



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son SVD

Parish Secretary: Veena Miranda

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Acknowledgement of Country : We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders and communities and the spirit that binds us in our dreams and aspirations on Dharawal country. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

14th & 15th December 2024

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

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

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah (3:14-18)

(With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you).

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear. Do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 12)

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

Reader: Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my savior. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

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

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name.

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

Reader: Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (4:4-7)

(The Lord is near).

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Parish News and Happenings

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

(What, then, must we do?).

Communion Antiphon

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

BAPTISMS are open. Every 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the Month.

For Baptism Preparation please contact **Maria D'souza** through email : maria197114@gmail.com OR **contact the Parish Office.**

**READINGS FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Year C : 21st & 22nd December
Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44**

Pope's intention for December: For Pilgrims of Hope ~ We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 6:00 pm. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 8:00 am & 10:00 am.

Weekday Masses :

Mon- Fridays at 9:00 am

Saturday : 8.30am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday : 5:15pm – 5:45pm

Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,
6:30pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

Bible Study : Fortnightly on Sundays at 2.30pm in the Logos Centre.

Sunday School : Every Sundays during 10am Mass in the Logos Centre. (during the School Term)

Sunday School Update:

Our Sunday School program will conclude for the year this **Sunday, 15th December 2024**. We will take a break over the holidays and resume in February 2025, aligning with the start of the school term.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our Sunday School teachers, parents, and children for their dedication and active participation throughout the year. Your support and involvement have been a blessing to our parish community.

Thank you to our dedicated Catechists:

As the school year comes to an end, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated catechists who have so generously given their time and efforts to share their love of Christ with the children in our local state schools.

Special thanks to Margaret Raisbeck who has successfully served as the Catechist Coordinator for more than a decade, her leadership, commitment, willingness and dedication have been instrumental in running this ministry smoothly. Let us keep our catechists in our prayers as they take well deserved break during the holidays.

2nd rite of Reconciliation : Will take place on Monday, December 16, at 6:00 pm in the Church. 3 priests will be available to hear confessions on this special evening. We encourage everyone to attend and take this opportunity to renew your commitment to the Lord as we prepare for Christmas.

Novena Dawn Masses

The traditional Dawn Masses in our Parish will commence on December 16th till the 24th December daily at 5am. Mass will be offered by different guest priests. If you wish to sponsor a mass with your intentions please contact tina Pineda on 0408 785 626.

Shared breakfast will be served on the last day. A plate will be much appreciated.

The WORD in other words - Bible Diary 2025

This book contains daily scripture readings and reflections written by the priests, brothers and sisters of the congregations founded by St. Arnold Janssen (the SVD and SSpS) is now available for sale. **The cost is \$25.00 /each.**

For enquiries : please contact Tina Pineda on 0408 785 626 or Lina De Santis on 0418 264 696

Parish News and Happenings

Dates for your Diary

Monday December 16: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at 6pm

December 16-24 : Dawn Masses at 5am daily

Tuesday December 24 : Christmas Family Mass at 7pm

Tuesday December 24: Midnight mass at 11:30pm

Wednesday December 25: Christmas Day Mass at 9am

Tuesday December 31: End of year Thanksgiving with Adoration at 6:30pm followed by mass

Wednesday January 1, 2025: New Year's mass at 9am

Resumption of Communion from the Chalice in the Diocese of Wollongong

Bishop Brian has announced the lifting of the restriction on Communion from the chalice in the Diocese of Wollongong, which had been in place during the COVID pandemic. In our parish, Communion from the chalice will resume **on the weekend of January 11–12, 2025.**

Please note that receiving from the chalice is entirely optional. Those experiencing symptoms of a cold, flu, COVID, or any other illness are kindly asked to refrain from sharing the chalice. The practice of wiping the chalice after each communicant will be observed to maintain hygiene.

Baptism

Through the waters of Baptism,

Harth Austin Bacay

&

Jordan James

Enter into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



REFLECTION : The secret of happiness

One of the themes of today's readings is that of happiness. All of us want is to be happy. But what is the secret of happiness?

Once a shepherd sent his son to a wise man to learn the secret of happiness. When he arrived at the beautiful castle where the wise man lived, the boy told him he wished to know the secret of happiness. However, instead of explaining the secret to him, the wise man handed him a spoon filled with oil, saying, 'Take a look around the palace. As you go around, carry this

spoon with you without allowing the oil to spill.'

The boy began to move around the palace. As he did so he kept his eyes fixed on the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the room where the wise man was. 'Well,' asked the wise man, 'what have you seen?' The boy was embarrassed, and confessed that he had seen nothing. His only concern had been not to spill the oil that the wise man had entrusted to him. 'Well then,' said the wise man, 'go back and observe the marvels of my world. You cannot trust a man if you don't know his house.'

Relieved, the boy picked up the spoon and returned to his exploration of the palace, this time observing all the beautiful furniture and works of art that adorned the rooms of the castle. Then he visited the garden, with its magnificent fountain and beautiful flowers and shrubs, admiring the taste with which everything was laid out. On returning to the wise man, he related in detail everything he had seen.

'But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?' asked the wise man. Looking down to the spoon, the boy saw that the oil was gone. 'Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you,' said the wise man 'The secret of happiness lies in the ability to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil in the spoon.'

The boy understood immediately what the wise man was saying. A shepherd may like to travel, but he should never forget his sheep. The secret of happiness consists in being faithful and one's commitments and responsibilities while at the same time enjoying life. It's easy to be happy when we are doing what we want. But to find happiness in what we have to do, not simply in what we want to do, this is a blessing from God.

Happiness is not a shallow self-satisfaction. There can be no happiness for us as long as the things we do are different from the things we believe. And there can be no happiness without love. A sadness fall upon us when we say 'no' to love.

And we mustn't equate joy with pleasure. Pleasure is of the body; joy is of the spirit. You can quickly become tired of pleasures, but you never grow tired of joys. In the end, only God can fulfil our dreams, and happiness is the best sign of his presence.

The presence of God is the cause of our joy? Because 'God is in your midst.' And Paul said to the Philippians, 'I want you to be happy.' Why? Because 'the Lord is very near.' The joy that this world cannot give is the joy that comes from a sense of God and his love for us.

New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies
Flor McCarthy,

Parish News and Happenings

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Marites D Mariano / Noella Heart C Mariano

Thanksgiving: Michael Patterson / Maher Family / H & P Maurice

Wedding Anniversary : Erlinda & Constestina Delleya

Special Intentions : The Vu Family

This week masses have been offered for the Sick and Special needs of :



- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Dr Lydia de Jesus | * Eva Silang |
| * Dr Joycelyn de Jesus | * Carole Dimayuga |
| * Jaypee Masangkay | * Selda Dimayuga |
| * Aida Dayao | * Nancie |
| * Nelia Ambat | * Mason Dulalia |
| * Vivian Martin | * Jun & Charo Doctors |
| * Lucinda Rose | * Catherine Nguyen |
| * Maria Vu | * Resty Perez |
| * Vlado Kutle | * Susan Biag |
| * Luis Vincente Marcelo | * Jake Valte |
| * Carla Geronimo | * Andrea Tuazon |
| * Hania Stoklosa | * Mabel Artuz |
| * Alan & Margaret Raisbeck | * Monique Yongching |
| * Mirella Autard-Catherine | * Katarina Klindic |
| * Mick Jones | * Dominique Autard |
| * Sue Aston | * June Carroll |
| * Noelene Bartlet | * Fellie Duggan |
| * Wally Skoczylas | * Jackie Heeraman |
| | * Danica Pineda Lacin |

THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF :



- ✠ Nena D Mariano
- ✠ Larry Suriaga
- ✠ George Attokkaran
- ✠ Ari Kotinkaduwa
- ✠ Regis Alfred Phillip
- ✠ Erna Haiducki
- ✠ Brian & Edna Lloyd
- ✠ Philip Punla
- ✠ Noel Yongching
- ✠ Maryse Requin
- ✠ Ethel Vance
- ✠ Mate Bicanic
- ✠ Porferia Escuadro
- ✠ Brian Carroll
- ✠ Noel
- ✠ All souls in Purgatory



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SVD Prayer : *“May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen”* **Saint Arnold Janssen**

An Advent Prayer



God of light and hope, look upon us in love, and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom. Protect us during this week and keep us watchful in prayer as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Roster for Next Week - 21st & 22nd December 2024

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) First Reading | (2) Second Reading |
| (3) Ministers | (4) Altar Servers |

21/12 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

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|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Edyleen Santos | (2) Pierre Rochecouste |
| (3) Terry Beattie / Teresa Beattie | |
| (4) Neejay & Nerayo Santos | |

22/12 - 8.00 am

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|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Rachelle Fogarty | (2) Matilda Faasoa |
| (3) Lucy Niumata / Alla Bakulic | |
| (4) Freddy & Cathy Bernard | |

22/12 - 10.00 am Mass

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Davitha S | (2) Herbert Kreltszheim |
| (3) Bennette S / Edgar S | |
| (4) Tomjo Rinson / Jayson Huynh | |

Church Cleaners (21/12)

Deuteronomy

Catherine & Pierre Rochecouste
Jennifer & Mario Kreltszheim