



INCORPORATING THE PARISHES OF

- Cathedral of St Francis Xavier, Wollongong • Co-Cathedral of St John Vianney, Fairy Meadow
- Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie • St Brigid's, Gwynneville

CATECHIST SUNDAY 13th December 2020

Next weekend in our parishes we will celebrate Catechist Sunday.

Catechists come from all walks of life and ensure that the children of our Parish hear of God's great love for them. There are still more children that we could be reaching! Can you give around an hour of your time a week to teach or help out in a classroom? You will be given resources and formation to help you confidently explain the beautiful mysteries of our faith and way of life.

Celebrate with us this weekend the gift of the Catechist ministry and please speak to our Pastoral Associate Cathy Zamroz on 4211 0506 (email: cathy.zamroz@dow.org.au on (Fridays). You could also contact one of our Catechists if you would like to get involved.

Go to www.ccdwollongong.com to find out more.

"No one learns to
hope *alone*"

POPE FRANCIS



CATECHIST
SUNDAY 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Blessing of the Advent Wreath



Presider

As we gather round our Advent wreath to prepare for the lighting of the second candle, let us pause to pray that nothing may hinder us from receiving Christ with joy....

Presider:

Prepare a way for the Lord!

All:

Make his paths straight!

Presider:

Let every valley be filled in.

All:

Let every mountain and hill be laid low.

Presider:

Shout with a loud voice: "Here is your God."

All:

The Lord is coming! He is coming to save us.

CONTACT US AT THE PARISH OFFICE

36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

Monday to Friday 9.00am—1.00pm

Parish Office: 02 4211 0500 | wollongong@dow.org.au

lumenchristi.org.au

Hospital Chaplain: 0475 815 506

Our Privacy policy: www.privacy.lumenchristi.org.au

Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
Year B

6 December 2020

In our parishes & around the diocese

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC PARISHES

MASS TIMETABLE

WOLLONGONG

Monday	Mass: 7am
Tuesday	Mass: 7am
Wednesday	Mass: 7am & 12.10pm & Holy Hour: 6:30pm
Thursday	Mass: 7am
Friday	Mass: 7am & 12.10pm
Sunday	Mass: 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

GWYNNEVILLE

Thursday	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday	Mass: 9am

FAIRY MEADOW

Tuesday	Mass: 9.30am
Thursday	Mass: 9.30am (Italian) Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday	Mass: 8.30am & 10am (Ital) Mass: 4.30pm (Viet)

BALGOWNIE

Sunday	Mass: 10am, Mass: 11.30am (Syro-Mal)
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- **Pre-registration required for Vigil/Sunday Mass only.** (Go to lumenchristi.org.au to register)
- **Reconciliation available on request.** Please phone or email the parish office for an appointment.
- **Live Mass Sundays at 10.30am** (Go to: livestream.lumenchristi.org.au)
- **Baptisms:** By appointment only. Contact the parish office for details.
- **Marriages:** A preliminary appointment needs to be made at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date. No Sunday weddings.
- **Online Payments and Donations:**
www.payments.lumenchristi.org.au

IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST WE PRAY FOR ALL OUR DEPARTED RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS ...

Owen Kirton, Win Kirton, Cyril Gamble, May Gamble, Phil and Olive Wakeford, Patricia Bellinato, Rose Mercieca, Leo Boyle, Jim Bates, Luigi Tollardo, David & Judith Crowe, Maureen Gray, John Hayes, Steve Winder, Deceased members of our parish, John B Davis, Francis Joseph O'Donnell, Rhonda Reynolds, Frances Clifford, Joshua Pead, John & Frances Merritt, Brian Tuxworth, Catherine Tuxworth, Tom Mackie, Doris Hogan, Isabel Marques, Manuel Rebelo, Mary Greco, Paula Dingli.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE SICK ...

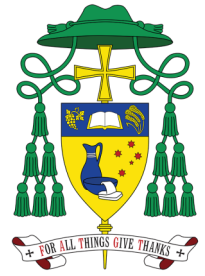
Amelia Wilkinson, Sue Freestone, Ardell Sharpe, Linda Dargham, Joseph Scalia, Lilia Pelino, Don Alanis, Jacquie Brady, Lyn Griffin, Edna Wilson, Brian Brennan, Margaret Cooke, Betty Bloye, Bill Keirse, Lyn Gilbert, Jessica Sparks, Pat Carr, Bruce Creenaune, Tri Vu's mum (Vietnam), Catherine Cox, Frances McMahon, Joan O'Dowd, Margaret Bartley, Kath McGuinness, Jan Newman, Lucy Caruana.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Christmas Appeal will take place during Advent. At each Mass, appeal envelopes will be handed out at the church door. Completed envelopes should be placed in the church collection box. If blank envelopes are used, please mark them with your local "SVdP Conference Name (Wollongong/Fairy Meadow/Gwynneville)". Please indicate if you require a receipt. Thank you very much for your support.

STAFF

Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,
Diocesan Bishop & Parish Priest
Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,
Vicar General & Administrator
Reverend Victor Vincent,
Assistant Priest
Reverend Anthony Ha,
Vietnamese Chaplain
Mr Kevin Galea,
Business & Operations Manager
Mrs Cathy Zamroz,
Pastoral Associate
Mrs Leanne Burlin,
Secretary
Mrs Patricia Di Leva,
Administration Assistant
Mrs Karen Borger,
Cathedral Housekeeper



"THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION"

Dear Parishioners,

Here is a summary of my homily for the Parish Advent Retreat.



We have lived through a time of trouble this year. Anything from bushfires to Covid-19 lockdowns. There could be many other painful difficulties we have faced. For example, the breakdown of relationships, the debilitating effects of depression, anxiety due to the loss of work, the death of loved ones,

Psalm 26 speaks of both realism and hope. It gives us words in which we can bring our troubles this year to God.

Psalm 26 acknowledges the day of trouble on which we cry out to God in desperation. The experience of affliction is presented as the violence and the false witness of enemies. Nevertheless, the Lord is entreated as light and salvation. Light is a frequent metaphor in Sacred Scripture for God's life-giving and saving presence. For instance, in Psalm 43.3 we refer to "the light of God's presence" which saves us.

Beginning with words of trust in God, the Psalmist then states the terrifying sufferings of life, completing the prayer with a renewed trust in God. The time of crisis is surrounded by the faithful love of God. The Lord is the shelter, the hiding place and the rock for those who call out for the Divine assistance. Even if father or mother forsake us, the Psalmist encourages us to pray, God will gather us to himself. Our faith, our sorrows, our act of trust are in God's saving light.

Fr Bernard Gordon

For the latest updated Mass times and bookings visit: lumenchristi.org.au/masstimes

In our parishes & around the diocese

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC PARISHES

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

On-line registrations for Christmas Masses are still open but the number of available places is quickly diminishing.

To give everyone a fair chance to attend one of the Vigil and Christmas Day Masses, please only register for one of the Masses.

If you want to attend the Syro-Malabar, Italian or Vietnamese Christmas Masses, please contact the Priest or Chaplain directly to register.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Thursday 24th December

St Francis Xavier Cathedral
5pm, 7pm & Midnight

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral
6pm & 8pm (Vietnamese)

St Brigid's Church
5pm & 7pm

Mater Dolorosa Church
7pm (Syro-Malabar)

Christmas Day Mass Friday 25th December

St Francis Xavier Cathedral
7am, 9am & 10.30am

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral
8.30am & 10am (Italian)

St Brigid's Church
9am

Mater Dolorosa Church
Mass 10am & 11.30am (Syro-Malabar)

CHRISTMAS PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 21st December to Wednesday 23rd December—9am to 1pm. **Parish Office will be closed from 1pm Wednesday 23rd December and reopen on Monday 4th January 2021**

For Hospital Chaplaincy please call 0475 815 506

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS Wollongong & Fairy Meadow

The Wollongong & Fairy Meadow SVdP Conferences will again be providing Christmas Food Hampers and toys for families in need. Please assist with pantry food or suitable children's gifts. Food and gifts can be left in marked SVdP baskets provided in the churches. The final date for donations is Sunday 20th December. Christmas Cards and Calendars are on sale after Mass. Please see a member of the SVdP if you wish to purchase a card or calendar, or both.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

MASS REGISTRATION CHANGES 1st JANUARY 2021

As of **Friday 1st January 2021** there will **no-longer** be pre-registration bookings for weekend Masses. NSW Health now requires all parishes to "Keep a record of name, contact number and entry time for all staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors for a period of at least 28 days, using electronic collection (e.g. using a QR code). Parishioners will be asked to scan the QR code upon entry using your smart phone. Alternatively, see the door monitor so your details can be entered using an iPad.

The parish office has been struggling with the extensive calls related to Mass registrations. These calls have exceeded the normal number by 80%. This adds a very heavy weight to the day-to-day operations of parish life.

We ask you to be patient with our door monitors. They are doing a sterling job trying to ensure they register everyone as quickly as possible. Thank you to our monitors for their generosity.



POPE FRANCIS ON EUROPE

I dream of a Europe marked by a healthy secularism, where God and Caesar remain distinct but not opposed. A land open to transcendence, where believers are free to profess their faith in public and to put forward their own point of view in society. The era of confessional conflicts is over, but so too – let us hope – is the age of a certain laicism closed to others and especially to God, for it is evident that a culture or political system that lacks openness to transcendence proves insufficiently respectful of the human person. (22 October 2020)

For the latest diocesan directives updates visit: www.dow.org.au/covid-19

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.