

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*Presider:* 'Make a straight way for the Lord.' We have listened to God's word broken for us. In a spirit of joy, we bring our needs before our God.

*Reader:* For patience and joy in God's service.

**All: May we experience God's gifts of patience and joy, consolation and forgiveness; and may we live with concern for others so that broken hearts may be bound up and the poor cared for.**

*Reader:* For the gift of peace.

**All: May the God of peace make us perfect and holy and may we be so renewed in this time of Advent that we may be eager for the Lord's coming, praying constantly and holding on to what is good.**

*Reader:* For a desire to be witnesses to Christ.

**All: Like John the Baptist, may we be witnesses to the light of Christ, pointing to the one who stands among us; Jesus the Christ, sent by God to bring us peace and joy.**

*Reader:* For the gift of being on fire for God.

**All: With John the Baptist as our model, and moved by his enthusiasm for God's promises, may we be people on fire for God's truth filled with the Holy Spirit and eager to live as people of God.**

*Presider:* As together we pray:

**All: Creator God, we rejoice in this time of Advent, believing in your abiding love, and looking for your day of consolation. Grant what we need, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CAN YOU HELP AFTER TODAY'S MASS  
Many hands make light work.

If you are able please help our volunteers  
sanitise the church after today's Mass.  
Check in with your volunteers on the door.

## 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.

**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.**

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

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13th December 2020 : 3rd Sunday of Advent

**"Be happy at all times, pray constantly..."**

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" or "Rejoice Sunday". This Sunday's theme of joy, can easily be seen in the second reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians where Paul tells his community "Rejoice always." (1Th 5,16). Usually, a pink candle is lit during this third Sunday to symbolise joy as we are getting nearer to Christmas. Obviously, joy can be achieved in different ways and can be understood differently. However, as Christians, perhaps our true joy comes from the awareness of God's presence in our lives, from our recognition of what we are created for and who we truly are before God. John the Baptist in today's gospel invites us to reflect on our awareness of God's presence: "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognise".

You and I all belong to a Franciscan parish and our extended families in different ways, and therefore, you may be aware of a popular story in our Franciscan tradition about "perfect joy" of Saint Francis and his early brothers. There are many things we can do to bring us joy but perhaps in Advent and the Christmas Season, we are once again reminded of the great joy of the presence of Emanuel, God is with us, God is among us and on our side.

**Fr Joseph Nguyen, OFM**

### 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.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS BAGS (BOXES)

Thanks to everyone for your support of our Christmas Bags (instead of boxes). We have been able to get lots of toiletries and sweets, diaries and Christmas ornaments and they'll be delivered Christmas week. Your support has been wonderful! - Marion O'Farrell

### GO MAKE DISCIPLES: LAUNCH OF NEW ARCHDIOCESAN MISSION PLAN

This weekend Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP launches 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, focused on how best to ensure our parishes are true centres of the new evangelisation so they can nurture the faith of future generations of Catholics.

A summary of this plan is available at [www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)

**CAN YOU HELP? We urgently need volunteers to join our COVID-Safe volunteer team. We are especially in need for assistance during Christmas time. If you can be of help please call Ruth: 0410 470 678 or email [ruth@stf-stj.com](mailto:ruth@stf-stj.com). Thank you.**

### PLEASE BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

While bookings are no longer being used for our regular Mass times due to the expectation of larger than usual numbers we ask you to please plan early and book in advance for Mass from 24th December to 27th December (inclusive). You can book via our Parish Office or by visiting our website at [www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com/christmasmassbookings/](http://www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com/christmasmassbookings/)

### CAROLS FROM ST MARY'S

Friday 18th December, 11am & 7pm  
Admission is FREE

An opportunity to enjoy beautiful carols and Christmas readings, with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Orchestra.

w: [sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/smcmass/carols/Site/Register](http://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/smcmass/carols/Site/Register)

Please spread the word about this special event with your parishioners through sharing the attached Facebook tile. Numbers are limited at the cathedral due to COVID-19 restrictions, so you should register as soon as possible to guarantee a seat.

### LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent Lights of Christmas from 10th of December to Christmas Day. The lights will be displayed every evening until 10pm.

### FAREWELL TO LISA PENKLIS & JOANNE FRITH

This coming week we bid farewell to Lisa Penklis and Joanne Frith who are leaving St Francis of Assisi Regional Primary School at the end of Term 4. We thank you both for your support over the years and our parish wishes you both the best with your next adventures. You will be missed!

## 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 Debien & 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:** Ian Johnstone, Kholofelo Dzvikumanya, Sesarina Bau RSC, Elaine Boys, Aquino Lanogan, Mary Cook RSC, Marie Arakelian, Maria Orner, Tina Chen Visage, Pauline Babicci OSC, Frances Spicer, Bessie Laedbeatter, 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 Kiernan, Mee-Na Cheok, 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, Nancy Rickard, Giuliano Family, 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 Tsaouis, Sorin & Doina, Cresencia Mendoza, Desmond O'Shea, Shanelle Hoong, Norma Coulson, John Duggan, Myrtle Engel, Tino Ordenez, Gaetano & Paola Carone, Catherine Wu-Hutchings, 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](mailto: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.



Archdiocese  
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney  
Franciscan Friars Australia



Parish  
Franciscan friars

@stfrancisjoseph  
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Parish  
Archdiocese

[www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com](http://www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com)  
[www.sydneycatholic.org](http://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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

13 DECEMBER 2020

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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 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 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

P. 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.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

The build-up to Christmas and the festive season has a way of leaving many people tired and stressed as many tasks call for our attention. It is probably impossible to avoid much of this as the feast of Christmas marks the end of the year and the beginning of the summer break. The readings for today can help each of us to determine more clearly what are our major priorities as Christians in preparing for Christmas.

Within the readings today two dimensions of our preparation are stressed. The first is the call to witness to our faith by sharing in God's life-giving, freeing, and healing love. The second dimension is that of finding time to give thanks and praise to God for the gifts we have received through the presence of Jesus among us.

Isaiah's mission of proclaiming liberty and God's love to those in exile comes out of his own experience of this love. Because of this experience, he is able to be a witness to what God is doing in his own day. John the Baptist provides us with a powerful example of a person of faith who is prepared to stand up and bear witness.

As Paul concludes the letter to the Thessalonians he reminds them that the best way to prepare for the Lord's return is by living at peace with one another and being constant in their prayer. One relationship nourishes the other. Making time for the Lord in prayer enables us to make time for each other.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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REJOICING IN GOD, OUR SAVIOUR. Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

## 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

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

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** Isa 61:1-2, 10-11  
**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**  
*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of nations.'  
The word of the Lord.

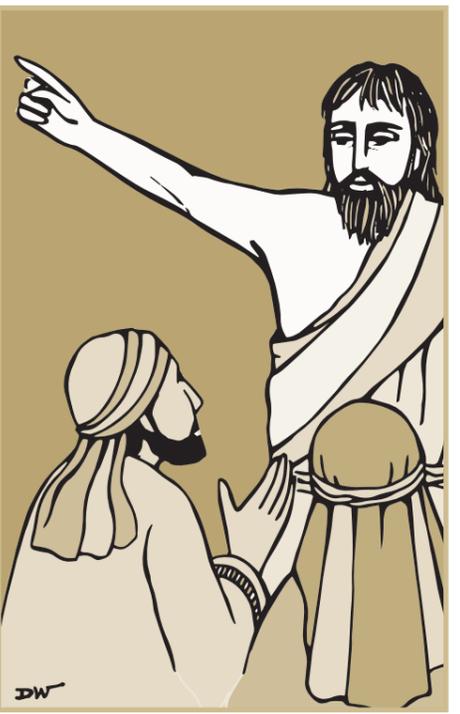
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54  
**R. My soul rejoices in my God.**  
1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**  
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**  
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24  
**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**  
*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.



Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 1:6-8,19-28  
P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit**  
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*  
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.