



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.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

21st & 22nd December 2024

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just one; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Micah (5:1-4)

(Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel).

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 79)

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reader: O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reader: God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reader: May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. (10:5-10)

(I am coming to do your will).

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will

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was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: **Luke (1:39-44)**

(Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?).

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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.**

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)

Caritas—Vanuatu Appeal

Support Vanuatu Earthquake Relief: Thousands of people have been severely impacted by the earthquake in Vanuatu. Please help provide emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support to those who are experiencing hardship.

Donate Now :

<http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>

1800 024 412 or scan the QR code.



Volunteer Rosters

New Rosters for the Church cleaners, Readers & Ministers of Holy Communion for 2025 are available in the Church Foyer. Volunteers please collect your copy.

Novena Dawn Masses

We celebrate the traditional Dawn Masses in our Parish from 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.

Bishop's message to Share Hope This Christmas - Invite Others to our Christmas Masses.

Christmas is a season of love, joy and hope. 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. 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. Let's step forward together, inviting others to encounter God's love this Christmas.

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

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Dates for your Diary

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.

MY GIFT TO BABY JESUS : CHRISTMAS 2024

Envelopes labelled "My Gift to Baby Jesus" are available in the pews. Your generous gift this Christmas will support the **Vanuatu Appeal** helping those less fortunate who have affected by the recent earthquake. Christmas is a time for giving and your kindness and support make a meaningful difference. Thank you for your generosity.

REFLECTION : The blessedness of those who believe

In the Gospel we have the story of Mary's visitation of her cousin, Elizabeth. During that visitation Elizabeth spoke those lovely words to her: 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The theme of the blessedness of those who believe runs right through the Gospel. Wonderful things happen for those who believe. To take a few examples.

Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go; be it done

for you as you have believed,' and his servant was cured. To the woman with the haemorrhage he said, 'Take heart, daughter' your faith has made you well,' and her bleeding stopped. To the two blind men he said, 'According to your faith, be it done to you,' and they got their sight back.

You could say that the central theme of the Gospel is the blessedness of those who believe. All of Jesus' preaching had as its aim to elicit faith in people's hearts. However, it is not simply a matter of believing, but of believing and acting on that belief. It is a question of hearing the word and doing it - taking risks on it, and making sacrifices because of it. 'Don't bother proclaiming that you believe unless you act accordingly.' (Catherine de Hueck Doherty)

You sometimes hear people say, 'It's easy for you; you've great faith.' But it's not like that. Faith doesn't always make things easy. In fact, the opposite is more likely to be the case. It's because we have faith that we refuse to give up. Faith impels us to persevere, to struggle on, often with no guarantee of a happy outcome. A person with faith never gives up.

Mary is blessed because she not only believed but also acted on her belief. Immediately after the visit from the angel Gabriel, she went with haste to visit Elizabeth. From this we see that her religion was not a matter of mere sentimentality. It was something she converted into deeds.

Mary was the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus. This is why the Church proposes her as a model for us. We too will be blessed if, like Mary, we hear the word of God and act on it.

Christmas can be a great help to our faith. Somehow we find it easier to trust God at Christmas than at any other time, because we feel that God is very close to us and very loving towards us at this time.

The essence of the Good News is that God made himself present to us in the life of One who walked on this earth, indeed so truly present that this One, Jesus was God's Son. At the first Christmas there were those who believed and those who did not believe. The Gospel stresses the blessedness of those who believed the Good News. Christmas make it possible for us to enter into an intimate relationship with God. And Christmas also calls us to open our hearts to one another. And in opening our hearts to one another, we are opening ourselves to receive the 'great joy' announced to the shepherds by the angel.

**New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies
Flor McCarthy**

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Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Stephan Rochecouste
Thanksgiving: Babitha Constant /
 Louis & Ethan Ratinon
Special Intentions : Helen

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



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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| * 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 | * Katarina Klindic |
| * Mirella Autard-Catherine | * Dominique Autard |
| * Mick Jones | * June Carroll |
| * Noelene Bartlet | * Fellie Duggan |
| * Wally Skoczylas | * Danica Pineda Lacin |
| * Herve Ducasse | |

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



- ✠ Sue Aston
- ✠ Philip Punla
- ✠ Peter Laban
- ✠ Agatona Luteenez
- ✠ Ysabel Carluen
- ✠ Jean Dupavillon
- ✠ Angela Takacs
- ✠ Len de Leon
- ✠ Loajos Takacs
- ✠ Kirtie Danton
- ✠ Alice Daly
- ✠ Frank
- ✠ Georgina Jesson
- ✠ Irwin McGavin
- ✠ Alec Johnston
- ✠ Patrice Rochecouste
- ✠ Deceased Members of :
- De Vesser Families
- ✠ 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 - 28th & 29th December 2024

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

28/12 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

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| (1) Noel Santos | (2) Davitah S |
| (3) Noel Elardo / Irma de Guzman | |
| (4) Neejay & Nerayo Santos | |

29/12 - 8.00 am

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Jim Fogarty | (2) Calvin Ambrose |
| (3) Emelia Bessant / Mimi Cabrera | |
| (4) Freddy & Cathy Bernard | |

29/12 - 10.00 am Mass

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| (1) Edyleen Santos | (2) Noel Santos |
| (3) Carmen A / Jackie H | |
| (4) Tomjo Rinson / Jayson Huynh | |

Church Cleaners (28/12)

Exodus

Shirley Myers / Sue Titmarsh