



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

17 December 2023 - Third 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 best version of you...

"IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!" That's what the world tells me. I can be anything I set my mind to be. I can achieve any goal I set. I can be the best version of me. It's in my hands, I just have to take responsibility, set my goals, knuckle down and just do it.

It sounds great, doesn't it? So, why doesn't it actually work? If it was that straightforward lots and lots of people would achieve their goals instead of some tiny percentage.

Well, the main reason is that life is complicated. Everything we try to do comes at a cost of something else, and often these costs only become clear as we pursue our goals – I may have health goals but the time I need to give them eats into my family time or my work time. Other people constantly impact on our ability to achieve our goals and those people often don't cooperate with what we need. I may not even have the inherent ability to achieve what I want – I am flat-footed, so I could set a goal of becoming an Olympic sprinter but even if I trained seven days a week, I'm probably not even going to be able to win a Little Athletics race! So many things impact us that are outside of our control. In fact, it's a wonder that we can achieve anything at all. When we buy into the world's line on this, we actually set ourselves up for failure and disappointment.

What a different worldview this week's scriptures paint. Here we have John the Baptist telling everyone: "It's not about me, it's about someone else, someone who is coming after me, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandal." Isaiah tells us: "Everything I do, and everything I am is because the Lord has given me his spirit. It is him working through me, and I just glorify him!" In today's psalm, Mary tells us: "I am nothing, but God has worked marvels for me." St Paul tells us it is God that will make us holy and perfect. He is the one that will keep us safe and blameless.

So, does that mean we just sit back and do nothing? Do we have no agency, no responsibility? Not at all! There is work to be done, and we do have agency, but we need to recognise the aspects of which we genuinely have control.

First, and most importantly, we must choose to say "Yes" to God's plan; just as Mary did, just as Isaiah did, just as St Paul did. Then we must cooperate with that plan. And in the midst of all this, we give the glory and praise to whom it belongs. Isaiah says: "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God". Mary says: "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour." John the Baptist points to Jesus, and St Paul tells us: "...for all things give thanks to God."

Each and every one of us can truly be the best version of ourselves, but we will never achieve that with our own power. If, on the other hand, we allow God's power to work in us, he will "do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine". Imagine what that version of you could achieve...

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Deacon David



LITURGY GUIDE

Entrance Procession O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - ma - - nu - el,
2. O come, true wis - dom from _____ on high,
3. O come, O come, great Lord _____ of might,
4. O come, de - sire of na - - tions, bind

1. and ran - som cap - tive Is - - ra - el,
2. and or - der all things far _____ and night;
3. in an - cient times on Si - - nai's height
4. in one the hearts of hu - - man kind.

1. that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here,
2. to us the path of know - ledge show,
3. you gave your cho - sen tribes _____ the law,
4. Bid ev - 'ry sad di - vis - ion cease

1. un - til the Son of God _____ ap - pear.
2. and teach us in her ways _____ to go.
3. in cloud and ma - jes - ty _____ and awe.
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 Century, trans. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt.
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 88.88 and refrain; from a 15th century plainchant *Franciscan Processionale* melody adapted by Thomas Helmore 1811-90.

Introit 11:00am

Gaudete in Domino

Phil 4:4-5 Ps.84

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand.
Do not be anxious over anything; but in all manner of prayer, let your requests be made known unto God.
V. Lord, you have blessed your land;
you have put an end to Jacob's captivity.
Glory be...

PENITENTIAL ACT

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

The Cantors: Have mercy on us, O Lord. *The people reply:* For we have sinned a - gainst you.

The Cantors: Show us, O Lord, your mer - cy. *The people:* And grant us your sal - va - tion.

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

'Gaudete' Sunday



Focusing the Gospel

Key words and phrases

- John came as a witness to speak for the light.
- A voice crying in the wilderness.
- There stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me.
- He brings good news to the poor, binds up hearts that are broken; proclaims liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison.
- My soul rejoices in my God

to the point

John's mission was to testify to the light - Christ's presence among them. The light of Christ's presence shines 'to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken.' (first reading). When we witness these works we recognise Christ's presence among us. When we do these works we make Christ present among us.

Connecting the Gospel

• to Advent

The first two Sundays of Advent primarily focus on the second coming of Christ. On this third Sunday of Advent the focus is clearly on Christ already among us. Do we recognise him? Do we make him present? What is the Good news we bring to others? What broken hearts have we bound up?

• to Culture

There is a tendency today to separate the religious and social spheres. We identify religious works as simply works of piety. Both Isaiah and the entire life and mission of Jesus reveal that social concern is the work of God.

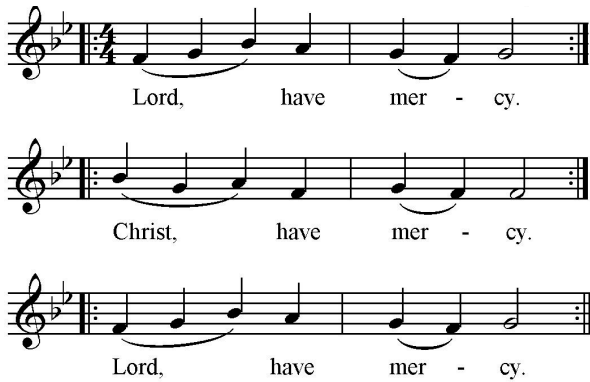
LITURGY GUIDE

Kyrie

Jubilee Mass

P. Jones

The cantor intones then all repeat



Music: Jubilee Mass of Pope Paul VI - Rev. Percy Jones, 1914-1992
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Kyrie 11:00am

Mass for 5 Voices

W. Byrd

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

(61:1-2, 10-11)

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1: 46-54



Second Reading

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (5:16-24)

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Twynham

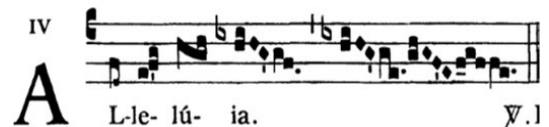
The cantor, alone, intones the Alleluia. All repeat



Cantor: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. R.

Gospel Acclamation 11:00am

Chant Mode IV



Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (1:6-8,19-28)

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

To donate via credit card, please use the
QR code shown here.



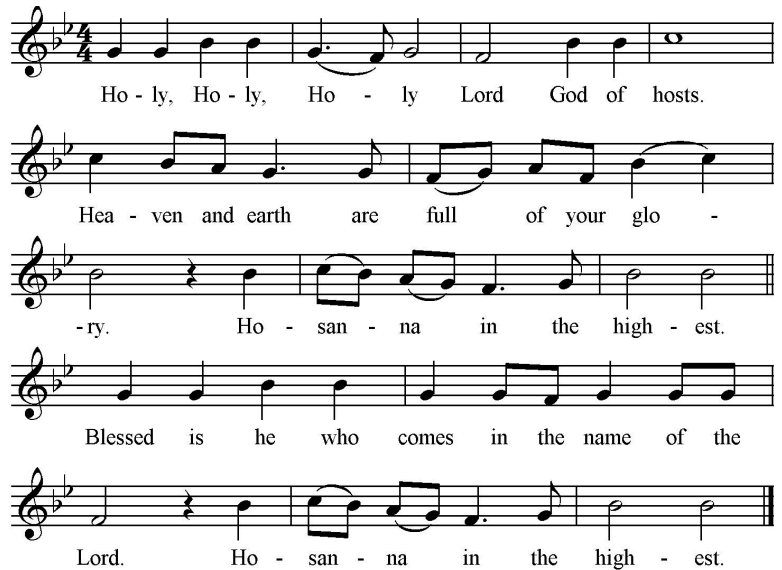
Offertory Motet 11:00am

This is the Record of John O.Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and
Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an
answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Sanctus (Holy, Holy): Jubilee Mass

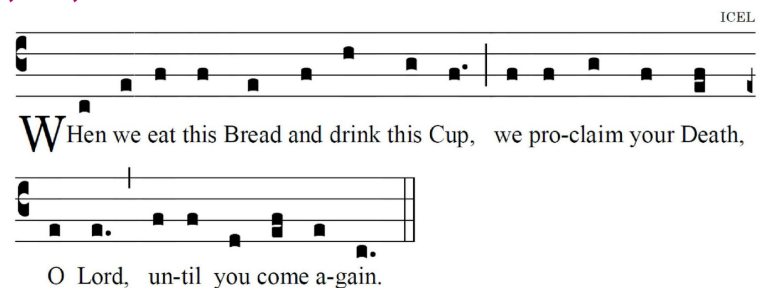
P. Jones



Text: from the Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL.
Music: Jubilee Mass of Pope Paul VI - Rev. Percy Jones, 1914-1992, alt. © Allans Music (Aust.) Pty Ltd.

Mystery of Faith

Missal Tone



Amen

Jubilee Mass

P. Jones



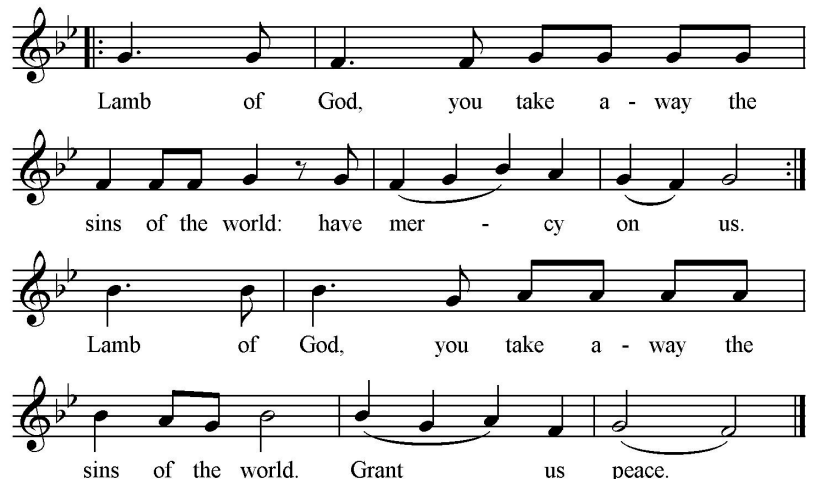
COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei

Jubilee Mass

P. Jones



Music: Jubilee Mass of Pope Paul VI - Rev. Percy Jones, 1914-1992
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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Agnus Dei - 11:00am Mass No. 2 in G Major I. Reimann

Communion Antiphon

11:00am Dicite pusillanimes Isaiah 35:4

Dicite pusillanimes: Confortamini, et nolite timere:
Ecce Deus noster veniet, et salvabit nos.

*Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us*

Communion Hymn When the King Shall Come Again

1. When the King shall come a - gain, all his pow'r re -
2. In the de - sert trees take root, fresh from God's cre -
3. Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts be
4. There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing

1. veal - ing; splen - dour shall an - nounce his reign,
2. a - tion; plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit
3. cheer - ful! God, who comes for such as these
4. li - on, noth - ing e - vil or un - clean

1. life and joy and heal - ing: earth no
2. join the ce - le - bra - tion, ri - vers
3. seeks and saves the fear - ful. Deaf ears
4. walks the road to Zi - on: ran - somed

1. long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus -
2. spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a -
3. hear, the si - lent tongues sing a - way their
4. peo - ple home - ward bound all your prais - es

1. trat - ed; this is God's re - demp - tion day
2. dorn - ing. Val - leys, this is your new birth;
3. weep - ing; blind eyes, see the life - less ones
4. voic - ing, see your Lord with glo - ry crowned,

1. long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
2. moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
3. walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.
4. share in his re - joic - ing!

Text: Isaiah 35; Christopher Idle, b.1938; © 1982 The Jubilate Group (Admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).
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Tune: AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM 76.76 D; Melody from J.Horn's *Gesangbuch*, 1554.
This version from Johann Leisentritt's *Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum*, 1584

Next Week's Readings:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings:

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16: The kingdom of David will be established for ever
in the sight of the Lord.

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29: R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Rom 16:25-27: The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Lk 1:26-38: You will conceive and bear a son.



8:00am Mass Propers

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. R.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. R.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. R.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

THE BULLETIN

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Deacon

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Priest in Residence

Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen
Vietnamese Community Chaplain

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Youth Coordinator: Parish Team
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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!

Advent Carols - Thank You!



We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to last week's Advent Carol Festival.

Thank you to the two choirs that led the carols singing. The harmonious voices of the Cathedral Choir and the angelic singing of the St. Patrick's Primary Choir, under the guidance of their music teacher and the SRE Coordinator, Mrs. Franca Bonserio, were truly a wonderful addition to the festival.

Your dedication and talent brought the spirit of Advent to life within our cathedral walls. The music was not just heard, but deeply felt by all who attended.

We also wish to thank our readers and the dedicated individuals who worked behind the scenes to decorate the church, creating a fittingly festive and reflective atmosphere for Advent.

Your collective efforts have made this year's Advent Carol Festival a memorable and spiritually uplifting experience for our community.

Thank you too to all those who cooked and helped serve food after the carols. Your contribution never goes unnoticed. It is much appreciated.

Seniors' Ministry

Many thanks to all who attended our Christmas luncheon last Wednesday. Your presence and fellowship made the event truly special. A special acknowledgment goes to the Cathedral staff for their organisation and dedication in making the day a success.

This year has been remarkable for our Seniors' Ministry, filled with moments of joy, growth, and community. We look forward to the coming year with much anticipation for the opportunities and experiences that await us.

Thank you once again for your continued support and participation. We are excited to see what the next year holds for our vibrant community!



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**.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve

The Fourth Sunday of Advent next Sunday 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 Masses on the morning of Sunday 24 December.

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's 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!



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 will open from Tuesday 18 December to Sunday 24 December next week. This is 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.

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.

Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Advent and Christmas Summer 2023 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition features reflections on Mary's journey into the dark night, how our communities celebrate Christmas, our four new leaders in the Diocese, a handy Christmas Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Red Mass - 2024

The annual Red Mass to commemorate the commencement of the law 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

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.

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!



R.I.P - 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 44 litres would be a good size. Give Pat or Donna a call. Thanks!



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: 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...

Joy Al-Banaa

Aviah Dela Cruz & Sienna Steven

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 13 December*

"Jesus says to every believer and to his Church: be open because the Gospel message needs you to witness to it and proclaim it! Church, be open to the breath of the Holy Spirit who pushes you to be missionary, to evangelise!"

Saint of the Week

21 December - St Peter Canisius (1521-1597), Priest, Doctor

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



Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“Seeking God in all things is an ongoing practice. It requires desire. It requires attentiveness. But because God’s constant desire is to show himself to us, the presumption is that God can indeed be found if we do seek. God can be encountered not only in spiritual, religious and “churchy” experiences but also in all kinds of other ways, including the most mundane and when things are kind of a mess.”



Christopher Collins SJ
From *Moments of the Day* (2014)

Did You Know...?

...that the third candle to be lit on the Advent wreath is often referred to as the Shepherds’ Candle?

The third rose-coloured candle symbolises joy and invites us to reflect on the intense happiness and joy which comes with the birth of the Saviour into the world. We ponder too the joy we feel at the presence of Christ as he enters our lives each day.



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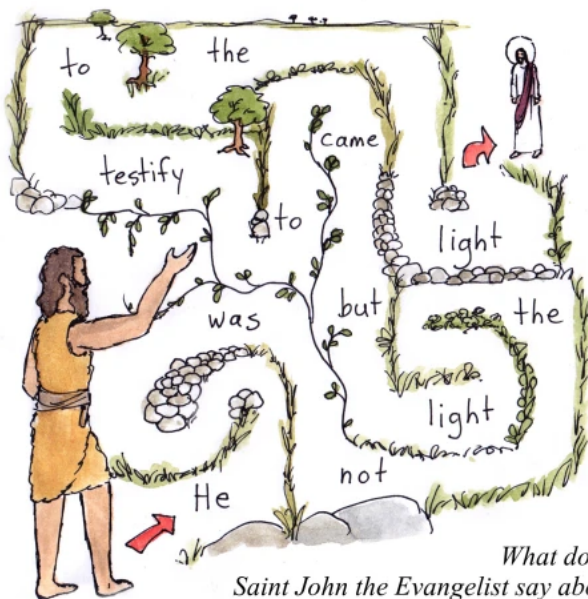
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The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17th, 2023



What does
Saint John the Evangelist say about
Saint John the Baptist at the beginning of the Gospel?
Read the words you pass as you go through the maze.

Was the priest who offered Mass today wearing pink vestments? The colour pink, or rose, is a sign of joy. We use it for the third Sunday of Advent because we are happy that we're half-way to Christmas! If you have an Advent wreath, it's time to light the pink candle!



The Messenger of Peace Word-find

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

See if you can
find the words in
CAPITALS from
today's first
reading in the
puzzle. Use the
left-over letters to
fill in the blanks in
the reading.

The SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has ANOINTED me;
he has SENT me to bring GLAD TIDINGS to
the POOR, to heal
the _____,
to PROCLAIM LIBERTY to CAPTIVES



and RELEASE to the
PRISONERS,
to ANNOUNCE a YEAR
of FAVOUR from the Lord
and a day of
VINDICATION
by our GOD.

Who Will Lead You to God?



Today's Gospel reading tells us
about Saint John the Baptist, who
prepared the people for the coming
of Jesus. At first people thought that
he might be the saviour they were
all waiting for, but he was very clear
when he told them that he wasn't - there was one
coming after him Who would be
the truly great One.

Sometimes we hear about great or
important people. We know about
movie stars and singers and govern-
ment leaders. Who are some
important people you know of?



Do those people that you've thought about help to
bring you closer to God? Do they teach you well and
give good example? Or do they lead
people away from God by doing wrong
things or making fun of God's truth?



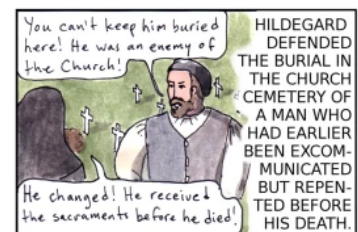
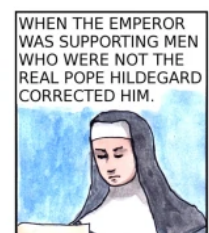
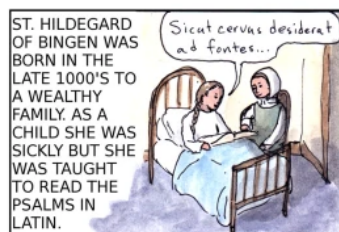
We can know which
people are really
great by thinking
about whether they lead us
closer to God, like Saint John
the Baptist did, or further away
from Him. Which sort of
people do you want to follow?



Answer to Word-find: brokenhearted.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN December 17



SAINT HILDEGARD KNEW A LOT ABOUT GOD FROM HER VISIONS BUT SHE WASN'T PROUD. INSTEAD SHE USED HER KNOWLEDGE AND GIFTS TO BRING PEOPLE CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH MUSIC AND SCIENCE. DID YOU KNOW THAT LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S CREATION CAN HELP YOU TO KNOW HIM BETTER TOO?

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