

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

06 DECEMBER 2020

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD. Engulfed by many chores in the lead-up to Christmas, we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Let us resolve to include some time to pray, to reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and to seek reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf. Is 30: 19, 30

**O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 84: 9-14. R. v. 8

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,/ a voice that speaks of peace./peace for his people./His help is near for those who fear him/and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;/justice and peace have embraced./Faithfulness shall spring from the earth/and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper/and our earth shall yield its fruit./Justice shall march before him/and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

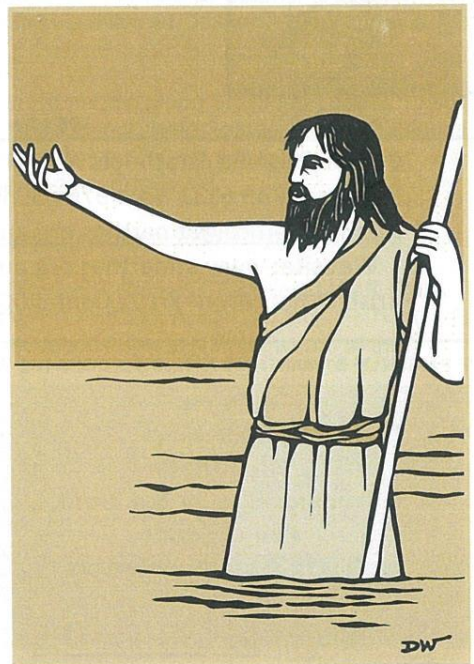
### SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might



be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mk 1: 1-8

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*



# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Administrator: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) [admin@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Patricia Saad (Fridays) [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council 2020 Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis [youth@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:youth@stmarthas.org.au)



**'Make straight the paths of the Lord' ... Mark 1**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 3040

Email: [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Website: [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://www.stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: [info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Judy Gastin

Assistant Principal: Leanne Meehan

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

## **Vision:**

**Welcoming  
Eucharistic  
Transformed by the Word  
Full of Grace  
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please  
continue  
to support the  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
through the Church  
Poor Boxes.*

## **Mission:**

**Alive with the Spirit  
Inspired by St Martha  
We Celebrate & Witness  
God's love  
Using our Gifts & Talents**



## **MASS TIMES**

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



### **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month:**

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and  
Anointing of the Sick,  
followed by reconciliation

### **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

### **BAPTISM:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.00am  
by appointment only.  
(One month's notice is required).



### **Next Preparation Session:**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in the Parish Hall  
Contact the Parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** By appointment only.  
(6 months' notice is required).



**ROSARY:** Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian  
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### **PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT**

**ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:**

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

(School term only)

**Please support our Catholic Press  
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2  
& Catholic Leader \$2.50  
are available at the Church Entrances.**



## **SAFE GUARDING**



A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side entrance contains various resources for children regarding Safeguarding.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



Office of the  
Children's Guardian

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

## **'Sharing the Word'**

**Mondays at 7 pm in St Martha's Church.  
Everyone is Welcome.**



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



**2021 Columban Art  
Calendars  
(\$9 each) &  
Christmas Card Packs  
(\$7 each)  
are now available  
at the back of the  
Church**

**2021  
God's Word Daily  
Reflection Diaries are now  
available in the Church  
Foyer.  
Ideal Christmas Gift.  
\$15.00 each (rrp \$19.95)**

A Requiem Mass for Father Jack's sister Maria Kalinowski was held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November @7pm to coincide with Maria's funeral Mass in Poland. Thank you to the school and parish community for all your support. A special thank you to Father Peter Strohmayer, Marcella Ayoub and Agnes Lee. Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

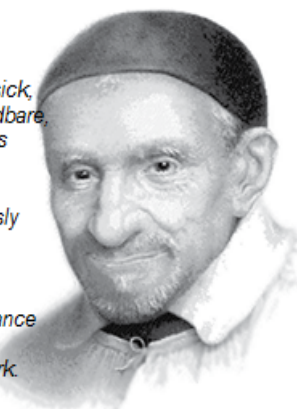


**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL  
CHRISTMAS APPEAL LAST WEEKEND.  
ENVELOPES ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN  
THE CHURCH FOYER ALONG WITH ST  
VINCENT DE PAUL PRAYER CARDS.  
YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY  
APPRECIATED.**



Dear Parishioners, as you may have noticed, this year's SVDP Christmas Giving Tree has now been established at the front of the Church. Due to Covid19 implications, we are not collecting Food or Toys this year but rather seeking financial contributions. The tree has a selection of envelopes for \$5, \$10, \$20 etc with a designated collection stand beside the tree. The money collected will be used to issue Food Cards for needy members of our community so that they may purchase Christmas Hamper items directly from the shops. Thank you very much for your continuing support and generosity for those who are "doing it tough" at this time of year.  
Philip Rogers

*Noble Saint Vincent de Paul,  
beloved servant of the poor,  
may we follow your example and do good works  
among those whom society has abandoned,  
enslaved, or forgotten.  
Inspire us to feed the hungry,  
to love a child,  
to provide comfort and medicine to the sick,  
to clothe those whose garments are threadbare,  
and to offer hope and our Lord's words  
to all who need respite.  
Pray for us to our beloved God  
that we may commit ourselves selflessly  
to doing the same charitable acts  
that you did all your life,  
and intercede with him  
that we may have the favour of his guidance  
and strength and love  
upon this important and meaningful work.  
Amen.*



**Background on the Gospel Reading** - Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us. Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John. Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him. In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

### **Go Make Disciples- Prayer for Renewal Campaign**



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan Go Make Disciples on 12 December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. In the weeks and months ahead we hope you will join us in an Archdiocesan-wide prayer campaign beginning on the Feast of All Saints (1 November), calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. Please join us by praying the attached prayer together at the end of each Mass, in your prayer group, and in your homes. More about the campaign in this weekend's Catholic Weekly. For more information contact Parish Renewal Team at the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Sydney on 9390 5307 or [elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org)

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY  
8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7.00PM**





**Advent commences a busy period so let's all intentionally slow down a little, take time and encourage each other to enter the season of Advent with joy!**



The weeks of Advent remind us to set aside some of the hectic business of the holiday season, and to quietly reflect on the promise of the baby born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. The Bible readings relate to the Advent themes of waiting, preparation, light in the darkness, and the coming of the promised Messiah.

## **Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles**

### **Second Candle - The Candle of Peace**

**Leader:** Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Leader:** Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfil all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

### *A person lights first Candle, the Candle of Hope*

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

### *A person lights Second Candle, the Candle of Peace*

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Let us pray:

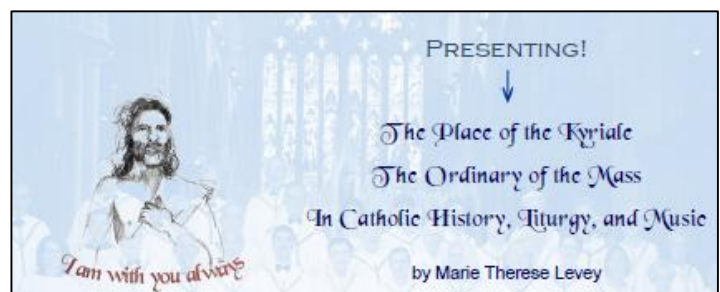
**All:** Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**



## **The Second Week of Advent**

Preparing our Hearts and asking for the Grace. We prepare this week by stepping up the longing. We move through this week by naming deeper and more specific desires. Each morning this week, if even for that brief moment at the side of

our beds, we want to light a second inner candle. We want to let it represent "a bit more hope." Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say, "Lord, I place my trust in you." Each day this week, as we encounter times that are rushed, even crazy, we can take that deep breath, and make that profound prayer. Each time we face some darkness, some experience of "parched land" or desert, some place where we feel "defeated" or "trapped," we hear the words, "Our God will come to save us!" The grace we desire for this week is to be able to hear the promise and to invite our God to come into those real places of our lives that dearly need God's coming. We want to be able to say: "Lord, I place my trust in your promise. Please, Lord, rouse your power and come into this place in my life, this relationship, into this deep self-defeating pattern. Please come here and save me." Each night this week we can look back over the day and give thanks for the moments of deep breath, that opened a space for more trust and confidence in God's fidelity to us. No matter how difficult the challenges we are facing - from the growing realization of our personal sinfulness, to any experience of emptiness or powerlessness, even in the face of death itself - we can give thanks for the two candles that faithfully push back the darkness. And, we can give thanks for the graces given us to believe that "Our God will come to save us" because we were given the courageous faith to desire and ask boldly. Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.



*The Place of the Kyrie - The Ordinary of the Mass – in Catholic History, Liturgy and Music* by Marie Therese Levey rsj. The prayers of the Ordinary, or the people's parts of the Mass, have formed a type of spiritual chain which has linked all the prayers of the Mass together since the first years of Christianity. The current book is a response by the author to a need expressed by fellow parish musicians to know more about the origin of the people's sung parts of the Mass. In this work the reader will meet well known saints who loved to praise God in song and contributed to the *Kyrie*: St Gregory I the Great, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, Dominic of Osma. You will also meet those who made life difficult for them. The work is full of stories of "saints and sinners .... very human figures (who) come alive in these pages".

Available for \$30 + P&P from *Congregational Administration Centre*, PO Box 1508, North Sydney NSW 2059. Enquiries (02) 8912 4853 email [CAC.reception@sosj.org.au](mailto:CAC.reception@sosj.org.au).

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Recently Deceased:

James Brady, Maria Kalinowski (Fr Jack's sister) Patricia Wilson, Norma Shore, Sr Pauline Smith rsm, Marie Verschuer, Enid Wynne, Frances Doumit, Jill Jones, Sr Frances Gaynor OP, Enid Wynne, Audrey Clark, Terry Stewart, Joseph Touma.

## Repose of The Soul:



Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Mary Bentley, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Maria You, Joseph You, Maria Xie, Maria Huang, Dominic Wang, Maria Wang.

## Anniversaries:

Dorothea Francis Starr, William (Bill) Starr, Harry Thorpe, John Harrington, John St George, Jack Dawson, Eileen Crocker, Dominic Wang, Maria Huang, Frank & Marie Monaghan, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Blanche Saldanha, Maud Soares, Mary G Cahill, Cornelius Ryan, Roger O'Reilly, Noel Jebanasam, Stephaine Kehoe, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Tom & Michelle Christy, Eric Sidoti.

## Sick Intentions:

Angela Vasta, Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice Ladd, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.

## Special Intentions:

Sister Shirley King OP, Liana, Mathew & Michael Brady, The Pagano & Colagiuri Families, May & Frank Grieves, Eileen Givney, Veronica, D'Cruz, Tony Fernandes, Gary & Priscilla, Anne Goodrick, Fr Titmus, Rr O'Rourke, Rineesh & Wander, The McIlwaine Family. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.



*Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.*

## 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December

### VIGIL

### 8AM

### 10AM

### 6PM

#### Special Ministers

Grace Herro

Gian Surjadinata

Therese Issa

Theresa Kuk

Rick Herro

Artha Surjadinata

Maria Soares

May L'Estrange

Helen Williamson

### VIGIL

### 8AM

### 10AM

### 6PM

#### Readers

Czarina Mendoza-Cruz

Greg Glass

Merlyn D'Souza

Miriam Redolfi

Matthew Lam

Paulina Roncevic

Michael Quinlan

Joanne Govorcinc

### VIGIL

### 8AM

### 10AM

### 6PM

#### Altar Servers

Giselle C.

Thomas C.

Catelyn C.

Katarina S.

Elizabeth C.

James T.

Elijah M.

John Paul B.

Grace T.

**Volunteer Needed**

Emilia T.

**Volunteer Needed**

Peter T.

**Volunteer Needed**

**Volunteer Needed**

**Volunteer Needed**

#### Wardens

### VIGIL

### 8AM

### 10AM

### 6PM

Anne Chow

Phil Robinson

Trudie Rogers

Jean Duma

**If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.**

**The current Roster is available to collect from the side entrance of the Church or via the parish website.**

*In the Spirit of St Martha, let us continue to help others and Carry Hope Everywhere.*

## Advent Prayer:

*All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome.*

**2019/2020 Tax Receipts can be collected from the Parish Office**

@LightsofChristmasSydney  
@lightsofchristmas

**lights**  
OF CHRISTMAS

PRESENTED BY **PAYNTER DIXON**

Sydney's favourite  
**FREE** Christmas event

**10-25 December 2020**  
Lights 8.30pm  
until 11.00pm

[lightsofchristmas.com.au](http://lightsofchristmas.com.au)



The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I OF ADVENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he**

**who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink**

**this Cup,**

**we proclaim your Death, O Lord,**

**until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the**

**glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISES

The life of faith is one in which the believer is inevitably called to deal with the tension between God's promises and our present experience. When the people of Israel were dragged into exile their experience was that their God was powerless to save and that the ancient promises had been forgotten. It is at precisely this moment that Isaiah dares to proclaim a message of hope in the midst of desolation, pardon instead of punishment, and that the God who can subdue all things will again stoop to gather the weak and lead them home.

Peter's Christians were clearly worried by the fact that the Risen Lord had not come back in glory as they expected. How could this be interpreted other than as a sign that God's plans had somehow changed, or that God no longer cares? Peter's response is that, despite appearances to the contrary, God's delay should be seen as an opportunity for us to make ready for the Lord's return. It is a moment of grace rather than a sign of God's lack of fruitfulness.

When John the Baptist declared that the longed-for Messiah was near, his contemporaries must have wondered if it was possible. How could this come to pass when the province of Judah was powerless under the rule of the Roman empire?

Advent is always a reminder that the call to believe comes to us in the midst of the complexity of life. It meets us head-on with a challenge: are we prepared to take the risk of believing in God's promises?

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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