

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: The prophet Isaiah tells us that God comes to save us and put sorrow and mourning to flight. Confident in this sacred word we entrust these petitions to our compassionate God.

Reader: For our Church and our Community of Paddington, Edgecliff & Double Bay.

All: May we recognise Christ in each other and be joyful messengers of the Lord's coming.

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

All: May you bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Reader: For the world.

All: May all nations, states and governments secure justice for the oppressed and share in the earth's abundance for the poor.

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 of the Universe, you come to us daily in the Eucharist and in the Word.

All: Help our Franciscan Parish to witness humility and communal care, being open to inviting others to our way of life.

Reader: For those who have died.

All: That they will be reborn into the light of the Risen Christ.

Presider: Let us pray together.

All: Healing and nurturing God, may your spirit come upon us to transform our lives and our world;

**From drought to harvest,
From sickness to wholeness,
From division to completeness and
From death to life.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2019 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday, 24th December 2019

5.30pm Children's Mass & Nativity Play (Paddington)
6:30pm Carols followed by Mass at 7.00pm (Edgecliff)
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass (Paddington)

Wednesday, 25th December 2019

7.30am (Edgecliff)
8.30am (Paddington)
8.45am (Double Bay)
10.00am (Paddington)
11.00am (Edgecliff)

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 5:30PM EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT EDGECLIFF



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.



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

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043
Website: www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com Email: enquiries@stfrancis-stjoseph.com
Sunday 15th December 2019 : 3rd Sunday in Advent Year A

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Presider: As we draw near to you, Lord God, keep us aware of your presence in all we do. Come with power to enlighten us by your grace, that we may live in praise and peace all our days.

We pray this through Jesus the Christ for he is Emmanuel, the hope of all.

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

Presider: He is the saviour of every nation.

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: Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Amen.



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."

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR SHOE BOX?

Half the shoe boxes have been returned. The remaining 45 need to be returned by this Sunday 15th at the 10am mass the wrapping will occur directly after.

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**

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 and encouraged to attend.

SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE!

Christmas cards have sold out at St Francis, Paddington but are still available at St Joseph. A pack of ten for \$6. The cards are available on the bench of the Sacristy and payment should be left in the box beside the cards. Cards can also be purchased at any St Vincent de Paul store.

CALLING ANGELS & SHEPHERDS

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. The next rehearsal is on Saturday afternoon, 4:00pm to 5:15pm, 22 December inside the church. If you would like to be involved contact Maria Hoareau, Parishioner & Play Director, Mobile: 0434 514 520 Email: maria.hoareau@bigpond.com

ETHICA PRODUCTS SALE THIS WEEKEND AT ST FRANCIS

Ethica is the fair trade company of the sisters of Mary MacKillop, a not-for-profit organisation endorsed by Fair traders of Australia (FToA) specialising in quality products. They aim to give marginalised and vulnerable women in Peru the opportunity to earn a fair income by making products to sell in Australia and paying a fair wage for those products.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL - DOUBLE BAY

This weekend is the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal at Double Bay, 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 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.



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
Piotr Rzcudlo ofm & Francisco Basnayake ofm - Assistant Priests
Pax Scarf ofm, Phillip Miscamble ofm, David Leary ofm, Joseph Lu ofm - Friars in residence
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Noel Debin & 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: Danielle Linkson, 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-Deramond, Joe Perry, Robert Burns, Irma Soto, Jan Harper, Anthony Bolger, Liliane Dubourdieu.

Mass Intentions: Veronica Simon, Giuliano Family, Anne Conlon, Dayday, Mee -Na Cheok, Herbert Odillo Maher, George Perko, Terry Bostock, Nell Atkinson, Hector Destro, Genevieve Scarf, William & Anne Nolan, Duncan Family, Diane McGrath, Ncolasa, 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, Noleen & 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, Holy Souls.

f Archdiocese Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Franciscan Friars Australia
t Parish @stfrancisjoseph
Franciscan friars @OZFranciscan
globe 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.

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.

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,

be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

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 OR II 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: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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 cf. Isa 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.

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 forth, the Mass is ended.

R: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

THE KINGDOM OF GOD: 'ALREADY, BUT NOT YET'

In response to the question put to him by John the Baptist's disciples, Jesus points to a great variety of miraculous deeds that he has performed. From this they—and John—should be able to conclude that he was the long-awaited Messiah, performing the deeds that Isaiah foretold.

We may well think that this was all very good for the few thousands of afflicted people who accessed Jesus' healing power during his lifetime. But where does that leave the vast mass of the afflicted down the centuries to our own day?

Some kind of answer may lie in the 'already-not yet' aspect of the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus. It has dawned in his first coming but is by no means fully arrived. That must await his second coming. We proclaim this in our Creed, expressing the hope that God's sovereignty in the universe will one day be complete.

In the meantime, the miracles remain a 'beachhead' of the kingdom to give us hope. They teach us to see the afflicted not as punished by God (an all too prevalent error) but as people particularly apt to receive and become instruments of God's power.

The same goes for the poor: the Good News that is 'preached' to them is of a piece with the first Beatitude proclaimed by Jesus at the beginning of his great Sermon (Matthew 5-7). The poor are 'blessed', not precisely in their poverty, but because God has adopted their cause and one day will see that it prevails.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

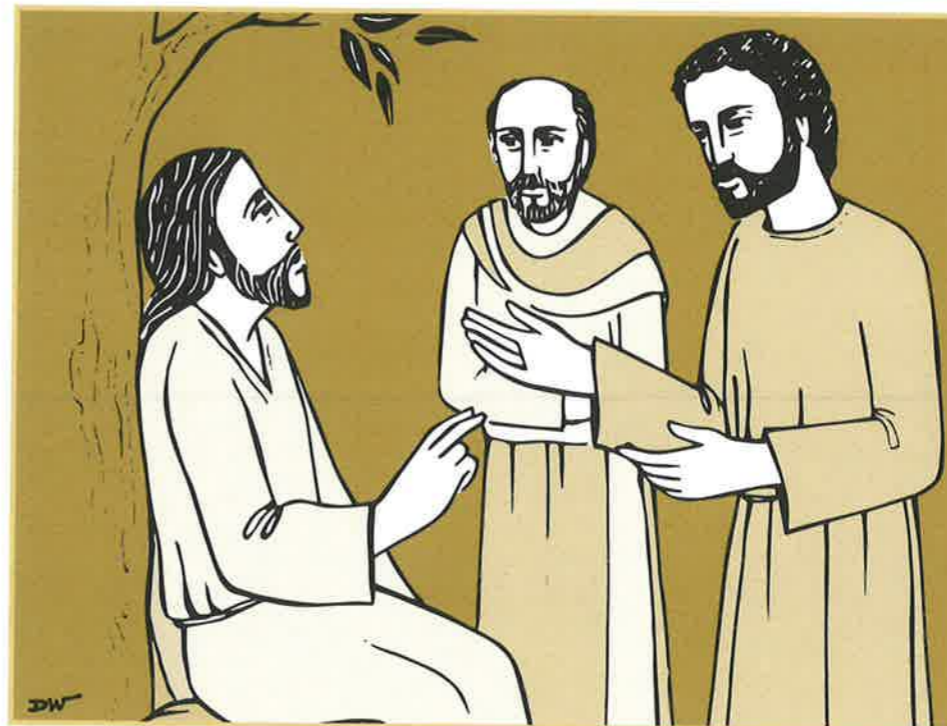
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

15 DECEMBER 2019



THE BLIND SEE AGAIN. Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Phil 4: 4-5

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

Indeed, the Lord is near.

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And grant us your salvation.

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

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Advent

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,

enable us, we pray,

to attain the joys of so great a salvation

and to celebrate them always

with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 35:1-6, 10

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,

let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,

let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,

let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;

they shall see the glory of the Lord,

the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,

steady all trembling knees

and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy in their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the
blind, / who raises up those who are bowed
down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger /
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

*A reading from the letter of St James
You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the
Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!