



To know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

12 DECEMBER 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT YEAR C



**Entrance Antiphon**

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

**First Reading** from the  
prophet Zephaniah  
3:14-18

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

**Response**

Cry out with joy and  
gladness: for among you  
is the great and Holy One  
of Israel.

**Second Reading** from  
the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

**Holy Gospel** according  
to Luke 3:10-18

**Communion Antiphon**

Say to the faint of heart:  
Be strong and do not fear.



## A Joyful Sunday.

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word “gaudete” is derived from the Latin words “gaudium,” joy, and “gaudeo,” to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

**The Term “Gaudete.”** Gaudete is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

**Multiple Reasons for Joy.** There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father’s house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

**A Joyful Color.** Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical color for Gaudete Sunday. Violet remains the official color for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. Gaudete Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity.

**Joyful Adornments.** The priest may wear a rose chasuble and the deacon may wear a rose dalmatic. Church decorations may include roses or other flowers, a rose-coloured altar cloth, drapery on the pulpit or ambo, chalice veil, tabernacle curtain, or wall hangings. The third candle of the Advent wreath is rose.

**Joyful Scripture Texts.** In the first reading Isaiah says that he was sent “to bring glad tidings” (Is 61:1) and that “my God is the joy of my soul” (Is 61:10); in the Responsorial Psalm the Blessed Virgin Mary prays, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk 1:47); and in the second reading St. Paul insists that we should “rejoice always” (1 Thes 5:16). The gospel is John the Baptist’s joyful declaration that he was sent by God to testify to the light, the one who is coming after him, the Christ! (Jn 1:7,27).



*The rose, a symbol for joy.”  
St. James Catholic Church,  
Dawson, Minnesota.*

## Contact us

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

**Parish Associate:**  
**Sr Ninfa Timbal, CM**

193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

Parish Office Phone:

9603 7373 & 0434 705 176

**Office Hours: Please contact by phone or email**

Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

Email: varroville@dow.org.au

Website: varroville.dow.org.au

## Mass times

### Sunday Mass times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm

Reconciliation: by appointment

### Weekday Mass times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am

Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm

All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

### Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online:

for all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

**ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries: GOD BLESS US ALL IN OLMC PARISH!**  
You are invited to join **every Sunday at 6:30-7:30pm.**

## Rosters

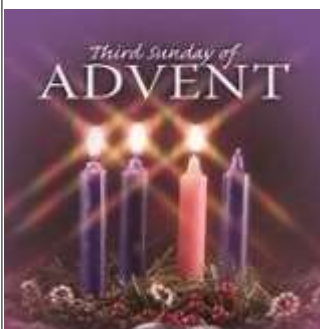
19 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	Glen & Arlene Correya	Allan & Anita Roma, Jackie Plasto	Patricia Wicks
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Readers</b>	Gerard Binny	Volunteer	Gloria Divinagracia
<b>Flowers</b>	Tracey Kaldasaun	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	L & G Binny
<b>Counters</b>	Paula Benny, Nora Burgess	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Mafi family

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Phyllis Cooper, Dorothy Jones, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquinez, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhab, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aguirre, Joan Wilson.  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Geoff Jones, Angela Tomarchio, Jovicen Delanon, Harry Loche, Angelito Baterina, Zaphaniah John Klarnett, David Donovan, Domingo Furcciniti, Rozalia Astalosh,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** *Therese Thompson, Angelo Tomarchio, Les Wicks, Thi Nguyen, Therese Douglass. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Prayer for third Sunday of Advent

*O God, who sees how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,  
enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation, and to celebrate them always  
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.*



# Bulletin Notices



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### Reconciliation Service

Friday 17 December at 7.30pm

### Christmas Pageant and Mass

Friday 24 December at 6pm & Mass at 7pm. (hopefully outdoors)

### Midnight Mass

### Christmas Morning Mass at 9am

As Christmas Day is a Saturday, there will not be a 6pm Vigil Mass.

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**Working Bee on Saturday 18 December from 9am;** the focus will be on getting ready for Christmas and sprucing up the church and grounds. There are trees to trim, gardening and cleaning inside the church. Just come along on the day with any tools & equipment you can use to help. There has been things stored under the hall for many years and we would like your help to remove the rubbish from under the hall. If you can help with maintenance jobs but cannot attend the working bee, please contact the parish office and you can come during the week.

**Christmas Pageant Preparation:** On Christmas Eve, we are planning to have the pageant and outdoor vigil Mass. You can register after Mass or at the parish office if you wish to join in. There are roles for children and adults; music, costumes, scenery & props, etc.

**Pastoral Care:** Our Pastoral Care team have been calling parishioners during the lockdown to say hello. Now we are able to return to Mass and normal activities they will move their focus to those who are alone and can't return to Mass. If you or anyone you know is lonely and/or not able to attend Mass and would like home visitation with Communion please contact the Parish office.

**6pm Mass is trialling livestreaming the Mass each week. If you are able to help with operating the computer at that Mass please talk to Fr Shane or Nick in the choir after Mass.**

**Advent Resource** Families are invited to use this wonderful advent resource in preparing primary aged children for Christmas. It is full of games, activities, stories, and music. Please click on [https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2021\\_adventchristmas\\_sre\\_family\\_resource\\_wollongon](https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2021_adventchristmas_sre_family_resource_wollongon) to use this free Catholic resource.

## Synod of Bishops

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: "For a Synodal Church:

Communion, Participation and Mission".

The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at:

<http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

## The Journey, 12 December 2021 – Weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr Patrick Vaughan's Gospel reflection. Mother Hilda on curing an arthritic heart. Michelle Vass takes us into the spiritual world of brother fire. Sharon Brewer on her spirit of Christmas. Plus, Fr Dave Callaghan and Trish McCarthy, and more great Advent music! The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

## A Vocation view

"What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## Year Amoris Laetitia Family, 19 Mar – 26 June 2022

Pope Francis is encouraging the Church to enrich your understanding of the vocation marriage and the core role of family in the mission of the Church at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>. On July 25th the first celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be held near the liturgical memory of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.

## Social Justice Statement

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles calls us to sobriety in our use of resources and energy, living with just enough, so we can ensure a good life for all.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving

Given that some parishioners are unable to attend Mass in our church, many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program to help us ensure that we limit the financial pressure this current situation will impose on our parish.

Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/> to learn of the two simple ways you can give to our parish electronically. Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the Parish Office if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you.

If you haven't yet collected your envelopes for this year, please ask the monitor when you come to Mass or contact the parish office to update your options.

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.



The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel Reflection by Diane Bergant

The exaltation in this oracle of salvation is stated clearly at the outset: 'Shout!...Sing!... Be glad and exult!' The people are told to cast aside all cautious reserve and to rejoice wholeheartedly. The reason for this rejoicing is their deliverance by God from their enemies. 'On that day' is an allusion to the Day of the LORD, a time in the future when the justice of God will be executed throughout the world. The concluding verses express God's love. They describe both the tenderness that God has for this restored people, and the joy that their restoration elicits in God. The people are called to rejoice in God, because God rejoices in them.

In the response, God is declared the source of salvation. Bolstered by this assurance, the writer claims to be unafraid and filled with courage knowing that the source of salvation is the LORD rather than a mere human being. Here water is transformative. It is the water of salvation and all who draw from this well will be refreshed by God's salvific power. Jerusalem, the royal capital of the Davidic dynasty and the site where the temple was built, is called upon to rejoice, for God is in its midst. The presence of God in the midst of the people is the source of the writer's confidence of future deliverance.

Twice Paul calls the people to rejoice. This is followed by another, perhaps more forceful, admonition: 'Have no anxiety'. The joy that Paul advocates is not merely the happiness that comes from enjoyment of life. It is a special kind of joy, joy in the LORD, the kind that is grounded in faith in Jesus Christ. 'The LORD is near' is an eschatological watchword, acclaiming the future coming of the LORD to set all things right. If the Christians live righteously, God will come as a Saviour. The reward for such commitment to righteousness is peace, which originates from God, transcends everything imaginable, and withstands anxiety that might threaten human equanimity.

Although John himself lives an austere life removed from the ordinary pursuits of people, he does not ask his inquirers to dissociate themselves from their own lives or occupations. Rather, he challenges them to continue where they are, but to carry out their daily responsibilities with concern for others, with honesty and integrity. The expectation that filled the people was eschatological; they were looking for the Christ, the 'anointed one'. John was not this one. His baptism with water was a ritual of repentance and cleansing; Christ's baptism of the Spirit will purge and transform, and his coming will be a time of judgment, when the wicked will be separated like chaff from the wheat and will be thrown into the fire. John's ministry calls for the change of heart required of those who would be saved from this distress.



**The Jesse Tree** is a great way to prepare for the birth of Jesus throughout the season of Advent. The symbols and stories – which are hung on the tree – call to mind the people and events through Salvation History, which lead to the birth of Jesus.

The symbols are being placed around the steps of our altar during advent. You can find links to the bible stories on our website.