

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.

15 December 2024
Third Sunday in 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

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

Second Reading from
the Letter to Philippians

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 Luke
3:10-18

Communion Antiphon

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

22 December 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year C

First: Micah 5:1-4

Resp Ps:

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19.

R. v.4

Second: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Share hope this Christmas - Invite Others to Christmas Mass

All of us know friends and family who are disconnected from faith. Recent research shows that 37% of people would attend church if invited by close friends and family and 30% are yet to make up their minds (or don't have close friends or family who attend Church) [NCLS, Australian Openness to Invitation, 2020]. That means in practice that if we are courageous enough to invite, there's a good chance you will encounter someone who will say yes or at least be open to considering your invitation. We often think that we need to have all the answers, be a master in apologetics or arguing the faith, or be one of those types of Christians. In reality, all that's needed is presence, relationship, willingness to listen, and the courage to say, this is a bit out there, but I was wondering if you would like to come to Church with me this Christmas? Have a look at the helpful tips for inviting others to Church this Christmas and share hope this Christmas

Helpful tips for inviting others to Christmas Mass

Pray: Ask God who you should invite, who comes to mind? Write their name down and remember to pray for them. Ask God to give you courage to invite them.

Invite them to come with you: This isn't about them needing to go to church, this is about you inviting them to come with you to church. (Note: If your parish is facilitating Alpha, you might prefer to invite them there.)

Listen to them: Everyone has a story. Everyone believes in someone or something. Listen to them, don't judge or correct them, and then be ready to share your story and what you believe.

Introduce them to others: Connection creates belonging! Who are your friends with in the parish? Take a few moments to introduce them to someone else.

Don't take "no" personally: If they decline your invitation, accept their "no" graciously. If we respect their choice and focus on our relationship with them, there might be another opportunity to invite them again.

*"I have neither silver nor gold,
but I will give you what I have"*

ACTS 3:6A



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 and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12



Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
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Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Fr David Catterall, Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnalam, Peter Presdee, Matthew Johnson, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdryns, Pat Stewart.
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Arthur John Woods, Alfredo Cortez, Mara Srebenovic, Marija Radja, Monique Serret, Joe Spinnato, Stanley Gomez.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Betty Dodd
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

22 December 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Chris, Margaret & Irene	Stuart, Judy & Jackie
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah & Austin	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Andy & Caroline	Madonna & Niya
Altar Linen	Ann Marie		
Counters	Vilma, Jeanette & Irene	Church Vacuuming	Glen & Maritas

Meetings and Gatherings

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Children’s Mass is on the 5th Sunday of the month, 29 December at 9.30am

Wrap with Love Knitting group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

Children’s Choir will meet on 3rd Friday at 6pm.

Children’s Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Young Adults Group will meet at 6pm every Sunday after 5pm Mass

Parish & Community Notices

Pastoral Care Team meets on last Friday at 9.30am.

Faith Circles meets every Monday via Zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

On The Journey This Week: Fr James McCarthy says that the readings this week encourage giving selflessly without expecting anything in return. Mother Hilda reflects on the power of small gestures, both in human relationships and in how we express love for God. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, and two The Light Advent Series reflections.

The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14 January 2025 Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of New members are welcome to join our ministry 150+ young people aged 16-35. Bookings: summerschool.org.au
More info: contact@summerschool.org.au.

Go Deeper in your Faith with popular FREE Catholic Podcasts

• **Bible in a Year**

Ascension Press will again run the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins in 2024. It remains one of the world's leading podcasts with over 400 million downloads. While a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

• **Catechism in a Year**

This year, Ascension Press will also again run the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

Opening of the Jubilee Year Mass – 29th December 2024 at 10.30am St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

Summit Night: God, the universe & everything;

Join us for a transformative evening of faith formation. Young adults of the diocese, it's time to climb the highest peak and seek truth — and we invite you to do it with us at our Summit Night, a brand-new event designed just for you! Whether you're seeking deeper understanding or simply craving a vibrant community of like-minded young adults, this night is for you.

When: 6.30pm-9.15pm Wednesday 29 January 2025

Where: The Xavier Conference Centre, next to the Wollongong Cathedral

For whom: This is an 18+ event and primarily for young adults. We're thrilled to welcome Matt Fradd, renowned Catholic speaker, author, and apologist.

Registration is essential, secure your place ASAP.

To register for FORMED:

- Go to www.formed.org and click 'Formed for Individuals' button.
- Enter your email address and Submit.
- Type: Wollongong; into the box then click the Diocese's name and address (38 Harbour St) which will appear. Click Next.
 - ◆ Enter your name and email address.
 - ◆ You'll get a confirmation email asking you to sign in and then follow the prompts — and get formed!

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – Season 4

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', series, now in its fourth season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality, and it continues to receive acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to watch.thechosen.tv to watch on your own, or better still with family and friends or as a parish!



Social Justice Points - I consider it essential to insist that "to seek only a technical remedy to each environmental problem which comes up is to separate what is in reality interconnected and to mask the true and deepest problems of the global system". [34] It is true that efforts at adaptation are needed in the face of evils that are irreversible in the short term. Also, some interventions and technological advances that make it possible to absorb or capture gas emissions have proved promising. Nonetheless, we risk remaining trapped in the mindset of pasting and papering over cracks, while beneath the surface there is a continuing deterioration to which we continue to contribute. To suppose that all problems in the future will be able to be solved by new technical interventions is a form of homicidal pragmatism, like pushing a snowball down a hill. - Laudate Deum – Pope Francis - To All People of Good Will on The Climate Crisis.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weekly bulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 3: 10-18

What, then, must we do?

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 Dianne Bergant CSA

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.

Christmas Mass Times

Parish Reconciliation Service:
7.30pm on Friday 20 December

- ◆ Christmas Pageant: 6pm on Christmas Eve
- ◆ Vigil Mass at 7pm on Christmas Eve
- ◆ Christmas Midnight Mass
- ◆ Christmas Morning Mass at 9.30am

