caritas Australia, and other agencies, operate whereby you purchase a Global Gift card for a loved one for an amount ranging from \$10 to \$600. This card is sent either physically or via email but the funds go to support a specific development venture for a community served by Caritas Australia. You can, for example, pay \$10 to buy a chicken for a family in Zimbabwe, or \$65 for a handwashing station for sanitation purposes in rural Malawi. The list goes on and on. Your funds go to directly support those in need, with 83% of funds being used for these purposes.

To find out more about Caritas Australia's Global Gifts collection, go to [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au). You will find there a link for Global Gifts with plenty of information, FAQs, and so on.

Let's try to avoid the rampant spending that often characterises Christmas, ridding it of its true meaning and seek to make manifest the love that we are called to share with those in need.



## Carols at Arcare Aged Care Facility, Oatlands

We're looking for parishioners aged 16-35 to join a Carolling Group to provide an afternoon of carols for the residents at Arcare Aged Care Facility, Oatlands, on **Saturday 16 December** from 1:30pm to 2:30pm.

You don't need to be an amazing singer, just someone who is ready to spread the joy of Christmas with the elderly in our community.

To sign up or for more details, please contact Pat on 8839 8412 or email [secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au)

Let's unite in song and spirit, spreading the warmth of Christmas through our community!



JOIN US FOR  
**CAROLS**

# PARISH and DIOCESAN NOTICES

## Christmas Mass Times

Our Christmas Mass times has been included as a separate insert in today's bulletin. We encourage you to take more than one copy. Please feel free to share these with family, friends, and neighbours, inviting them to join us for our Christmas celebrations.

Extra copies of the Mass schedule are available in the narthex and at the back of the church. Let's spread the joy and warmth of our community this festive season.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent as we prepare for the coming of our Lord.

## Seniors' Christmas Lunch

Seniors (over 60) are warmly invited to join us for a special Christmas luncheon in the Cloister Function Room on **Wednesday 13 December at 1:00pm.**

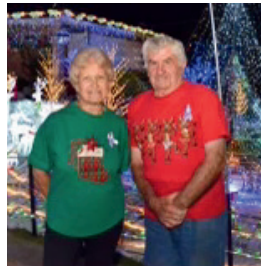
Come and enjoy a wonderful meal while connecting with friends, sharing stories and the joyful spirit of Christmas. There is no cost for the lunch but we invite everyone to bring a gift for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

Kindly RSVP by Monday 11 December so we can prepare adequately. We are looking forward to sharing this meal and time together!

## Lighting up for Children

Andy and Carmen (two of our very generous parishioners) are lighting up their house again for charity. 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 Grasmere Ave, Northmead  
**Date:** 01 December - 31 December



## Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve

The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on 24 December, which is, of course, Christmas Eve. For those people who are regulars at the Sunday evening 6:00 Mass, this poses something of a dilemma since the evening Masses on this day will be Christmas Masses (6:00pm, 9:00pm and Midnight). These parishioners might like to think about coming to Mass on Saturday evening (23 December) or one of the usual morning Masses on the morning of Sunday 24 December.

## 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!

## Vinnies Christmas Food Bank Drive

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is calling on our parish's generosity this Advent season to help bring the spirit of Christmas to many families and individuals in our community. We welcome your donations:



- **Festive Food Items:** Small Christmas puddings, mince pies, long-life custard, and other holiday-specific treats to add a touch of festivity to our hampers.
- **Non-Perishable Foodstuffs:** Help stock our pantry with canned goods, dry foods, and other essentials that can sustain families over the holidays.
- **Toiletry & Bathroom Items:** Donations of soaps, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, and toothbrushes are essential for personal care and dignity.
- **Cleaning Supplies:** Kitchen cleaners, washing up liquids, and laundry powders are vital for maintaining clean and healthy homes.
- **Gifts for Children:** Bring smiles to young faces with toys and books suitable for ages 5-10 years, making their Christmas truly special.

Every item you donate contributes to a brighter Christmas for an individual or family in need. Let's share the warmth and love of the season through our collective efforts.

Donations can be placed around the Christmas tree in the Chapel.

## A Community Notice - Energy Rebates

It is a sad fact that up to half a million eligible concession holders in households for which they are the energy account holders, may miss out on up to \$785 this year to offset their energy bills and cost of living expenses. Part of the reason is that they are unaware of their entitlements and who possibly simply read the amount and due date of payment.

This plea is to spread that awareness to people such as elderly parents living apart from you and neighbours or friends living alone. Concession holders at the start of the 2023-24 financial year ought to check their bills to ascertain that they have received two rebates. Registration of your eligibility with your retailer that you are a concession card holder is essential. Self-funded retirees holding, or who are entitled to hold Commonwealth Seniors Health cards, are entitled to up to \$700 this year. In the latter case, yearly re-registration is required as circumstances regarding entitlement may have changed.

*A concerned parishioner*

## 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!





# PARISH and DIOCESAN NOTICES

## Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. 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/>

## Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Marisa on 0412 280 017.

## Positions Vacant

- Facilitator: Catholic Youth Parramatta – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 12pm Monday 11 December 2023 (see description below).
- Governance, Risk and Compliance Administrative Support – Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 10pm Tuesday 12 December 2023.

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

## Join our CYP team!

The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team (MET) is looking to expand and deepen the work of Catholic Youth Parramatta in 2024. You have the opportunity to impact the lives of thousands of youth and young adults in our ever-growing ministry, especially in schools. Forward your current CV, refer to the position description, and record a 2-3 minute video addressing your passion, skills and experience for the role to [parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org](mailto:parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org)

## Are you interested in becoming a pastoral and professional supervisor?

Transforming Practices offers a rich formation in Pastoral Supervision. Supervision Formation comprises of 5 two-day Modules, held over 7 months. The next Portfolio of Learning Day will be held on Friday 3 February 2024 (with sufficient applicants). For those proceeding – an Introductory Day will be held on Friday 5 April 2024. All training days may be held on Zoom, face to face or in dual mode depending on successful applicant's location. For program prerequisites, please visit [www.transformingpractices.org](http://www.transformingpractices.org). If you are interested in knowing more, please contact the Registrar, Mary Pearson via email [marypearson@gmail.com](mailto:marypearson@gmail.com)

## 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



## Advent and Reconciliation

As we journey through Advent, we are reminded of the profound importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacred time of preparation for the birth of Christ offers us a unique opportunity to reflect, repent, and seek forgiveness.

Reconciliation during Advent is more than a ritual; it is an invitation to renew our hearts and minds, aligning them closer to God's will. By confessing our sins and receiving absolution, we experience God's mercy, preparing ourselves to welcome Jesus with a pure heart at Christmas.

Let us embrace this chance for spiritual renewal and peace. Confession times are:

**Monday to Friday - 11:15am to 12:15pm**

**Saturday - 8:30am to 9:00am and 5:00pm to 5:30pm**

*May this Advent be a time of grace and renewal for all.*

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

## We pray for our beloved dead...

**Recently Deceased:** Mark Fletcher, Francisca Olay, Maximilian Epondulan, Emile F Khoury

**Deceased:** Tenille Mousalli, Cabezas, Husband's parents & ancestors, Purifacion Sumagui, Raveen, Y.T. Hsu & Deanna Hsu, Anton Sampath, Maria Podwinska

**Anniversaries:** Nelia Stynes, 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.

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

## We also pray for...

**Sick:** 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:** Peachy Romulo, Pedro & Sheila Romulo, James, Anastasia & Sophia Royals, Philip Lysewycz, Lucy, Anita & Jean Claude Perrottet, Ankica, Nikola, Mara & Stephen Senjak, Ruzica Chmielewski, Raveen, 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, Bartolome Cabezas, Amarra Bumaciao, Isabella Suttie, Zoe, Harriet, John, Charles & Ignatius Perrottet, Patrick & Stephen, Katie, Judy, John R Casimiro

## BAPTISMS



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

**Boston Ho, Ellie Calma**

**Julian Tran & Ruairi Langlands**

## WEDDINGS



We also pray for the following couples who were recently married here...

**Karina Ieroianni & Anthony Leo**

**Amanda Robertson & Mitchell Sancandi**

**Esther Egbo & Chibuike Duru**

## 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 04 December*

"We have entered Advent full of hope. We fervently implore the Prince of Peace to bring comfort to our wounded hearts and to nations suffering from wars and crises of every kind, so that all may live a dignified and peaceful life."

## Saint of the Week

**11 December - St Maria Maravillas of Jesus (1891-1974), Religious**

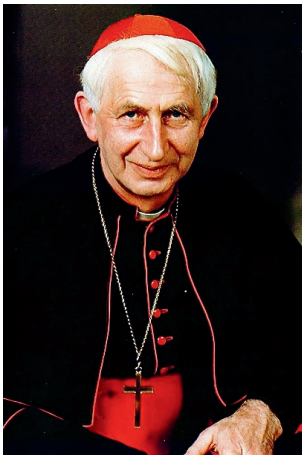
Maria Maravillas was born at Madrid in 1891. She entered the El Escorial Carmel, Madrid on 12th October 1919. In 1924 she was inspired to found a Carmel at Cerro de los Angeles, alongside the monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From this foundation followed nine others in Spain and one in India. She always gave first place to prayer and self-sacrifice. She had a true, passionate zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Even while living a life of poverty in the cloister she helped those who were in need, initiating apostolic, social and charitable works. In a particular way she helped those of her own order, priests, and other religious congregations. She died in the monastery of La Aldehuela, Madrid, on 11th December 1974. She was canonized on 4th May 2003 in Madrid.



Information: Universalis

## “Quote of the Week”

“God is like a lover who loves and whose love is not returned. So he has to wait, and he waits for a change of heart in his beloved. He waits, and he does not force, because to force would be to violate the law of love. He waits until the strength of his love begins to dawn on the one whom he loves and is not yet able to return it...hoping that the beloved will begin to open his eyes and ears to what God has done.



**Cardinal Basil Hume OSB**  
(1923-1999)  
Former Archbishop of Westminster  
*From A Turning to God*

## Did You Know...?

**...that the second candle on the Advent wreath is often referred to as the Bethlehem candle?**

The second candle symbolises faith and invites us to reflect on the faith of Mary and Joseph as they travelled to Bethlehem, not knowing what lay in store in the immediate or more distant future.

Bethlehem means “House of Bread”.



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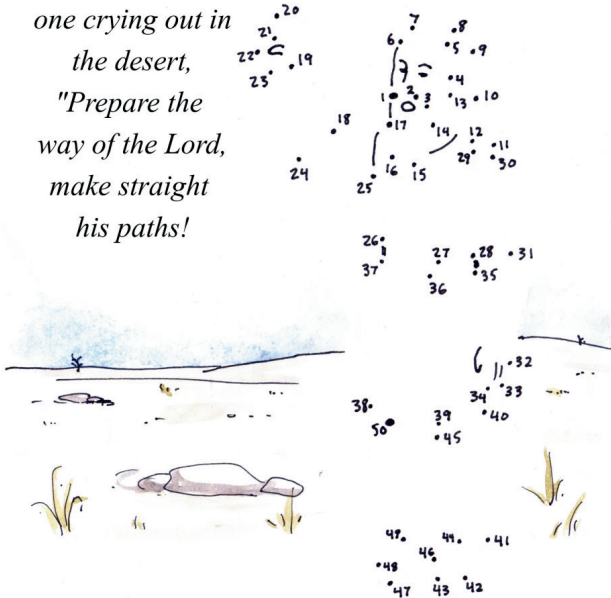




# The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10th, 2023

*I am the voice of  
one crying out in  
the desert,  
"Prepare the  
way of the Lord,  
make straight  
his paths!"*



*What did God send before Jesus to prepare the  
people for His coming?  
Connect the dots to find out!*

## ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND

A Z I O N B O S O M T H  
R T E S O E L M L O R D  
M I G H T H A E R U S J  
S D R E C O M P E N S E  
S I S P I L B S W T F R  
T N A H H D S A A A L U  
R G G E N T L Y R I O S  
E S A R I F E E D N C A  
N S T D C C A R R Y K L  
G O H M J U D A H I N E  
T B E F O R E H I G H M  
H G R U L E S Y O U N G



*Find the words in  
CAPITALS in  
today's first  
reading in the  
puzzle.  
Then use the  
letters that are  
left over to fill in  
the blanks  
at the end!*

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION,  
herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with  
STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good  
TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities  
of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the  
LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm  
RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with  
him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him.  
He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD,  
he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he  
will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY  
LEAD those that are with YOUNG.

## Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass  
remind us that we are preparing  
for the coming of Jesus. The  
first reading says, "A voice  
cries out in the desert, 'Prepare  
the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul,  
in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves  
in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the  
Lord.

In the Gospel reading we  
hear about Saint John the Baptist  
preparing the people for the coming  
of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for  
the coming of Jesus, which we  
remember especially at Christmas?



First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul  
says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should  
make sure that we have repented of all our

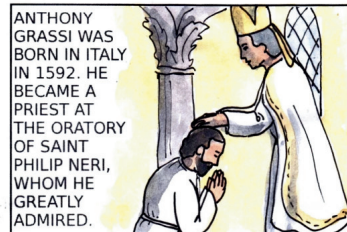


sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught  
the people. Finally, we should tell  
people about Jesus! The first reading  
tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to  
the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"

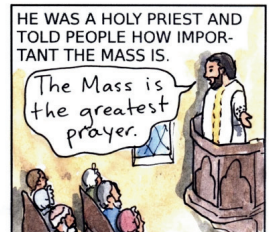
Answers to Isaiah 40 Word Find: The Messiah is coming!  
Answer to front page: Saint John the Baptist.

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

## Blessed Anthony Grassi December 13



ANTHONY GRASSI WAS BORN IN ITALY IN 1592. HE BECAME A PRIEST AT THE ORATORY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI, WHOM HE GREATLY ADMIRE.



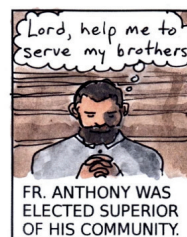
HE WAS A HOLY PRIEST AND TOLD PEOPLE HOW IMPORTANT THE MASS IS.

The Mass is the greatest prayer.



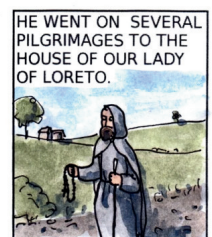
HE HEARD CONFESSIONS FOR MANY HOURS AND HELPED MANY PEOPLE RETURN TO GOD.

I absolve you of your sins.

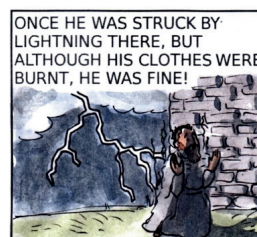


Lord, help me to serve my brothers!

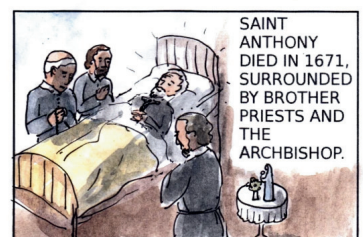
FR. ANTHONY WAS ELECTED SUPERIOR OF HIS COMMUNITY.



HE WENT ON SEVERAL PILGRIMAGES TO THE HOUSE OF OUR LADY OF LORETO.



ONCE HE WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING THERE, BUT ALTHOUGH HIS CLOTHES WERE BURNED, HE WAS FINE!



SAINT ANTHONY DIED IN 1671, SURROUNDED BY BROTHER PRIESTS AND THE ARCHBISHOP.

BLESSED ANTHONY HAD A GREAT DEVOTION TO OUR LADY AND OFTEN VISITED HER SHRINE AT LORETO. DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A STATUE OF OUR LADY THAT YOU CAN PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO? PRAY OFTEN TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER- SHE WILL ALWAYS HELP US GROW CLOSER TO HER SON JESUS.



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