

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*Presider:* As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, let us offer our prayers and needs to God through the power of the Holy Spirit in Christ.

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

**All: May the Advent spirit of joyful hope inspire our worship and our work together in every season of the year.**

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

**All: May you give us the grace to see your face in one another, and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.**

*Reader:* For the world.

**All: Through the power of the Holy Spirit may compassion and understanding triumph over injustice.**

*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 Compassion, you inspired St Francis of Assisi to be your instrument of peace.

**All: Inspire young women and men to consider becoming sisters, nuns, brothers or priests.**

*Reader:* For those who have died.

**All: May the new life of the Messiah be theirs.**

*Presider:* Let us pray together.

**All: God, ever faithful and true, you sent your Son and the Holy Spirit to change our world. Hear this prayer for those in need as we work to unite your earthly family. We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus. 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 22nd December 2019 : 4th Sunday in Advent Year A

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Presider:* Today as we light the fourth and final candle of our Advent wreath we pray: Come, O King of the Nations, and bind us all together in the unity and peace we seek.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Presider:* Come, O Radiant Dawn, Sun of Justice, and fill us with your saving light.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Presider:* Come, O Emmanuel, presence of God among us, and fill our hearts with joy and every good gift.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Presider:* Eternal God, as we approach that holy moment when your coming as man is renewed in our hearts, grant us the peace to celebrate your presence with joy, that we may someday share in your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



### NATIVITY SCENE 2019

In response to the fire and drought that our nation is currently experiencing Tony Dorigo has created a nativity scene at St Joseph to reflect this reality. The manger is surrounded by a barren, desolate and burnt landscape. In Tony's words;

*We are reminded daily of the fires that continue to burn in much of our State and of the desertification of our lands during this festive period.*

*We are living through a climate of emergency governed by Administrations that deny it or simply ignore it.*

*At the time of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ we give thanks for what we have been given and we pray that the amazing power of the human spirit will transcend the tough times and work towards a positive way forward with our fellow humans and all the living creatures in this wonderful ecosystem. Tony Dorigo*



### CHRISTMAS BOXES—THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers who came last weekend to wrap the Christmas Boxes to be delivered over the coming days. Thank you also to ECCO shoes for their donation of boxes every year, to Fiona & Global Skills for the donation of beautiful bags this year which will be a wonderful addition and to all the members from our community who have put a box together and those who deliver them to nursing homes and on communion rounds. We are so grateful to you all. A very special thank you to Marion O'Farrell who, every year, runs this amazing project which brings cheer and joy to so many. We look forward to sharing with you more photos after Christmas.



**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 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:** Norma Castaldi, Adrian Lynch, 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-Dermond, Joe Perry, Robert Burns, Irma Soto, Jan Harper.

**Mass Intentions:** Vince Munro, Marian Wojciechowski, Krystna Leszczywska, Kim & Raymond Malouf, Patrick & Mary O'Sullivan, Charles & Eddy Piper, Francisco Desa, Casimira Barros, Petyer Meagher, Michael James, Jane Carnel, Maqriion Welch, Religious Sisters of Charity, 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, Neocolasa, Aquino, Daday, Vinz Napoli, Andrew Georgiou, Frank Kaine, Margaret Kiernan, Veronica Simon, Graham Avery, Avery & Roche Families, Bellanto Family, Cavazzini & Bagni Family, Emil Hoefflich, Gladys Schell, Scott Mitchell, Alan Kennedy, LoBlancor & 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, Margaret Tighe, Jim Evans, David de Carvalho, Hector Destro, Natalie & Domenic Casamento, 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 SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

22 DECEMBER 2019

publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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. May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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 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: 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

 Isa 7:14

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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**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

#### GOD WITH US

A note of foreboding attends the circumstances of Jesus' birth as told by St Matthew. We, the readers of the Gospel, know that Mary's pregnancy has come about 'through the Holy Spirit' (Matt 1:18). But no other actor in the drama, including Joseph, knows that at the time. In Jewish culture betrothal required the same fidelity as marriage. Mary's situation is therefore precarious: she is liable to the severe penalties laid down by the Law of Moses for adultery.

Joseph knows that obedience to the Law requires him to divorce Mary. But, being a 'righteous person', he wants to do so in a way that will spare her public shame and the full rigour of the Law. In this he 'models' keeping the Law in the way in which Jesus, with supreme authority, will interpret it—where what he calls the 'weightier matters of the Law' (justice, mercy and faith [23:23]) have priority.

The angel's announcement turns everything around. Mary's pregnancy has not come about through infidelity but through the agency of the Holy Spirit. Her child will carry the name of Israel's former saviour Josue, but his 'saving' role will have to do primarily with reconciliation with God ('save the people from their sins').

It will also involve a new sense of God's presence, reflected in a second name: 'Emmanuel – God with Us'.

In the person of Jesus, people will experience the divine saving presence. And after his resurrection, he will continue to be 'with' his Church in its communal life and worldwide mission to the end of time (Mt 28:19-20).

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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A MAN OF HONOUR. Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God's plan of salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God's word to him. He is an example for us all.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

 cf. Isa 45:8

**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.**

#### 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.

**R. Amen.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent*

#### COLLECT

P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 7:10-14

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself

coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### RESP PSALM

 Ps 23:1-6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

#### SECOND READING

 Rom 1:1-7

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace



and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

 Mt 1:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL

 Mt 1:18-24

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.**  
*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her