



17-18 December 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A



ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH 105 ELEVENTH AVE AUSTRAL 2179

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Presbytery and Parish Office:
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Parish Office is open on:
Tuesday and Thursday

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www.sydney.catholic.org.au
Presbytery is closed on Mondays.

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School Principal:**

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Sacramental Life

Celebration of the Eucharist:

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigils: 5pm
Sunday - 7.30am, 9am & 5pm
Masses: Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday and - Friday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday
4.15pm—4.45pm

Baptisms:

Contact the Parish Office

Marriages:

By appointment at Presbytery
Anointing: 3rd Wednesday of
the month after the 9am mass.

Sick Calls: Any time - day/night.

Funeral Masses: In Co-operation
with Funeral Directors.

Entrance Antiphon: 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.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

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



Dear Parishioners, Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

The young woman in Isaiah's prophecy is probably the wife of the king. Since every Israelite king was considered a sign of God's presence with the people, Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us', could refer to any one of them. One might think that a royal child who signifies the presence of God with the people would indeed be a sign of God's fulfilment of the promise made to David concerning the perpetuity of his dynasty (cf. 2 Sam 7:12-16). Here it is also a promise of God's presence regardless of the situations within which the people find themselves. This prophecy encourages the king to place his trust in God, not in the child himself. Behind the imagery of the opening verses of the psalm response is the ancient Near Eastern cosmology. The focus here is the earth which, the ancients believed, floated like a saucer on the cosmic waters. This earth and all those who live on it belong to or are under the protection of the Lord. Such a claim would not be made if there were any doubt about the Lord's sovereignty. The liturgical portion of the response suggests pilgrims approaching the walls of the city, certain persons (probably priests) inquired about the suitability of those who would enter the sacred precincts. External conformity to cultic prescriptions is not enough; an appropriate inner disposition is required as well. Paul relates the gospel that he preaches with the promises made by God through the prophets. Thus he highlights the link between the message of Jesus and the ancient traditions of Israel. However, Jesus is more than human. Through his resurrection he has been established Son of God in power. The resurrection uniquely manifested his divine sonship. Finally, this was all accomplished according to the Spirit of holiness. Here we find the foundation of Paul's Trinitarian faith. His final salutation is composed of the Greek expression 'grace to you' and the Hebrew greeting 'peace'. It is really a prayer for grace and peace, of coming conjointly from God and from Christ. The gospel reading describes how Jesus, though not the natural son of Joseph, can through him be legitimately considered a son of David. Mention of the Holy Spirit is probably less a question of Trinitarian theology than of eschatological fulfilment. The name 'Jesus' is the Greek form of the Hebrew YehÇšua, which means 'YHWH is salvation'. Regardless of how the tradition of Mary's virginity eventually developed within Christian theology, the content of this passage indicates that the concern is less with Mary's actual perpetual virginity than with the origin of Jesus in God. He comes from God; he is the salvation from God; he is the presence of God; the new age will be born through him.

Author: Dianne Bergant CSA

2. Fourth week of Advent Year A – Fr Ronnie

As we come closer to our celebration of Christmas and Advent slowly comes to a close, our scripture readings at Mass begin to focus on the story of the Nativity itself. This weekend and next weekend we see the remarkable role of angels announcing the Good News of Jesus' birth. They are among the first great evangelisers who share the news of the arrival of Our Lord. The angel of the Lord encourages Joseph to take up his role in the story of salvation in this week's Gospel and on Christmas night we will hear the angels visiting the shepherds to share with them that the great events of our salvation have begun.

We as baptised Christians receive many gifts and graces from the Lord. We also receive from him a mission. We all have a responsibility to do our best in imitating the angels in sharing our faith with others. Christmas can be a great opportunity to do this by inviting people back to Mass. There may be people we know who have abandoned the practice of their faith for a long time, maybe some have fallen off the radar since lockdowns or maybe we have new neighbours in our growing suburb that just don't know St Anthony's is here. Whatever the case may be let us look for opportunities this week to extend that gentle invitation for our loved ones, relatives, neighbours and friends to come and adore the Lord this Christmas.

3. St Vincent De Paul

St Vincent de Paul have changed their pick up time for donations to Tuesday 21st December 2022. If you would still like to contribute items for those in need please do so before Tuesday. Thank you to the parishioners who have donated items thus far. Your generosity is appreciated.



4. Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 24th December – 5.00 pm
Vigil Mass

Saturday 24th December – 7.30 pm

Sunday 25th December – Midnight (Christmas Eve)

Sunday 25th December – 9.00 am

Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist in the masses. A roster will be sent via email next week.

5. Christmas Carols

We can all agree that all that attended our Carol night had a wonderful evening. Thank you again to everyone who helped organize, perform and attended.



6. Christmas Cathedral Lights

Thank you to all those Parishioners who attended such a beautiful evening. We were blessed with great company, beautiful weather, and a wonderful light show which displayed the true meaning of Christmas. We hope to organize more events next year.



7. Rosters

The rosters for the new quarter, that is from January until Palm Sunday 2023, will be drawn up and emailed soon. If you have changed your preferred mass time please let the Parish office know. In the meantime, if you would like to part of any of our ministries, please contact the Parish office who can assist you in organizing the relevant working with children checks. Thank you for volunteering in our Parish.

8. Catechist Achievement

We congratulate John Camilleri from our Parish who attended St Mary's Cathedral to receive the 30 year Life Member Award for his service as a Catechist. We thank John for his service in teaching, sharing his knowledge and time to spread the word of God to children of non-Catholic schools. God bless John on this achievement. If you would like to be part of the Parish catechist program please contact the Parish office who can forward your details to our Catechist Co-Ordinator.



9. A message from Caritas Australia

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. *Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment.* The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. **This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.**

10. Announcing the Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program!

Part-time in Feb-Nov 2023 - either in person or online - through Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. This program is designed for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and parish or outreach ministries. It will equip individuals to lead with integrity, vulnerability and resilience, and will focus on the inner spiritual journey in order to create fully-formed leaders who listen, learn and accompany others with strength and sensitivity. 'Damascus' can be studied as a Graduate Certificate in Divinity through the University of Divinity (Yarra Theological Union/ Catholic Theological College), or as an audit student to receive a Certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Heart of Life. Attendance on Monday mornings and some Saturdays. Read more about the program on the [Heart of Life website](#) or contact us on (03) 9890 1101. Applications close on 6/1/23.

11. Silence in the Church

Allow five minutes before Mass in the church to be a time of silence and quiet reflection in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist. No group prayer at this time and, at all times, no noise in the church.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ronnie Maree', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Fr Ronnie Maree

Events in the Parish

- **Every Thursday Legion of Mary after the 9am mass**
- **Every Monday (the last session for the year will be Monday 19th December 2022 then will recommence Monday 9th January 2023 at 10am) in St Anthony's Parish Hall a **Rosary Prayer group** is held at 10am. It begins with the chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by praying the decades of the Rosary in different languages. All are welcome.**
- **Third Wednesday of the month after the 9am mass **Anointing of the Sick.** The next service will be held on Wednesday 21st December 2022.**
- **Young Children's Prayer Group** Every 2nd Saturday of the month. The next prayer group will be held on **Saturday 11th February 2023** in the Parish Hall at 4pm All children are welcome

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED OR ARE IN NEED OUR PRAYERS

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Johny Bezzino, Raffaele Bagnarol, Ilario Carillo, Carmela Bugeja
Anniversaries:

Charlie Vella, Veronica Sese, George Velso, Helen Argyle,

Also for:

Michael Gauci, James Dimech, Femia Gatt, and Gesu (Jesi) Lustrì

We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for: Claudio Ribeiro, Herbet Herrman, Marija Rados, Saint Lucia, Doris and Joe Gauci, Fr Noel Short, Shirley Farrell, Ken O'Leary, Paul Farnsworth, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, Jean Poles, Hane Abe Rached, Rhodora Manon, Anastacio Swing, Irene Norris, Natalie Biro, Carmela Garzaniti, Rene D'Silva, Mrs Mary Vella, Lena Xerri, Charito San Jose, Flossy Lobo, Linda and Family; Romeo San Jose

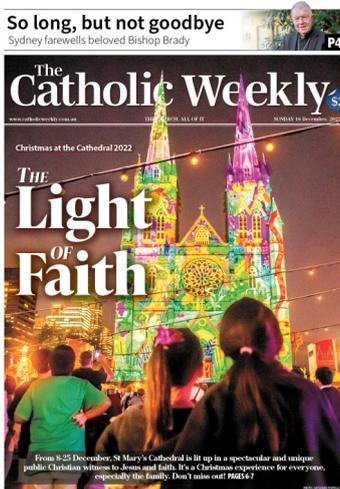
A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with the crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** 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.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 21 December 2022—St Peter Canisius—Optional Memorial

Friday 23rd December 2022—St John of Kanty—Optional Memorial



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- SPECIAL WRAP AROUND Go Make Disciples: Two year anniversary.
- Christmas at the Cathedral
- Beloved Bishop retires
- Marist Milestone
- It's not just about sex
- More equal than others

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Contact Teresa on **0415 123 807**
or at teresa@calarcolegal.com.au