



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish
Rydalmere

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Sunday, 17th December 2023

Gaudete Sunday

The Prophet Isaiah gives us the theme for reflection today: "In my God is the joy of my soul." When that is true in our lives, we are walking the road and we know the truth of these words from the same Prophet: "He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favour from the Lord." On this 'Gaudete Sunday' we are called to celebrate with joy. It is a Sunday of rejoicing. The entrance song for some centuries was always from the Letter to the Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say, rejoice. As we light yet another candle on our wreath, let it be symbolic of our growing acceptance of this way of peace and joy.

- Fr Gerry O'Shaughnessy, SDB
c/o Salesians UK

Sick

Bernice Williams
Mary Hanna
Raphael Jude Elias

Recently Deceased

Colin Greatrix, John Antoun,
Jelica Dzido, Gertrude D'Souza,
Louis Whebe

Anniversaries

Colin Wright, Robbie Keegan, Bernie Otter,
Fred Wickman, Wayne Williams, Anne
Nolan, Desmond Howard, Autel Basha, Fr
Brian Rooney, Carol Rosario, Geoff Kirby

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue - Thu - Fri - Sat 9:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

ADORATION (EXPOSITION) Perpetual (24/7)

Wednesday 6:00pm -7:00 pm
Saturday 8:30 am

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm
Sunday 8:00 am
& 10:00 am

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday: 6:15 - 6:45pm
Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 am

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sunday of the
Month 11:30 am

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11*

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 the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm: *Luke 1:46-50,53-54*

My soul rejoices in my God.

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.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

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.

Gospel Acclamation: *Isaiah 61: 1, cf. Luke 4:18*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

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. 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.

Christmas Mass Times



24th Dec

*4th Sunday of Advent
Vigil of the Solemnity*

8am Sunday Mass
10am Sunday Mass
6pm Nativity Vigil
8.30pm Nativity Vigil

25th Dec

Solemnity of the Nativity

8am Nativity Mass
10am Nativity Mass

26th Dec

Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr

9:15am Daily Mass
9:45am Rosary (Chapel)

Parish Christmas Choir

Practice for Christmas Eve Mass will continue on Monday 18th December 7:30pm. New Members Welcome.



Third Advent Candle

Joy

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows. The third candle takes us to the **joyful anticipation** of the **shepherds** who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem. On this Sunday, which the Church calls "**Gaudete Sunday**," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds.

- Hallow



FOLLOW US



Support the Altar Society

The Altar Society invites you to donate some Christmas flowers that will enhance our worship and glorify God with gifts of natural beauty. They will accept Christmas Bush, Agapanthus or any other flowers from your garden. Please ensure your flowers are left in the Meeting Room by 11am Saturday 23rd December. Thank you.



Parishioner Registration & Recommitment Form

To register or update your details, scan this QR Code



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

PRESENTED BY **PAYCE FOUNDATION**

14-25 DECEMBER

Be immersed in the spirit of Christmas with market stalls, food and live entertainment.



Use the hashtag on your social posts.
#ChristmasAtTheCathedral



PAYCE FOUNDATION

Carols for Peace

ENTRY BY DONATION

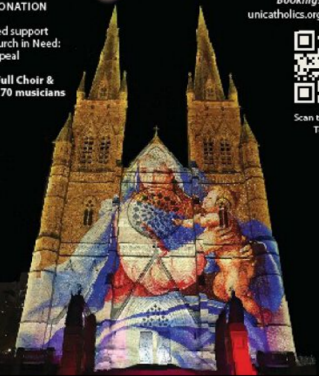
All funds raised support Aid to the Church in Need: Holy Land Appeal

Featuring a Full Choir & Orchestra of 70 musicians

Bookings essential
unicatholics.org.au/carols



Scan the QR code To RSVP



SUMMER SCHOOL 24



LUKE 24:32

SYDNEY
7 - 14 JANUARY 2024

WHAT IS IT?
A week long retreat into the powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, opening up possibilities for deepening faith, peace, healing, joy, and freedom.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?
All activities, accommodation and meals.

WHO FOR?
16-35 yr olds



summerschool.org.au

Help Catholic Care chaplains give comfort, faith, and hope to people suffering this Christmas



Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/bishops-christmas-co-appeal-23



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

New Website

<https://parracatholic.org>

CHECK IT OUT

PARISH DIRECTORY



Fr. John Hogan
Parish Administrator

Jodie MacGregor
Parish Secretary

Blake Bano
Parish Secretary

Susie Lee
Finance Officer

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PARISH SCHOOLS

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Principal: Mr. Richard Blissenden

St. Patrick's Marist College

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Email: stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Paul Ryan