

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



Issue 03

13 December 2020

Year B

Third Sunday of Advent

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP

(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Assistant Priest

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Dominican in residence
Br Francis McKinnon

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address

PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925

Office Hours -

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am to 12.30pm

Office Staff

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www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson

Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass
Tuesday & Thursday
6:45am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am

Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

Pray the Rosary

First Saturday each month 3.30pm

If you are in Urgent need of a Priest
out of office hours call - 6248 8253



If you are feeling unwell please DO NOT come to church.
Please record your name & contact number on the Register
provided in the foyer.

PLEASE sanitise your hands on entering the foyer or parish centre.
Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, if you are not taking
it home put it in the bin.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

FIRST READING

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

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.

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

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

My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

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

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

GOSPEL

Gospel: John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

QR CODE - CHURCH CAPACITY

Please make sure you arrive before the start of Mass to register either by scanning our QR CODE with your mobile phone AND leaving your name on the register or writing your name and telephone number on the register. Our capacity has increased but we are still required to record numbers.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

This coming Sunday is *Gaudete* or Rejoicing Sunday. In the previous two Sundays we have lit purple candles, representing hope and faith, whereas this Sunday we light the pink candle as rose is a liturgical colour used to signify joy. Christmas should be about being filled with a growing sense of joy.

Today we are in the rhythm of both gratitude and yearning. Between the two, there is great space for hope. We are learning to be a patient people, continuing on, grateful but also impatient, in hope. We don't give up hoping just because some of the things we long for in God's reign of peace and justice have already happened. We're there, and yet we're not. So much remains unfinished; so many have not yet experienced what has been promised.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

If John the Baptist were going through a security check at the airport, he might have grumbled as he removed his sandals and put them in the carrier. He might have said, "Here are my sandals, but I am not worthy to unloose the strap of the sandals of one who is coming."

The security officers might have looked at his passport, questioning if he was the Messiah or Elijah. They might have patted him down and asked him to step into an adjoining room where they could question him further. "Who are you?" "Why do you baptize?" After the security team gave up, finding nothing, John was cleared. As he headed for his gate, John may have dared to call back: "There is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me."
Deacon Dick Folger

Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph Tuesday in honor of the [150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the universal Church](#).

The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021, according to a [decree](#) authorized by the pope.

The decree said that Pope Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will." It added that the pope had granted special indulgences to mark the year.

The Dec. 8 decree was issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary, the dicastery of the Roman Curia that oversees indulgences, and signed by the Major Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, and the Regent, Msgr. Krzysztof Nykiel.

In addition to the decree, Francis issued an [apostolic letter](#) Tuesday dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

The pope explained in the letter, entitled *Patris corde* ("With a father's heart") and dated Dec. 8, that he wanted to share some "personal reflections" on the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic," he said, noting that many people had made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," he wrote.

"St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Pope Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph patron of the Universal Church on Dec. 8, 1870, in the decree *Quemadmodum Deus*.

In its decree Tuesday, the Apostolic Penitentiary said that, "to reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph's patronage in the Church," it would grant a plenary indulgence to Catholics who recite any approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19, the saint's solemnity, and May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

The decree said: "In the current context of health emergency, the gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, who, with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or where the impediment keeps them, recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts of their life."

The three conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, the reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the pope's intentions.

In his apostolic letter, Pope Francis reflected on the fatherly qualities of St. Joseph, describing him as beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, and "creatively courageous." He also underlined that he was a working father. Pope Francis said that the contemporary world required examples of true fatherhood. "Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs," he wrote.

"It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

"Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love,

Cont...the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration."

He continued: "When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care."

The pope added: "In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who 'makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust' (Matthew 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son."

Pope Francis has promoted devotion to St. Joseph throughout his pontificate.

The Pope concluded his new apostolic letter by urging Catholics to pray to St. Joseph for "the grace of graces: our conversion." He ended the text with a prayer: "Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen."

JOHN THE PROPHET



'John the Baptist is the archetypal prophet, the voice crying in the wilderness, announcing the truth that the world seldom wants to hear.

He is dressed in the garb of a prophet, camel hair and leather, and he eats locusts and wild

honey.

'But more significantly his natural habitat is the desert. The desert is traditionally a place of holiness and purity. Away from the cares and concerns of urban life, early Christian monks felt closer to God in their desert hermitages. The desert is a place of exile, and exile is a constant theme in the story of salvation. Throughout his ministry, Jesus constantly felt the need to escape the clamouring throng of people who gathered around him and 'withdraw to a lonely place.' 'John speaks to us today, in part because we live in a situation not unlike his own. The modern world can seem very much like a desert, our preaching can seem like a voice crying in the wilderness of apathy and materialism. During these final days of Advent, may we welcome Christ as he comes to us in various ways, especially in the liturgy through the Sacraments and in life through our neighbour.'

by Fr. Timothy Gardner OP

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

13th DECEMBER – ECUMENICAL SAUSAGE SIZZLE & COMMUNITY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, 6:30pm - Free Community BBQ / Sausage Sizzle (& Nativities Viewing) followed by Carols by Candlelight at 7:30pm. St Margaret's & Holy Cross Church Grounds, Hackett.



Life is like a camera.

Just focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, just take another shot.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please check the notice board in the foyer for Covid 19 rules for the Church.

CHRISTMAS TIMES

Christmas Mass Schedules are now on the exit tables. Please take one home. Parishioners will need to book for Christmas Masses by sending an email : watson@cg.org.au or calling the office on 6248 5925, with the names of people attending and one phone number. To expedite seating please arrive early to book in. If you are available to volunteer for the Christmas liturgies, please put your name on the sheet in the foyer. **We will require at least two people to record details of people entering the church for Masses. It is important to keep the people moving on entering to prevent a large queue at the entrance.**

WEEKLY READER FORMATION

Weekly Reader Formation sessions have resumed on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. All parishioners are invited. – Meet at the door of the office at 7.30pm OR join us online using Zoom. Zoom details are - <https://zoom.us/j/91493407836?pwd=eVBQRohnZo5CL1YzWU93YmJLNm53UT09> The Meeting ID is 914 9340 7836 and the Passcode is 389526.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL



With the support of the Holy Rosary Primary School, the Parish Vinnies Conference will again be organising Christmas Hampers this year for local families in need.

A box is in the back of the church for your hamper donations.

We are looking for donations of: Biscuits (tins for seniors are very popular), shortbreads, chocolate and savoury biscuits. Puddings this includes plum puddings, jellies, fruit or pudding mixes. Jams, Pickles, Tomato Sauce, Vegemite, Pasta and Rice, Packets of Cereal. Cake mixes eg. cupcakes, muffins, pancakes etc. Lollies. Tea & Coffee. Gift vouchers for teenagers would be appreciated. Small gifts for older persons.

We cannot accept nuts or nut products for health and safety reasons. We will also need to sanitise goods before we pass them on. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 17th December at Gang Gang Downer from 10-30am will be our final gathering for 2020. We won't be meeting for morning tea again until the third Thursday in February 2021 which is the 18th. New comers always welcome. Stay safe throughout the festive season.

NATIVITY FESTIVAL

10th to 13th December

NORTH CANBERRA ECUMENICAL NATIVITY FESTIVAL

Exhibition of 200 Nativity scenes - an entrée to family discussion on the true meaning of Christmas. From 40 countries, they show diverse cultures that embrace the Christian story.

Thu 10th - Fri 11th: 10:00am - 2:30pm

School groups by appointment (Ph: 0412-376-324)

Thu 10th - Fri 11th: 2:30pm - 4:00pm

– Kids & Families

Sat 12th - Sun 13th: 9:00am - 7:00pm

– PUBLIC EXHIBITION

St Margaret's Hall,

Cnr. Antill St. & Phillip Ave, Hackett.

Contact: Keith at linard.keith@gmail.com.



In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Alexia Harris, Maria Martiniello, Greg O'Neill, Moya McGrath, Barbara Parsonage, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Frank Zobec, June Pollard, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Zelma McManus, Elizabeth Webster, Joe Schimizzi, Bob Hackett, Elsie Laughton, Paul Neddrie, Pamela Sandy, Beth Delos Santos, Terry Stephens, Maureen Blood, Anna Linard, Bernard Druett, Mary Lou Pentony

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.

Patrick Crowley, David Shepherd, Marie Bartlett, Elizabeth Tisdell

In Loving Memory

Leokadia Dobrowolska (Dobbie), Giovanni Sergi, Margherita Serge, Frank Mare, Marian Mare

PARISH

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION - Parish School of Religion is in recess until next year.

MASS INTENTION - please email or phone the Parish Office.

PRAY THE ROSARY - First Saturday each month 3.30pm

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for information.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - www.wccm.org

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on **Wednesdays**.

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is NOON TUESDAY
Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

THANK YOU

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with last weeks Sausage Sizzle.

Align your focus with the Solution and not the Problem.

ROSTER 19 / 20 December		
Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	T. Johnson	
Readers	Sr Veronica	Volunteer
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	K. Linard	
Readers	N. Clarke	G. Thompson
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	A. O'Donnell	L. Fardell
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	S. Sedgwick	
Readers	M. Brotohusodo	T. de luca