

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: 'Do not be afraid'.

As we prepare for the Day of the Lord, we turn again to our God whose love we acknowledge and who is faithful to the promises.

Reader: For the gift of knowing God's will.

All: Like David, may we be open to God's will for us. May we not seek to impose our human desires on God but be aware that God has plans for the church and the world that are beyond our imaginings.

Reader: For the grace to be ready for Christmas.

All: In these days before Christmas, may we enter more deeply into the hidden mysteries of God, praying for the gift of wisdom to live according to the gospel.

Reader: For a spirit of wonder.

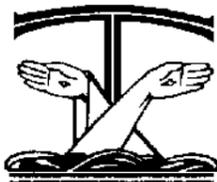
All: Mary was troubled and confused by the message of the angel. Like her, may we be open to God's purposes and may we be ready to accept God's will in a spirit of obedience and wonder.

Reader: For joy in celebrating God's good news.

All: May we be filled with joy in this time of Advent and moved by God's generosity. May we live lives that so reflect gospel teaching that others may come to share our faith and joy.

Presider: As together we pray:

All: God of the promises, lift up our hearts as we prepare for the birth of the Messiah. We commend our needs to you and the needs of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. 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

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043

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20th December 2020 : 4th Sunday of Advent

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to people of good will."

The 4th candle lit on the Advent wreath is often referred as the "Angel's Candle". It is inspired by the biblical story of "an angel of the Lord," appearing to some shepherds in the countryside and proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will." These people "of good will," refers to those who have good intentions, plans, and actions toward others. Hence, God bring peace and blessings to them, for such people have the Lord's favour rested upon them.

This was first witnessed by Mary in the Annunciation story. Although she found herself in total conflict with was announced to her due to her marital status, she nonetheless did not put her plan in conflict to God's will. She only asks what role does God intends to entrust to her and joyously welcomes His initiative. And so, in this last few days before we celebrate the Lord's birthday, we are invited to gaze upon our Blessed Mother as the utmost Model of holiness and good will to imitate. Hence, as the theme of this fourth Sunday of Advent is "peace", when we find favour with the Lord with our "good will", we are assured of the Lord's peace right into the coming year.—*Fr Francisco*

BOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS MASS EXTENDED TILL 4PM MONDAY

Some Mass times are now full and others are very close to capacity. We encourage you to book to avoid disappointment and to also assist our volunteers on the day. We have extended bookings till 4pm this Monday. You can book via our Parish Office by calling 9331 4043 or by visiting our website at www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com/christmassbookings/

DAILY MASS TIMES DURING JANUARY

From 28th of December until 23rd of January our weekday Mass times at both St Francis of Assisi & St Joseph will be 9am daily. These Mass times will be reviewed after the holidays.

PARISH OFFICE—HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed from Dec 25 2020 reopening on 21 January 2021. Ruth and Alanna will be on leave during this period. Please note there will not be a weekly bulletin until the office reopens. Phone messages will be monitored, if you have any critical matters please call 9331 4043 and the Friars will be able to assist however other matters will be responded to in late January.

GO MAKE DISCIPLES: LAUNCH OF NEW ARCHDIOCESAN MISSION PLAN

Last Weekend Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP launched online the new Mission Plan, Go Make Disciples, which will set our Archdiocesan direction and priorities for years to come.

The plan has come after over five years of consultation with clergy and laity through the 'Parish 2020' process.

For those attending Mass today you can collect a summary of this plan from the volunteers at the door after Mass. You can also pick a copy up from the Parish Office or you can find a summary of this plan at www.gomakedisciples.org.au

CHRISTMAS BAGS (BOXES)

Thanks to everyone for your support. The parish is sending 103 bags of toiletries, sweets, Christmas crackers, an ornament and a parish Christmas card to the residents at Vincentian Aged Care in East Sydney, Ronald Coleman Lodge in Woollahra and those at home who are visited by our Friars and our Communion ministers each week.

Hopefully our much loved shoe boxes will be back in 2021.

- *Marion O'Farrell*

THANK YOU TO STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to staff and volunteers especially to Ruth and Alanna. Year 2020 has been a challenging a year, staff and volunteers at both our parishes have endeavoured to give their best to ensure that communications and pastoral care are not disrupted during this pandemic. Additional responsibilities have been taken on by many to ensure we follow Covid safe plan. Unfortunately the lighting strike on St Francis Church on 1 December has added more work and stress to all involved trying to organise Christmas liturgies this year. I hope and pray that 2021 will a better year for all.

My sincere thank you to all for your ongoing commitment to the parishes and support to the friars who are ministering here. I assure you the friars will be remember you and all families in our prayers and masses during this Christmas season. - *Fr Anthoni*

CAN YOU HELP? We urgently need volunteers to help at Christmas Mass Times. If you can be of help please call Ruth: 0410 470 678 or email ruth@stf-stj.com. Thank you.



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

Anthoni Selvaraj ofm - Parish Administrator
Francisco Basnayake ofm & Joseph Nguyen ofm - Assistant Priests
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Alanna Sparks & Cate Stivala - Parish Secretary
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Pamina Milenkovic - Organist, Edgecliff
Noel Debieb & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold & Alanna Sparks - Safeguarding Support Officers
Nicole Hudson - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Primary School



WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS (From Monday 30 Nov)

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Monday to Friday: 7am
Saturday: 9am
Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11:00am & 5:30pm
Reconciliation directly following Saturday morning Mass.

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Monday & Tuesday: 9am
Wednesday to Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 8:30am & 10:00am
Reconciliation from 4:30pm Saturday prior to Vigil Mass.

No Bookings required. Contact free check-in is required at the door.

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

Recently Deceased: Maureen Marston, Ian Johnstone, Kholofelo Dzvukamanja, Sesarina Bau RSC, Elaine Boys, Aquino Lanojan, Mary Cook RSC, Marie Arakelian, Maria Orner, Tina Chen Visage, Pauline Babicci OSC, Frances Spicer, Bessie Laedbeater, Maria Pullin, Barbara & Edgar Matthews, William Whitehair, Maurice Scully, Tony Fraser, Barry Watts, Judith Glaister RSM, Peter Mackenzie Smith, Francis Pimanda, Pasquale Larubina.

Mass Intentions: Margaret-Mary Kiernan, Jim Evans, Tino Ordonez, Peter Meagher, Betty Burnett, Jane, Michael & Jim Carnel, Giuliano Family, Nancy Rickard, Mee-Na Cheok, Bellanto & Fiorelli families, Ian Stewart, Alex & Zach, Terry McCue, Sorin & Donna, Giuliano Family, Catherine Heath, Barry Scott, Kalnejais Family, Kristen & Mark Crees, Jorge Fernandez, Genowefa & Mariam Wojciechowska, Finbarr O'Farrell, Ancet Ferenandes, Andrew Georgiou, Gladys Schell, Scott Mitchell, George Orr, Jim Evans, Piper Family, David DeCarvalho, Bernard Hanlon, Francesca Smith, David Crees, Hector Destro, Gabrielle McDonough, Ziolo Diaz Junior, Laura Martinez, Patricia Richmond-Kiernan, Paul Kelly, Paul Bellanto, Sorin & Gheorghe, Beau Henderson, Kevin McGrath, Rosario Macaso Austria, Isabel Scarf, Concepcion Family, Claude Ulin, Conley family intentions, Salvatore & Sandro Di Bella, Doina's Intentions, Pattie Dillon, Mary Kiernan, Jack & Maureen Brett, Nan Kelly, Peg Kelly, Gristromo family, Cresencia Mendoza, Charlie Tsaoucis, Sorin & Doina, Cresencia Mendoza, Desmond O'Shea, Holy Souls.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual 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*: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or on 93905810. 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.



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Franciscan Friars

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Franciscan Friars Australia



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Parish
Archdiocese

www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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

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.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD. King David wanted to build a fine temple in which God would dwell among the people. But God did not choose a building made of stones and mortar for a dwelling place but the womb of the virgin Mary. God continues to dwell among us in Mary's son, Jesus Christ, whose body is the Church. Let us pray for a deepening of faith this Christmas that we, like Mary, may continue to give Christ to the world.

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, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice,