

# **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 OFMConv DD

## 15 December 2024 - Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

# **Mass Schedule**

#### WEEKEND

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

Monday6:30pm - Legion of MaryTuesday9:30am - Christian MeditationTuesday7:30pm - RCIA (Sept - April)Friday1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

#### MONTHLY PRAYER

First Friday Devotions: 7:00pm in Chapel True Life in God: Last Friday (2) 6:00pm in the Cloister Cafe

#### OTHER GROUPS

Playgroup: Wednesdays 10:00am - 11:30am Facebook: Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

#### **Credo Youth Ministries**

Contact the office or find information on Facebook: credo.stpats Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au





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## The absolute best Christmas gift

CAN WE ALL JUST TAKE A BREATH.... The Christmas rush has already pushed its way into our lives; the car parks are filling up, as are the shopping trolleys; the plans are being worked out and the lists are starting to get made and ticked off. Christmas builds up speed and momentum and if we are not careful, we will close our eyes and open them only to find it's Christmas Day and we are knee deep in used wrapping paper, wondering: "Was that it?"



Thank goodness our Church has given us the season of Advent, a period of preparing, and not for preparing our house, and our pantries, and our fridges, but for

preparing our hearts and our lives, for the coming of Christ. The momentum of the world, and the theme of this season are in tremendous tension with each other - the world drawing us into a sprint of activity and the Church calling us to stop and reflect. The pull of the world is very strong so if we are to honour this season, we must be very deliberate and intentional. So, please, let's take a breath and ponder what the Church is putting in front of us.

There are four Sundays in Advent, and this Sunday (the third) is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete (pronounced Gow-day-tay) means "rejoice". This Sunday we are called to be joyful because "the Lord is near". He is "in our midst". How amazingly blessed are we! God Himself is so close to us. He is with us. He has come to save us. He hears and answers our prayers. No matter what our circumstances, we do not need to fear. No matter how weak we are, He is our strength. When we reflect on this, I mean really reflect, in our hearts, the most natural response in the world is "joy".

It is good for us to distinguish between joy and happiness, they are not the same. Happiness is the response to an external influence, whereas joy is an internal state of being. Happiness will occur if the "thing" happens or if I get the "thing", and once I get that "thing", happiness passes. It is temporary and it's mostly not in our control. Joy, on the other hand, because it's an internal state of being, is not dictated by external influences. It is there, within us, just waiting. God is with us, in us. All we have to do is stop and reflect on just how blessed we are to have a God that loves us so intimately and personally, and is with us in a very real way, and peace and joy can be ours.

Today let us take some time to claim the gifts of peace and joy that God's presence offers us. These will be the best gifts we will get this Christmas. These are gifts that never stop giving. Gifts we can bring with us wherever we go and into whatever situations we might find ourselves in. They are like a deep well that we can draw on, a well that stretches to eternity.

The rush and bustle of Christmas is inevitable but if we are deliberate, we can navigate whatever we need to do, whatever situation we have to face, without losing our sense of God, our peace and our joy. Just remember to take a breath...

Wishing you a blessed Advent season, Deacon David

# THE BULLETIN

## STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Dean and Administrator Very Rev Robert Riedling EV 8839 8420 - dean@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Priest Rev Tom Green 8839 8423 - assistantpriest@stpatscathedral.com.au

Deacon Rev Mr David Dowling 8839 8415 - deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Priests in Residence** Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen Rev Fr Chinonye Akamadu

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

Receptionist: Donna Missio (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri) 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri) 8839 8412 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Cathedral Parish Manager:** Mili Lee (Mon-Thu) 8839 8419 or manager@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team 8839 8400 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Director of Music:** Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS 8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Director of Music: Eric Grella 8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Organist: Patrick Newman 8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan: Fr Tom Green 8839 8400 or assistantpriest@stpatscathedral.com.au

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 after the 11:00am Solemn Mass. 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 **12:00 noon on Wednesday.** Please note that material must relate to the parish and its mission. Don't forget that businesses can advertise on the rear page of the bulletin too!



# CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### Tuesday, 24 December - Christmas Eve

6:00pm - Vigil (Family Mass) 9:00pm - Vigil

#### **Midnight Mass**

 Starts at 11:30pm with Carols Service and Readings
12:00 midnight - Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir

#### Wednesday, 25 December - Christmas Day

8:00am 9:30am 11:00am

(Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir)

6:00pm

# **Giftshop Christmas Sale**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, why not bring the true meaning of Christmas into your home or share it with loved ones through a beautiful Nativity set? A Nativity set serves as a powerful reminder of the holy night when Jesus was born - a moment of hope, love, and peace that changed the world forever. Why not buy a Nativity set for your home or to gift someone special this Christmas?

This week our giftshop is offering:

- 20% off all Nativity sets
- 15% off all other Christmas gifts
- 20% off T-shirts and jumpers
- 25% off various clearance items

Come in and check out these specials!



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# Jubilee 2025 - A Word of Hope

The Jubilee Year 2025 invites us to journey as Pilgrims of Hope, drawing inspiration from Saint Paul's words:

"Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." (Rom 5:5)

This hope, born of God's infinite love, sustains us through life's joys and trials.

Saint Paul reminds us that Christian hope is not fleeting or fragile. It is deeply rooted in the love of Jesus, who reconciled us to God through his death and resurrection. This hope becomes a living flame within us, a light that the Holy Spirit keeps burning to guide us through life's challenges. As Saint Paul assures us: nothing - neither hardship, nor suffering, nor even death - can separate us from the love of God in Christ (cf. Rom 8:38-39).

Though life may test our faith, patience, and endurance, hope strengthens us to persevere. Saint Paul teaches that even in suffering, we find a path to deeper character and unshakable hope (cf. Rom 5:3-4). In our fast-paced world, marked by impatience and anxiety, the Jubilee invites us to rediscover the gift of patience. Patience, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, helps us trust in God's timing and see God's hand at work in all creation.

As we embark on this Holy Year, let us pray for the grace to live as true pilgrims - anchored in hope, inspired by God's love, and open to the Spirit's guidance. Together, may we radiate the light of Christ to a world in need of his enduring peace.

**Bishop Vincent** also notes the following for the information of the faithful throughout the Diocese of Parramatta:

"In our Diocese of Parramatta, I invite all to participate in the many events that will be taking place. In particular, I invite everybody to take a personal or small group pilgrimage to one or all three of our pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
- Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa
- The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville

A Jubilee Indulgence is granted to those who make a Jubilee pilgrimage during the year. For those who cannot make a jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances, you are invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of your daily lives, and participating in reconciliation, prayer, and the Eucharistic celebration."

# **PARISH NOTICES**

## Parish Pastoral Council update

We shared an end-of-year meal at our recent meeting and began examining how current parish activities - and there are many relate to the Diocesan plan and our own Vision and Mission statement.

We tried to identify gaps in what we do and ways to strengthen our current commitments to inclusive pastoral care, social justice reaching to the margins, and the influence of the Cathedral parish on local civic culture.

Preparations for an Alpha pilot program continue, and we are planning to improve the effectiveness our social media channels.

Thank you for your prayerful support since we started mid-year and we look forward to really hitting our stride in 2025.

Kerry Giumelli (Chair), Claire Pospischil (Deputy Chair), Aileen Bernardo, Martin Graham (Secretary), Susanna Loto'aniu, Helena Roumanus, Anne Stanton, John Starkey, with (ex officio) Fr Robert, Fr Tom, Dcn Dave and Mili Lee.

Email: ppc@stpatscathedral.com.au.

## A timely reminder...

First, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parishioners who consistently show respect for our cathedral and chapel.

As we approach the festive season, the atmosphere may feel more relaxed, due primarily to the warmer weather.

However, it's important to remember that we are still in a place of worship, and a certain level of respect should be upheld regarding our attire. This is especially important if you hold a liturgical role.

Additionally, food (unless for medical reasons), coffee, and other drinks (except for water) should not be consumed during Mass, including gum. Typically, we are in church for one hour, and it's beneficial to set a positive example for the children in our midst.

# **Bishop's Christmas Appeal**

Recently, our Parish was proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your generosity will enable Catholic Care's Houses to Homes to support homeless mothers and children with a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives.



Envelopes are still available from church or you may wish to use the QR code provided, via the Cathedral App or at the parish website https://stpatscathedral.com.au/donation/ by selecting 'Donate' and choosing the fund 'Bishop's Christmas Appeal.

Thank you for your support!



## Volunteer for Christmas Lunch!

A group of parishioners from Saint Patrick's Cathedral Parish will be hosting a marquee at the Parramatta Mission Christmas Lunch, in the carpark of Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, on Friday 20 December. Eight hundred lunches will be served to families with children, refugees, and homeless and disadvantaged people - our neighbours. There will be live music, fun activities, a festive atmosphere. Saint Patrick's will also be responsible for the children's face painting.

Volunteers will be needed between 9:30am and 3:00pm, either for the whole day or part. It will be a safe, well-managed event, and an opportunity to provide Christian hospitality and fellowship to our sisters and brothers.

What a wonderful opportunity to capture the true spirit of Christmas!

Call or text Adam on 0476 064 973, or email deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au

# Sound system update

In a recent bulletin, I mentioned that once I had some news about the upgrade to the Cathedral sound system, I would report back to you. I am happy to say that I now have an update.

Throughout the January holiday time, works will take place in the Cathedral to replace much of the hardware that makes up the sound system in the Cathedral. Though some improvements have been made to the current system, it is evident that because of the system's age, it is deteriorating and new hardware and software needs to be installed.

The Diocese is generously funding this project with an expected cost of over \$500,000. There will undoubtedly be some inconveniences whilst the system is being installed, but as January is a quieter time of year, it is hoped that any disruptions will have a minimal impact on our Masses and other activities here.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to improve our beautiful Cathedral to ensure that we are best placed to carry out our mission as a baptised and united people! *Fr Robert* 

# SOUL HEALING COUNSELLING SERVICES

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# **PARISH NOTICES**

## Advent Reflection Groups: Join us this week!

Advent is a sacred season of preparation - a time to quiet our hearts, reflect on God's promises, and prepare to welcome Christ into our lives anew. As we journey toward Christmas, Advent invites us to deepen our faith, embrace hope, and rediscover the joy of God's presence in our everyday lives.

Last week, we had wonderful reflections with parishioners who joined our online session on Monday evening, led by Fr Tom, and with those who gathered for the in-person session on Wednesday morning, also led by Fr Tom. The discussions were meaningful, and the shared prayer was uplifting as we journeyed together toward the Lord's coming.

If you haven't joined yet, it's not too late! We warmly invite you to participate in this week's Advent Reflection Groups:

- Monday, 16 December at 8:00pm via Zoom (online session)
- Wednesday, 18 December at 10:30am in the parish meeting room (in-person session)

The Zoom link for the Monday evening session is available on the Parish App, the Cathedral website, and the Cathedral Facebook page.

These groups provide a wonderful opportunity to pause amidst the busyness of life, connect with others in faith, and prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. Whether you are new to faith or have been on the journey for years, these sessions are for everyone.

To register or find out more, contact the parish office. Let us continue to embrace this holy season and prepare our hearts to receive Christ with joy! We look forward to seeing you there.

# Andy's Christmas Lights for the... Kids with Cancer foundation

### 01 - 31 December 45 Grassmere Ave, Northmead

Join Andy & Carmen in spreading joy and making a difference this Christmas season. Visit their magical Christmas lights display and support the Kids with Cancer Foundation by purchasing a raffle ticket or making a donation. Every ticket you buy goes directly to helping families with children facing cancer and you'll get a chance to be in the draw with incredible prizes.

# Volunteers required - Monday 23 December

On this day, we are making our cathedral ready for the Christmas services.

It is a wonderful tradition and it is a privilege to be a part of preparing our cathedral for ourselves and visitors for the Christmas celebrations.

If you would like to be a part of this, we are meeting **after the** 12:30pm Mass on Monday 23 December in the cathedral.



# LAST CHANCE TO DONATE! Items needed by this Sunday, 15 December



We welcome your donations:

**Festive Food Items:** Small Christmas puddings, mince pies, longlife 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, breakfast cereals, fruit drinks, dry foods, and other essentials that can sustain families over the holidays.

**Toiletries & 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 adjacent to the stable in the chapel.

Raffle drawn 31 December.

# Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...

- Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person;
- Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

# We pray for...

### **RCIA team and enquirers**

Sick: Bernardo Dado, Monica, Sam Galea, A J Thomas, Apo Policarpio, Michael Lilley, Fred Harb, Shirley, Patrick Slatter, Felicitas Appathurai, William Lelyveld, Martina Galea, Chris Doughty, Antoinette Bourchdan, Ramza Ibrahim, Frank Davino, Fr Bob Bossini, Fatima Rodricks, Ray Love, Vicky Chow Wing Ki, Nasr Nasr, Sharon Webb, Mark Slee

**Special Intentions:** Fr Kevin Walsh, Tian, Abel Renjith, Melanie Magpayo, Nikola Senjak, Stephen Senjak, Ankica Senjak, Mara Seniak & family, Zavne Bumactao, Amarra Bumactao, Viva Velasco, Katrina Dela Cruz Velasco, Cherie, Pancho, Victor, Justin, Leo, Levi, Jasmine, Garth, Leonardo Close, Michael Perez, Mary Tito, Franz Tito, Carmelita Perez, Servia, Agnes Patacsil, Naleen, Tian & Raveen, Allwyn & Jasmine, Bartolome Cabezas Sr, Sr Tian, Miguel Custodio, Senjak family, Paul Peters

Deceased: R L Samy, Lance Hart, Charlotte O'Brien, Maria Csseli, Lucy D'Mello, Miguel Custodio

Anniversaries: Boulos & Jamel Saba, Robert Dearie, Boulos & Jamel Saba, Adelina Fernandes, Frank Maccarone, Rustica LaRosa, Marian G Ermac, Leela Cyprian, Joseph Fung, Juan Manongdo, Anita Pajarillo, Pauline & Benigno, Jose Ramirez

Perpetuals: Wendy A Smith, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Paul Mahoney, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter & Annette Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, 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

# **BAPTISMS** POPE FRANCIS' We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the **Prayer Intention** following children who were recently baptised here ... for December **Carabella Jones Dahlia Wong** WEDDINGS 🔗 We also pray for the following couple recently married here... Emma Awad & Jason Haddad



# For pilgrims of hope

"We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

From Pope Francis...

Bluesky post dated 09 December

"Many wars, driven by insatiable greed for raw materials and money, fuel a weaponised economy that thrives on instability and corruption. What a scandal and hypocrisy: people are killed while the commerce that causes this violence and death continues to flourish!"

# Saint of the Week 21 December - St Peter Canisius (1521-1597), Priest, Doctor

Peter 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"

"A great throng awaits us there [in paradise] of those dear to us, parents, brothers, sons. A packed and numerous throng longs for us, of those already free from anxiety for their own salvation, who are still concerned for our salvation. What joy they share with us whe nwe come int otheir sight and embrace them! What pleasure there is there in the heavenly kingdom, with no fear of death, and what supreme happiness with the enjoyment of eternal life."



St Cyprian of Carthage (c.210 - 258) Bishop & Martyr Sermon on Mortality

# Did You Know ...?

# ...that the word "Gaudete" means "Rejoice" and is the first word (in Latin) of the entrance antiphon for this, the Third Sunday of Advent?

As mentioned last week, this Sunday affords us the opportunity to temporarily refocus during this Advent season in anticipation of the joy we will experience on the upcoming feast of the Nativity. Rejoice!









OPENING TUESDAY TO SUNDAY - 9 HOURS MONDAY &

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

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

With no recurring government financial assistance, this free legal service relies on your generous support.

www.tlc.asn.au

# HEMIST WAREHOUSE

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