

27 November 2022
First Sunday of Advent
Year A



Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul,
O my God. In you, I have
trusted; let me not be put
to shame. Nor let my
enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in
you be put to shame .

First Reading from the
the prophet Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9.
R. see v.1.

Response: Let us go
rejoicing to the house
of the Lord.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy
and love, and grant us your
salvation. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 24:37-44

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his
bounty, and our earth shall
yield its increase .

Next Week

Second Sunday in Advent
Year A

First: Is 11:1-10

Resp Ps: 71:1-2. 7-8.
12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7 .

Second: Rom 15:4-9

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12

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.

**First Sunday of Advent Symbolism
and Wreath Candle**



The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming.” Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers.

Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ’s second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ’s first coming that we celebrate at Christmas.

Today, we celebrate Advent over the four weeks leading up to Christmas each year. This year we begin advent on November 29th and end this season of prayerful anticipation on December 24th.

Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off of the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from Heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe.

The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of hope. This candle of hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that he lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and Earth.

This first Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God’s plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ’s coming glory-filled return.

The Year of Matthew

The Liturgical year has turned full circle and we begin the new year with the first Sunday of Advent. This year we will read from the Gospel of Matthew which was written sometime in the 80s, approximately fifty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Each of the four Gospels provides us with a portrait of Jesus, and a glimpse into the life and concerns of one very early Christian community. To really hear the ‘good news’ Matthew offers, it will be helpful to step inside Matthew’s community, to get a sense of the colours and textures used in his portrait.

In the twenty-first century our struggles are different to Matthew’s community: climate change, terrorism, global economic rationalism and its consequences, continuing wars, drought, genocide, and the personal daily struggles in families, relationships, work. While our world is vastly different, we still need to hear the good news that God is with us.

Two people are referred to in today’s Gospel, Noah and the Son of Man. Both are meant to urge Christians to live with an alertness to God’s reign. People were not ready for the flood in the time of Noah. According to the book of Daniel, at the end of time when all the powers of evil have been overcome, one ‘like a Son of Man’ will be given all authority in God’s new world.

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Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Robert Yap, Les Portikiewicz, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdryś
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Pierre Jose Allecienne, Marita Waugh, Danilo Mercado, John McDermott,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Angelito Bateria, Giuseppe Cuomo, Angela Tomarchio and all our loved ones remembered on the tree of remembrance in the month of holy souls.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

04 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Berna & Ronald	Allan, Anita & Jackie	Tery & Maree
Altar Servers	Maria & Cassandra		Vu
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Gabriel & Ofa	Kathy
Refreshments	Suzanne & Myra	Irene & Meg	
CLOTW		Lee	
Flowers	Tracey & Richard	Church Vacuuming	Loretta & Gerard
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Wicks family

Our Community



Rosters: All active ministers are requested to recommit and update their contact information in the foyer after Mass. The new rosters will be created for 6 months from the first weekend in December. Ministry workshops will be held for new and existing members during the next few weeks. Induction, training and support will be offered for new and existing members of the ministries at the listed times. Please set aside the time to attend in your chosen ministry in the meeting room.

- **Refreshments workshop** will be held after every Mass on the weekend of 3 / 4 December.
- **The Readers Ministry meeting** is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm via Zoom



Bulletin Notices

This weekend our ministry focus is on the Social Justice Group: caring for our world, each other and the earth. A few years ago we had a social justice group and we would like to form an action group to meet regularly starting in the new year. Please give your contact details after Mass or contact the parish office for more details.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev Adalbert Imperial, OCD will take place on Wednesday 14 December at 7.30 pm in our church followed by supper in the Hall. on Saturday 17 December at 9 am newly ordained Fr Adalbert will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving followed by refreshments. For more information contact the parish office.

Vinnies have put up their Christmas tree in the foyer. You are invited to take home a tag that has a grocery item or a present listed and return the item next weekend. The piety stall has 2023 Columban Calendars, Christmas cards and Advent Reflection books available for sale plus a wide range of religious gifts suitable for all occasions.

Advent Reflection Groups You are invited to join one of our parish Advent groups as a meaningful way to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. There are various groups meeting at different times of the week, some online and some face to face. Dates and times when the various groups first meet are listed below. During the groups we use the Advent booklet produced by the diocese. The booklets are available for sale at the piety stall or from the parish office at a cost of \$5 each.

Monday (via Zoom) 2 pm and 7pm groups

Facilitator: Colleen Haughey (For the Zoom link, please contact the parish office).

Tuesday at 7:30pm Parish Meeting Room

Facilitator: Donna Ransom

Sunday at 7:00 pm Parish Meeting Room (Young Adults Group) Facilitator: Andrew Fricot

For further information please contact the parish office.

Working bee will be held on Saturday 3 December from 9am to help prepare the church and gardens for Christmas. We are appealing for someone who has a chain saw and can help prune some trees to come along.

Please come along for an hour or 2 to do some cleaning and gardening. There are windows to wash and cupboards to sort. Maybe you would like to help but can't come on Saturday. If so, call the parish office and arrange another time to help out.

Christmas pageant preparation will be held every Friday evening at 6pm. Please come along if you wish to join in. Parent and adult support is also needed.

The Journey Weekly Podcast this week: Fr Chima Ofor's Gospel reflection for Advent week 1 – Stay Awake Keep Watch! Mother Hilda wonders who consoles God when he has his heart broken. Two extra Advent week 1 reflections, and Doug Black from Men Alive. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view: Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord! In God's House is found true joy, blessed are those called to minister in His Temple. (Psalm 122) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Social Justice Statement: We call for faith communities to support and believe those going through domestic and family violence and abuse, to hold perpetrators to account and work towards individual and social transformation. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Enemy Love Records Gig Enemy Love Records (David Kruse & Emma Fradd) are an independent record label producing and promoting good Catholic music. They are touring Australia to present three brand new releases and they will be playing in Wollongong! **When:** Sunday 4 December 2022 @ 07:00 PM; **Where:** The Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street Wollongong; **Tickets:** EnemyLoveRecords.com (limited tickets); Entry by ticket with donation. Includes Finger food and drinks.

Calling all Women of the World to Rome His Holiness, Pope Francis, has granted the women of the world, by an invitation from the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) an Audience with him at Paul VI Hall, the Vatican, at 11.30am on 13 May2023. Mass will be celebrated, that afternoon, at St Peter's Basilica, by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. For Further Information contact: Catherine V McGrath DSG; Phone: +61 407 419 5002 Email: cvm2090@gmail.com; Booking for the Audience is not necessary.

XVI Synod - Continental Stage Submissions The Faithful are asked to now consider to the Continental stage of the XVI Ordinary Synod on Synodality. The Reflection Guide: Three guiding questions form the basis for the Reflection Guide. This and other resources are available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>; Submission Portal: After groups have met to reflect, they can submit a summary of their reflections on via the submission portal for the continental stage which can be accessed at: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch> The portal will be open until Friday 9 December. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact leith.dudfield@catholic.org.au.

Men's Rosary Group – The Parish of Rosemeadow invites other men from around the Diocese to join with them on the last Tuesday of the Month to pray the Rosary, commencing on Tuesday 29 November at 7pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Contact David on djbarrett85@gmail.com

Christmas Celebrations
Parish Reconciliation Service:
Friday 16 December at 7.30pm
Christmas Eve:
Pageant at 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm
Midnight Mass
Christmas morning at 9.30am



Holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

Lord Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



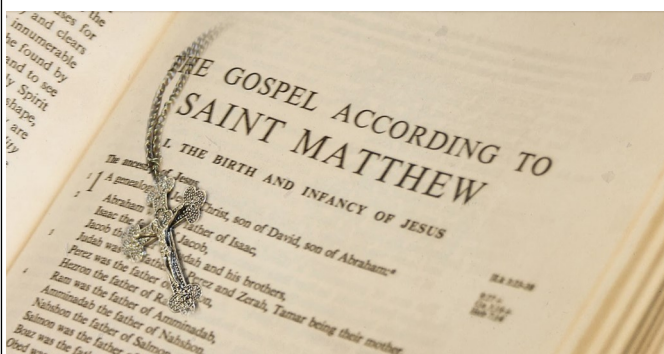
Reflection by Pope Francis

Today, the First Sunday of the Time of Advent, a new liturgical year begins. In these four weeks of Advent, the liturgy leads us to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, while it reminds us that he comes into our lives every day, and will return gloriously at the end of time. This certainty enables us to look trustfully to the future, as we are invited to do by the prophet Isaiah, who with his inspired voice accompanies the entire Advent journey.

In today's First Reading, Isaiah prophesies that "it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it" (Is 2:2). The temple of the Lord in Jerusalem is presented as the point of convergence and meeting of all peoples. After the Incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus revealed himself as the true temple. Therefore, the marvellous vision of Isaiah is a divine promise and impels us to assume an attitude of pilgrimage, of a journey towards Christ, the meaning and end of all history. Those who hunger and thirst for justice can only find it by following the ways of the Lord, while evil and sin come from the fact that individuals and social groups prefer to follow paths dictated by selfish interests, which cause conflict and war. Advent is the time to welcome the coming of Jesus, who comes as a messenger of peace to show us the ways of God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to be ready for His coming: "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming". Keeping watch does not mean to have one's eyes physically open, but to have one's heart free and facing the right direction, ready to give and to serve. This is keeping watch! The slumber from which we must awaken is constituted of indifference, of vanity, of the inability to establish genuine human relationships, of the inability to take charge of our brother and sister who is alone, abandoned or ill. The expectation of Jesus who is coming must therefore translate into a commitment to vigilance. It is above all a question of wonder before God's action, at his surprises, and of according him primacy. Vigilance also means, in a concrete sense, being attentive to our neighbour in difficulty, allowing oneself to be called upon by his needs, without waiting for him or her to ask us for help, but learning to foresee, to anticipate, as God always does with us.

May Mary, the vigilant Virgin and Mother of hope, guide us on this journey, helping us to turn our gaze towards the "mountain of the Lord", the image of Jesus Christ, that attracts all men and all peoples.



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The early Christian communities related this image to Jesus. Matthew is therefore urging his community to be alert and ready for the day when Jesus will return. This is the same message that Paul writes to the community in Rome – 'wake up now'.

Amidst the signs of Christmas and toys we too need to be reminded that the focus of this time is Jesus. He can be lost amidst the glitter and excitement if we are not attentive.

Mary Coloe PBVM