



**ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL**
PARRAMATTA

07 December 2025 - Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

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

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS

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)
5:00pm Reconciliation (till 5:30pm)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8:00am Mass (No Adoration or Confessions)

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Monday 6:30pm - Legion of Mary
Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation
Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (Sept - April)
Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUPS

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

OTHER GROUPS

Playgroup: Currently in recess

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

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

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery:

stpatscemeterynp.com



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“Repent, for the kingdom of God is close at hand.”

Advent is from the Latin word “advenire” or “adventus,” which means to come or coming. Advent thus refers to the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This coming could be seen in three different phases.

The first coming refers to the mystery of the incarnation, when the Word took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. In this coming, Jesus came to redeem the fallen human race. There's a second coming, which is called the “parousia”. It refers to the return of Jesus Christ during which he would gather his elect, those who are waiting for his appearance. In between these two comings, however, there's an intermittent coming of Jesus in the daily lives and events of people. What is expected in this coming is awareness and attention to the presence of Jesus among us for He is Emmanuel, God with us.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we're challenged to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. How are we to prepare? It is good to tidy up our living spaces and houses of worship, to decorate and beautify everywhere in the spirit of festivities. All these must be done without neglecting the most essential, namely the tidying up of our hearts to welcome Jesus Christ. This is because Jesus is the reason for the season.

The prophet Isaiah tells us in the First Reading that God does not judge by appearances and gives no verdict by hearsay. This means that what matters most is a life of holiness and integrity. It is not sufficient to cleanse everywhere except our hearts. This would be tantamount to a whitewashed tomb that's full of bones and dirt.

Paul asserts in the Second Reading that it is to God's glory for us to treat each other in a friendly manner as Jesus has treated us. We must therefore be there for one another, bearing one another's burdens with love. It is in the nature of human beings to be selfish and self-centred. It is only by the grace of regeneration obtained through the blood of Jesus Christ that we're able to transform into selfless persons looking out always for the good of others (Phil 2:2-11).

This conversion is the message of the gospel passage today. John invites everyone to embrace the path of “metanoia”, that is, repentance, in order to be ready for the kingdom so described in the First Reading. Nobody is excluded from this clarion call, which requires an inward transformation (Rom 12:1-2). We should not be complacent and lethargic about the need for conversion. This is because none of us is perfect. Therefore, there's always the need to continue improving on the quality of our Christian life.

The Advent Season this year is a great opportunity for us to make amends where necessary so that Jesus would find a fitting dwelling place at Christmas. We should also seize this opportunity to reach out to the less privileged among us so as to enable them to have a glimpse of the good news occasioned by the birth of Jesus. Let our love not be only on the lips, but let it go out in good works to others (James 2:14ff).

“O, that today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.”

Wishing you a blessed Advent season,

Fr Vincent



THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Dean and Administrator

Very Rev Robert Riedling EV
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Assistant Priest

Rev Andrew Rooney
8839 8423 - assistantpriest@stpatcathedral.com.au

Assistant Priest

Rev Dr Vincent Ojo
8839 8400

Deacon

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

Priest in Residence

Rev Dr Philip Alesin

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

Parish Coordinator: Pascarl El-Hage (Mon - Fri)
8839 8419 or coordinator@stpatcathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Donna Missio (Mon, Wed, Fri)
8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatcathedral.com.au

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team
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Director of Music: Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS HonFGCM
8839 8400 or music@stpatcathedral.com.au

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Assistant Organist: Patrick Newman
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Liturgy Coordinator: Jorel Mateo
8839 8400 or liturgy@stpatcathedral.com.au

Youth Coordinator: Fr Tom Green
8839 8400 or credo@stpatcathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Contact Parish Office
8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatcathedral.com.au

Sacraments

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass, at around 12:45pm. 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 Secretaries.

Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatcathedral.com.au

Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretaries, Pat or Donna, by **12:00 noon on Thursday**.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us...

May we take this opportunity to thank our very generous parishioners who recently donated to the Bishop's Appeal.

If you missed the opportunity, it's not too late. Just scan the QR code and you will be directed to the appeal.

In anticipation, thank you!

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."
(Matthew 5:4)



Vinnies' Christmas Food Bank Drive

The St Vincent de Paul Society is once again 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, 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.

It may seem early but we need all donations by **15 December**. This allows for packing and distribution to people's homes before Christmas.

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 as of this weekend.



THE BULLETIN

Christmas

Mass Times

Wednesday, 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

Thursday, 25 December - Christmas Day

8:00am

9:30am

11:00am

(Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir)

6:00pm



Advent Reflections with Fr Robert

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent, parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Robert for a series of Advent reflections held on **Wednesday** evenings via Zoom, beginning 26 November.

Each week, Fr Robert will lead us in prayer and reflection on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, helping us enter more deeply into the meaning and message of Advent.

 Dates: Each Wednesday, 26 November - 17 December

 Time: 8:00pm - 9:00pm

 Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653795537?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653795537?pwd=eaxWjssuj1mFGExlBuXfW9EhEdNiDR.1)

[pwd=eaxWjssuj1mFGExlBuXfW9EhEdNiDR.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653795537?pwd=eaxWjssuj1mFGExlBuXfW9EhEdNiDR.1)

Meeting ID: 876 5379 5537 Passcode: 805489

Take a quiet pause in your week and journey together with our parish community in hope and anticipation of Christmas.



Seniors' Christmas Lunch

The final event for our Seniors' Ministry this year will be the Seniors' Christmas Lunch.

Date: Wednesday, 10 December

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Cloister Function Room

Entry: \$15.00 (on the day).

RSVP by Monday **08 December**.

Volunteer at Parramatta Mission Christmas Lunch

For the second year, the parish will be participating in the Parramatta Mission Christmas lunch, on **Friday 19 December**, 9:00am-2:00pm. Last year, 1100 meals were served to families, children and members of our community who would otherwise not have a Christmas. Parishioners will be working together in our own section, providing hospitality and fellowship to our sisters and brothers. If interested, please call or text 0476 064 973.

Baulkham Hills Christmas Day Lunch

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on **Thursday 25 December** in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.



Last day of business: **24 December**
Reopening: **Wednesday, 07 January**



We thank you for your support throughout the year and wish all our customers a holy, joyful, and blessed Christmas.

PARISH NOTICES

St Pat's Matters

The next issue is taking shape but we need more from you! If you've agreed to write already, please send it in. If some event or experience related to the parish or your faith has touched you recently, please share it. Send inquiries or contributions to stpatsmatters@stpatscathedral.com.au
Martin Graham

Return and Earn Cage

Support our parish by donating your eligible cans, plastic bottles, and glass containers. Place them in the Return & Earn collection cage located outside the Cloister Cafe, and all proceeds will help fund parish initiatives. Thank you for your support.



Mobile phones

A polite request for people to switch to silent, or switch off, their mobile phones and other devices when at the cathedral, be it at Mass, for prayer, or any other purpose. Thank you for your cooperation.

Updating Your Credit Card Details for Planned Giving

To update your credit card details, please follow these steps:

- Visit the [St Pat's website](#).
- Click Donate, then click Donate again. You will be redirected to the Pushpay website.
- Select the person icon with the padlock and log in using your mobile number.
- Once logged in, you can update your details by clicking on "Payment Methods" and then select the card details to update/change.

If you need help at any stage, please contact the parish office or coordinator for assistance where you can get a detailed "how to guide".

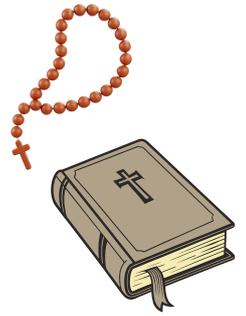
Stay connected with our Parish

Don't forget to download the St Pat's Parish App to receive the latest news, event updates, Mass times, and more - right at your fingertips. If you need help, please contact the parish office.



Rosaries and Bibles needed

Lilian Wells Aged Care Facility in North Parramatta, visited regularly by the Cathedral clergy, is in need of some used rosaries and bibles for some Catholic residents. If you have some used (but usable!) rosaries and/or bibles at home that are unneeded, please drop them off to Fr Robert at the office.

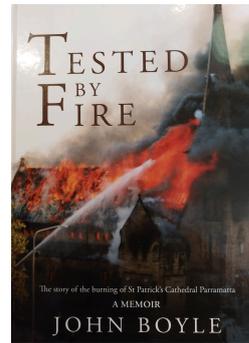


Mass times over Christmas & New Year

On the previous page of the bulletin you will find Mass times for Christmas Day. Please take a photo for your information.

As usual, there will be restricted Mass times and office hours between Christmas Day and the first week of January. Mass will still be offered daily and the Cathedral chapel will be open each weekday from the time of the first Mass (8:00am) until 6:00pm. There will be a security guard on site to ensure that at this quieter time of year our faithful and the buildings are kept safe!

Check the bulletin over the coming couple of weeks for more details about the Christmas/New Year operations of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.



"Tested by Fire"

Monsignor John Boyle, former Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, and well known to many of you, was at the Cathedral last weekend to sign and sell copies of his recent book, "Tested by Fire", launched recently here on 31 October. The book tells the story of events surrounding the fire that burnt the cathedral down in February 1996.

Copies of this hardcover book can be purchased from St Patrick's Giftshop for \$60.00. The book is a mixture of fascinating narrative and excellent photos. A great Christmas gift for yourself and those you love!

Need Help with the Parish App?

Having difficulties with the parish app? Please contact our coordinator, who will be glad to guide you through any issues. coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au

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...

Sick: Valentyna, Elias Safadi, Hamish Perreira, Fr Michael Attard, Mary Nissan, Nadia Nissan, Nabil Makdessi, Ghalie Koura, Tom L, Jacqueline Laguidao, Silvana Rechichi, Patrick Condon, Vincent Chan, Hamish J Pereira

Special Intentions: Duy Xhang Hoang, Raveen, Naleen, Tian, Shannen Mendoza, Legion of Mary Officers, Peachy Romulo, Melanie, Magpayo, Victims of Typhoon in the Philippines, Gladys Uy, John & Aida, Freeda, Ani, Nikh, Anna & Pringles, Hilda & Gaulbert Pais, Elijah, Ryan & Ethan Walter, Y S Hsu, John & Aida, Zayne Bumactao, Averil Sampey

Anniversaries: Eddie Lai, Hans Bucher & parents, Honorato & Wilhemina Dela Cruz, Maria Lelyveld, Warlito Arciaga, Divine Grace Marigomen, Pedro Obar Morales, Edward Muller, Juan Montesco, Maximena Manlangit, Johannes Lelyveld, Frank Maccarone, Rodney Jayatilaka, Dora Kirk, Joseph Fung, Gabriel Muniandi, Jose Ramirez, Anacorita

Recently Deceased: Peter Lewin, Paul Peters, Se Christeia Uy, Evelyn Maguire, Sr Helen Barnes rsm, Glor Wong

Deceased: Frosing C Tullo, Felicitas B Antonio, YT & Deanna Hsu, Proceso P. Fria Jr, C. T. John, Ryan Limlingan, Ajay Furtado, Lucy D'Mello, Edward Muller, Victorio Ventigan, , Paul O'Connor, Pasquale Altamore, Zenaida Dela Pena

Anniversaries: Pedro Obar Morales, Edward Muller, Juan Montesco, Maximena Manlangit, Johannes Lelyveld, Frank Maccarone, Rodney Jayatilaka, Dora Kirk, Joseph Fung, Gabriel Muniandi, Jose Ramirez, Anacorita, Jesus

Perpetuals: Antoine Morvan, Leo Bardetta, Carmen Train, Joan Brady, Rudy Rupac, Frank Agostino, 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, John Ryan, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet & Peter Noronha, Vijaya Sawant, 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



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

**Matteo Vumbaca Robin Im
Dominic Kim Chiara Missak**

WEDDINGS



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

Aparna Ramaiah & Shaneil Narayan

POPE LEO'S...

Prayer Intention for December



For Christians in areas of conflict

"Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope."

From Pope Leo...

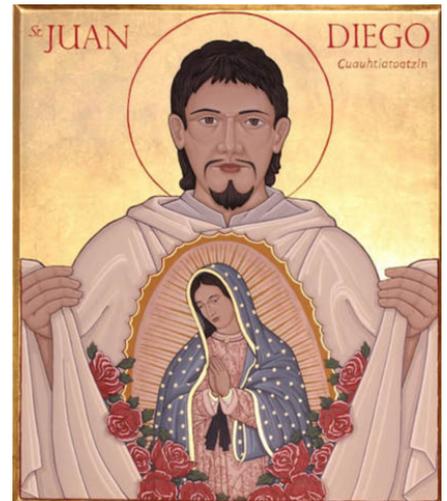
*"X" post dated
02 December*

"The Kingdom that Jesus comes to inaugurate is a shoot, a small branch sprouting from a trunk that promises rebirth when everything else seems to be dying. The coming of the Messiah was announced in the smallness of a shoot, because He can only be recognised by the little ones, by those who humbly know how to recognise the hidden details and traces of God in a seemingly lost story."

Saint of the Week

09 December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (1474 - 1548), Hermit

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



Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“This intermediary coming [of Christ] is like a road leading from the first to the last coming. In the first coming Christ was our redemption, in the last he will appear as our life, in this intermediary coming he is our rest and consolation.”



St Bernard of Clairvaux
(1090 - 1153)
Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Sermon on Advent

Did You Know...?

...that the second candle to be lit on the Advent wreath, as well as being called the Peace Candle, is also referred to as the Bethlehem Candle?

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



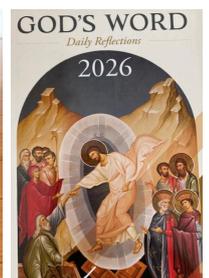
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