

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: God our Creator is always faithful. We are promised that through Jesus Christ, that there will be a new Kingdom. Let us pray in this season of preparation to make ourselves ready for that Kingdom.

Reader: For our Church.

All: Let us live out the call of John the Baptist to repentance, putting God first in everything, and seeking his kingdom in every situation.

Reader: For the Australian Church, as we prepare for the 2020 Plenary Council.

All: May you lead your Church into a hope filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Reader: For those who lead and govern.

All: May the Lord's Spirit of wisdom, knowledge and justice rest upon them and guide their governance.

Reader: For those parts of our nation devastated by drought and fire.

All: May we be of practical support to them in our care, compassion and outreach and may the Lord send abundant rain to nourish our parched land.

Reader: Lord God, you chose Mary to be the mother of your Son.

All: May the Virgin Mary intercede for those who are considering becoming a religious sister, nun, brother, priest or consecrated religious life.

Reader: For those who have died.

All: May Christ welcome them into his Father's presence.

Presider: Let us pray together.

All: Loving God, you have prepared a place for us in your kingdom. May we also prepare a place for you in every aspect of our daily lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Presider: As we light the second candle of our Advent wreath, we pray that God will set our hearts ablaze to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist, that we may bring light and love to all we meet and that through the coming of Jesus, the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome. He is Emmanuel, the hope of all.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: He is the saviour of every nation.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord God, may the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



All: Amen.



My God and My All

Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington, St Joseph Edgecliff and the 8:45am Mass at Double Bay
In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington : St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

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Sunday 8th December 2019 : Second Sunday of Advent Year A

We have come to the last few weeks of the year 2019 and as always we hope the coming year of 2020 will be better than the last. However, for goodness to happen for us, it all starts with us. We need to start the process with a good attitude and a good outlook in life. Earl Nightingale an American motivational author once said "We become what we think about." Hence, as we prepare enthusiastically to celebrate the birth of our Lord on Christmas day, may our celebration empower us to "Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God and set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" - Col 3:1-2. As the English Proverb says "A good beginning makes a good end", so, let us make the most of our Advent season, a good start to realign our mind and hearts to the life of Jesus through prayer, reconciliation and blessing for others to have a great year ahead. God bless. - Fr Francisco

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL - EDGECLIFF

This weekend is the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal at Edgecliff, your gift can help transform the lives of Australian's who are struggling with hunger and poverty this Christmastime. SVDP offers food assistance, housing support and financial help to Australian's in need. Envelopes available at mass. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

ACCESS TO THE PARISH OFFICE - WE ARE STILL OPEN

The improvements to the Parish Centre are now underway, during the construction period our Office is still open and available however the entrance will be via the courtyard gate. We thank everyone for their patience during the renovation period.

FRANCISCAN CALENDARS

2020 Calendars are now available for \$8 each, limited numbers.

These are available in the sacristy. Double Bay parishioners will be in the Mass Kit.

PLANNED GIVING AND DONATIONS TO OUR PROJECTS

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to everyone who has donated to our current projects. If you would like to donate or join our planned giving program please email giving@stfrancis-stjoseph.com, call 9331 4043 or pop in and visit us at the office.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This weeks at Children's Liturgy we are **making bookmarks!** Children's liturgy runs during the Sunday 8am mass at St Francis (term time only) and is a fun, interactive way for kids to engage with the Gospel. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: JUNIOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2020

We are looking for young leaders from our community to join our 2020 Junior Leadership Program. Aimed at children in year 6 and above this program is part of our commitment to revitalize our children's ministry. Our Junior Leaders will each run a Children's Liturgy session (with adult assistance and supervision). Resources, instruction and guidance will be provided. All participants will be awarded a certificate for their CV and be invited to future events and activities. This is a great opportunity for your child to build leadership skills and confidence in a fun, relaxed and supportive environment. If you would like more information please contact Ruth in the Parish Office on 9331 4043 or at administration@stfrancis-stjoseph.com.

UPCOMING DEVOTIONS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS

St Francis' Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour: 5:00pm every Saturday prior to the Vigil Mass.

St Joseph's Rosary Group: 7:30am and 5:00pm weekdays.

St Joseph's First Thursday Adoration: Next: 2 January at 5:00pm followed by Mass at 5.30pm in the church at Edgecliff.

Lectio Divina: A meditative reading of the Scripture, 6:00pm Thursdays in the Parish Hall at Edgecliff.

Christian Meditation: Saturday 10:30am Saturday at the St Francis Parish Meeting Room.

WHAT DO THE FOUR CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH REPRESENT?

The **first candle** symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle.

The **second candle** represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle."

The **third candle** symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle."

The **fourth candle** represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle."

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Advent is a time of preparing to meet Christ as a humble babe. To do this we are called to slow down and prepare ourselves interiorly. To aid in this task I have scheduled two extra opportunities for parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Tuesday 17 Dec @ 7pm St Francis of Assisi and Wednesday 18 December @ 6pm St Joseph**

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES — PADDINGTON

Thanks to all who have brought their boxes back. All boxes must be returned by next Sunday by the end of the 10am mass as they will be wrapped that day and delivered that week.

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year our Christmas party will be held at St Joseph, Edgecliff on Sunday, 22 December directly after the 11am mass. All parishioners from Paddington, Edgecliff and Double Bay are invited.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS & NATIVITY PLAY

St Francis of Assisi Church, 5.30pm Tuesday 24 December

The Nativity Play needs children aged 4 to 12 years to contribute to the many parts to play. Rehearsals are held Sat afternoons, 4:00pm to 5:15pm. To join or for more information contact Maria Hoareau, Parishioner & Play Director, Mobile: 0434 514 520 Email: maria.hoareau@bigpond.com

If you have missed earlier rehearsals but are still interested in your child participating it is not too late!

SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE!

Christmas cards are now available at St Francis & St Joseph. A pack of ten for \$6. At **Paddington** the cards are available at the rear of the church please put the money in the poor box. At **Edgecliff** the cards are available on the bench of the Sacristy and payment should be left in the box beside the cards.

THE WAY- ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Join us for the last week of our Advent Program, this Thursday 12 December : 7pm to 8.30pm, St Joseph Parish Hall 12 Albert St Edgecliff. This year we are combining with our local Anglican and Uniting Church brothers and sisters to share in a 4 week Advent Scripture Study program in the Lectio Divina style. All material and a light supper will be provided.



WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass and take home one of our Welcome Packs to find out more about your new community.

Welcome Packs are available at the church entrance.

OUR PARISH

Paul Ghanem ofm - Parish Priest
Pax Rzufid ofm & Francisco Basnayake ofm - Assistant Priests
Phillip Miscamble ofm, David Leary ofm, Joseph Lu ofm - Friars in residence
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold - Safeguarding Support Officer
Nicole Hudson - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Primary School

WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Sunday: 7:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm
8:45am at Double Bay

Monday: 7:00am

Tuesday: 7:00am Communion Service
5:30pm

Wednesday: 5:30pm

Thursday: 5:30pm

Friday: 7:00am

Baptisms: First Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:00am

Monday: 9:00am

Tuesday: 9:00am Communion Service

Wednesday: 9:00am

Thursday: 9:00am

Friday: 9:00am

Baptisms: Third Sunday of the month at 11:30am

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, contact the police. You can also contact the *Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office*: 93905810 or 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.

We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital, nursing homes, the homebound and defence force personnel.

Recently Deceased: Wilma Muriel Nesbitt, John Fitzgerald, John Fordham, William Burton, Ern Holgate, Maurie Moses, Patricia Burnett, Eileen Stollery, Frank Healy, Eliseo Arnaiz Fernandez, Yvonne Nobbs, Raymond Malkoun, Caterina Giuliano, Marta Castro-Dermond, Joe Perry, Robert Burns, Irma Soto, Jan Harper, Anthony Bolger, Liliane Dubourdieu, Patricia Brennan, Ryszard Szewczyk, Jerry Austin.

Mass Intentions: Genevieve Scarf, William & Anne Nolan, Duncan Family, Diane McGrath, Nicolasa, Aquino, Daday, Vinz Napoli, Andrew Georgiou, Frank Kaine, Margaret Kiernan, Veronica Simon, Graham Avery, Avery & Roche Families, Bellanto Family, Cavazzini & Bagni Family, Emil Hoeflich, Gladys Schell, Scott Mitchell, Alan Kennedy, LoBlamor & Lopez families, LoBlancos & LoBollers families, Nan Kelly, Ron Lovell, Genowefa Wojciechowska, Madeleine Freeman, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Peter Meagher, Judy & Dennis Petrosian, Noeleen & George Waldron, Finbarr O'Farrell, Margaret Austin, Janice Hui, Jean Montgomery RSC, Ramona Hilliger, Margaret Tighe, Jim Evans, David de Carvalho, Judy Petrosian, Jose Diaz, Patrick McDonagh, Carmen Mendez DeCampos, Justin Beplate, Lloyd Ruz, Peter Hackett, Helen McCarthy, Sorin Dascalu, Marie Macken, Hector Destro, Natalie & Domenic Casamento, Bryan Digges, Tony & Beth Hawker, Antoinette Chelala, Norma Berry & Neville, Concepcion Family, Cathy Wu-Hutchins., Holy Souls.



Archdiocese Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Franciscan Friars Australia



Parish @stfrancisjoseph
Franciscan friars @OZFranciscan



Parish www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
Archdiocese www.sydneycatholic.org

Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

08 DECEMBER 2019

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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.

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

CONVERSION OF HEART

Today's Gospel presents us with the appearance and preaching of John the Baptist. John's message, 'Prepare a way for the Lord', virtually sums up the theme of the Advent season. Nonetheless, it is not all that easy simply to take his words and proclaim them as 'Good News'. Jesus hardly filled the role of preacher of end-time doom that John sketches out for him here.

What is essential and something that truly paves the way for the Good News that Jesus will bring is John's summons to conversion of heart. The physical 'way' (road) that Isaiah wanted prepared for Israel in the wilderness is now one that must be prepared in the wilderness of the human heart. Then the Good News will truly be able to enter in when finally it is proclaimed.

The greatest obstacle to that entrance is complacency, a complacency resting upon privileged status (as in the claim, 'We have Abraham for our father') and a sense that one is morally superior to everyone else and so can rest secure.

Unlike John, Jesus will 'baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire'. That is, he will seek to catch up human lives into the fire that is God's love, a sense of which it is the task of the Spirit to communicate. But a 'baptism' of this kind will only take effect in truly repentant and converted hearts. John's challenging message prepares human hearts for the entrance of this good news about God's love. This is the true 'knowledge of the Lord' that Jesus will fully impart.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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GOD'S KINGDOM IS NEAR. John the Baptist urged the people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom by repenting of their sins. Their baptism by John in the Jordan River was an important ritual act of sorrow. But they also had to express their sorrow by reforming their lives. The sacrament of reconciliation, and right living, are excellent means through which we can prepare for the feast of Christmas.

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.

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, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances,

he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loin-cloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair

the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm,

on all my holy mountain,

for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PS Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

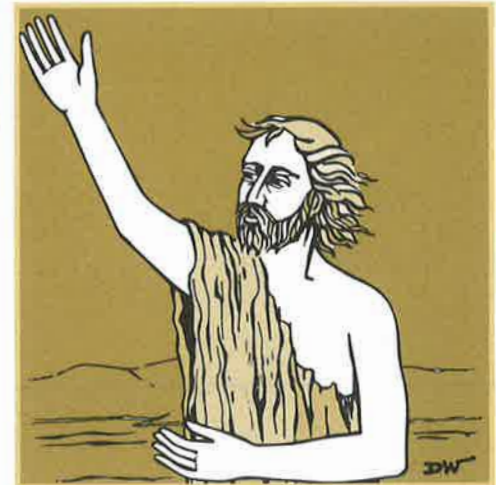
R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, / to a king's son your justice, / that he may judge your people in justice / and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry / and the needy who are helpless. / He will have pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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

Mt 3:1-12

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: