

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: 'Here I am! I come to do God's will.' God's Word comforts us and we rejoice in the God of the promises. With confidence we turn to our God for our needs and those of all the world.

Reader: For an acceptance of God's choices. (pause)
All: God chose the least of the clans and tribes of Judah as the people from whom the Messiah would come. May we be open to the choices God makes for us and acknowledge our God as living Lord of the church and the world.

Reader: For a desire to be God's faithful people. (pause)
All: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, may we renew our desire to live as God's people, living according to God's commands and obedient to the law of Christ.

Reader: For joy in the presence of the Lord. (pause)
All: The infant John leapt in his mother's womb when he recognised the presence of his Lord. May we too be alert to God's teaching and God's visitation so that we may rejoice in the nearness of our God.

Reader: For a spirit of wonder. (pause)
All: Mary and Elizabeth were astonished by the blessings of God. In this time of Advent, may we too be open to God's surprises looking for the fulfillment of God's promises for us.

Reader: For those who have died, we remember especially the five young lives lost tragically in Davenport. (pause)
All: We remember and pray for families who are grieving the loss of their loved ones. May God comfort them and strengthen their faith in everlasting life.

Presider: God of promises, lift up our hearts as we prepare for the birth of the Messiah; and grant what we need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

RCIA meeting resume 27th January

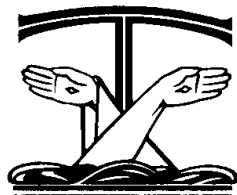
OFFICE UPDATE

Parish office will be closed for Christmas holiday from **Thursday 23 December til Thursday 20 January 2022.**
Due to office closure the weekly bulletin will not be available.

Wishing all our parishioners a happy and holy Christmas, regards the parish team

During the office closure please contact the office for pastoral needs and urgent matters, non-urgent matters can be attended to upon the return of office staff.

**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.
We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.**



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 **Website:** www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
Email: office@stf-stj.com
19th December 4th Sunday of Advent -Year C

Message from Fr Anthoni Selvaraj OFM

Most people are now focused on preparing for Christmas, there will be an increase of movements. With case numbers on the rise, please be vigilant and take steps to mitigate infections. COVID-19 Safe check-ins is required for places of worship. Please sign in using NSW QR code or write your contact details on the sheet provided at entrances. Restriction on wearing of face masks has changed but I recommend parishioners to continue using face mask while inside the church during Christmas season till January. Face masks will be made available for those attending mass during Christmas period. We want to make sure those who are vulnerable in our congregation feel safe to worship and celebrate Christmas with us.

For Christmas vigil masses children are invited to dress up as their favourite Nativity scene character (please no glitter inside the church). To limit movements there will not be a Christmas pageant this year but we will try to encourage participation of children where possible in both parish churches. If your children or grandchildren would like to read at mass, please get in touch with parish office by Monday 20th December 2021.

It has been another year full of challenges. Still there are many things to be grateful for: I am grateful for: Our parishioners, staff at the school and parish office for their commitment, support, faithfulness, and care. It is a great feeling to be a leader in a faith community where people come first. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for your ongoing commitment to parish life. Friars too are beneficiaries of your generosity. Catechist for your engagement with schools in our parishes. Choir, organists, cantors, lectors and acolytes for supporting liturgical celebrations. Sacristans, Eleanor for washing altar linens for both parishes and church cleaners. Finance committee members, counters, collectors and greeters at all our masses, you have also assumed additional duties with Covid safety protocols and cleaning after mass.

To those who continue to persevere with outreach and on-going formation in Coronavirus mode. Marea for SIP, Marion, Joan and Richard for communion to the sick or housebound. Those involved at different levels with CANA, St Francis Social Services, soup kitchens. Marion and Brian for ongoing commitment to the poor through St Vincent De Paul and "Christmas shoebox". Fr Francisco and Fr Joseph for their faithfulness and commitment to Franciscan way of life and ministry and Sisters of Charity for their presence. Staff at Centre 360, school and after school-care. Celia, Alanna and Cate at the parish office and to all who make sure friars are happy and well fed, and for supporting us in ministry and way of life. Be assured of our prayers for you and your family! *Happy and Holy Christmas, Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm*

FACE MASKS AT MASS

Due to the current situation, it is strongly recommended that all mass attendees wear face masks.

Let's keep our community safe.

Hostel Christmas bags are ready to go and will be delivered on Monday. Thank you all for your wonderful support. Hopefully shoe boxes will be back next year, regards Marion O'Farrell.

CARITAS CHRISTMAS APPEAL & Global Gifts

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/christmas-appeal or call 1800 024 413 toll free to support vulnerable families doing it tough this year. This Christmas, please also consider buying a gift that changes lives. A Global Gift can provide life-changing essentials like clean water, nutritious food and an education to those doing it tough this year.

Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse the range of Global Gifts today.

STAMPS FOR SISTERS OF CHARITY

The Sisters are collecting stamps to support some of their rural projects. Stamps should have 1/2 cm left around edge. Leave in envelope marked Sister Colleen Noonan at churches volunteer desk.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

St Francis of Assisi Paddington

Friday, 24th December (Vigil)
5pm, 6.30pm and Midnight

Saturday, 25th December (Christmas Day)
8.30am, 10am

Sunday, 26th December
8.30am, 10am

St Joseph Edgecliff

Friday, 24th December (Vigil)
5.30pm, 7pm, 9pm

Saturday, 25th December (Christmas Day)
7.30am, 9am, 11am

Sunday, 26th December
7.30am, 9am, 11am

Children encouraged to dress up in favourite nativity scene costume.

WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass to introduce yourself and find out more about our community. We also welcome you to contact our Parish Office.

OUR PARISH

Anthoni Selvaraj ofm - Parish Administrator
Francisco Basnayake ofm & Joseph Nguyen ofm - Assistant Priests
Alanna Sparks, Cate Stivala, Celia Olazabal - Parish Secretary
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold & Alanna Sparks - Safeguarding Support Officers

WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

No Bookings required. check-in is required as well as mask to be worn.

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Monday to Friday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11:00am & 5:30pm
Reconciliation prior to the Friday evening Mass (from 5pm).

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

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

Subscribe to our newsletter-on parish website home page click on blue sign up box.

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

Recently Deceased:

Dr Bruce Roberts, Teresita, Angela Balog, Kevin Gale, Bishop William (Bill) Wright - Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle, Patricia McAlary, Benjamin Barillas, Geoffrey Dominic McAlary, Sue Coorey, Chew Shia Hoong, Patricia Mary Brett, June Fabbro, Doug Malouf, Ciro Gallifuco, Michael Gearin, Otilia Batisita, John Henry Jones, Margaret Hunsiecker, Peter John Little, Angela Catherine Egan, Marcia Jackson (Nee Keenan) Kevin Finegan, Mike Bailey, Vittoria Sora Borgese

Mass Intentions: Patrick McDonagh, Genevieve Scarf, Joseph Rezallah, Peter Herro, Rosita Napoli, Carmen Rios Berrocal, Lola Giovenali, Paul Tse, Des O'Shea, Marie Nestor Mchoney, George Farah, Giuliano family, O'Sullivan, Killen, O'Brien & McDonagh families, Patricia Dillon & Sheila Freckmann-Dillon, Margaret-Mary Kiernan, Benigna Suarez, Denisse & Xavier-Miss Pep, Mrs Hirma O'Sullivan, Lita Dimatatac, Elle Margaret Paton, Kerina Kwong, Margaret Austin, Janice Hui, Lica Bailey, the Kelly family, Frank Kaine, Paula Margaret Norsa, Rev. Dr Michael Giffinis, Eileen & James Hoare, Anthony McDonald, Dr George & Anne Duncan, George Anthony Duncan, Hector Barbara, Debbie Hope, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Catherine Wu-Hutchings and 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.



Archdiocese
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Australia



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Franciscan friars

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Parish
Archdiocese

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

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 / C

19 DECEMBER 2021

reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD
GOD IN OUR LIVES
Judah was not one of the more powerful tribes of Israel. It must have come as a surprise to many when Micah prophesied that it was from Bethlehem, one of the least clans of Judah, that a future king would come. The future king that Micah promised was one who would feed the flock of God's people using his power to protect them. The passage from the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as king Jesus more than fulfilled that promise when he offered his very life as a sacrifice. In the Gospel, the new age promised by Micah dawns as Mary visits her kinswoman Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. Elizabeth wonders at the visit of Mary, the mother of the Lord, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit by whose power she recognises that the promises God made long ago are now coming to their fulfilment. Perhaps her wonder at John's birth, against all expectations when hope had been lost, has sharpened her perception of the mysterious ways of God. Often it is those who have experienced God's unexpected intervention in their own lives who are the most adept at perceiving how God is working in the lives of others. Advent can be the same for us, a moment of blessing that invites us to recognise how God is working in our lives and world, most of all, in the birth of Jesus our Lord.
CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
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BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED. From Bethlehem, the least of the clans of Judah, and from a peasant girl, Mary, one of the least of the Jewish people, God prepared a body for Jesus, the saviour of the world. As we rejoice in the saviour who has come to visit us, we also join Elizabeth in praising Mary for her faith, her love and her obedience.

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 Mic 5:1-4
A reading from the prophet Micah.
Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.
The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.
The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.
RESP PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4
R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord, rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our help. **R.**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, / the man you have given your strength. / And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 10:5-10
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
I am coming to do your will.
This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said,



just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

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 1:39-44
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.
Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting