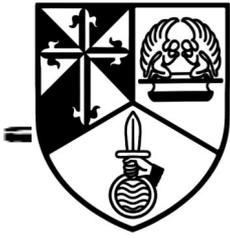


Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 03
12 December 2021
Year C

VERITAS



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 OP

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

Jacque Cortese
Jim Smith

Email:

watson@cg.org.au

Website:

www.cg.org.au/watson

Facebook:

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

Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday
8.00am

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**



*Face Masks are not mandatory,
but encouraged for those 12 years and over.*

Make Straight the Way of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Entrance Antiphon - Phil 4: 4-5

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

FIRST READING

First reading - Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven
your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your
midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day
comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in
your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over
you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with
shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm - Isaiah 12

*Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

SECOND READING

Second reading - Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation - Isaiah 61:1 (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

Gospel - Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the gospel of Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon - Cf. Is 35: 4

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

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This Sunday is *Gaudete* Sunday, where we are exhorted to 'Rejoice'. The liturgy invites us to rejoice because at the halfway moment of Advent we are aware of how close we are to proximity of the salvation that will come to us at Christmas. Therefore, this week let us take time to enumerate our blessings; and to rejoice in the warmth the sun brings, the fall of summer rain, the joy of children as they prepare for Christmas, the fact that we once again mingle in shopping malls (even though it's difficult dealing with that many people again), and time with family.

In last week's Gospel, we heard that John came as 'A voice crying in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord'. Remembering this, I read the Gospel passage, perhaps several times, noting anything that appears to stand out for me.

The different people ask John, 'What must I do?' Perhaps ask the Lord to show you what you are called to be or do to prepare a way for God in your life, in your family, in your community?

DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY? OR DONT WORRY, REJOICE?

The lyrics of that once popular 90s song is not what St Paul was saying about our happiness as Christians. Christian joy is a lot more than merely being "happy".

What saint Paul is endeavouring to tell the church at Philippi, and us, is not so much to be simply happy in a worldly sense, but to be happy in the Lord.



The song 'Don't worry be happy' merely prescribes an earthly happiness, a happiness which is limited, corruptible and transitory. St Paul's directive to be happy is obviously more than just being content and satisfied. In fact, the translation of this passage today should really read-rejoice, rather than just "be happy".

Our rejoicing needs to be constant because of what has been done for us in Christ Jesus. Our time of preparation for Christmas reminds us that our lives as Christians need to be lives radiating joy and hope. No one likes a sour Christian, rather, to be fully Christian is to be a saint, and as Frank Sheed, a prominent catholic apologist of the past once wrote "Saints are not sad." Our Christian joy should be infectious. What a wonderful tool for evangelisation it would be if Christians could radiate Christian joy constantly rather than be seen as just people moving along with the secular herd opting for a merely worldly feel good vibe.

Our Christian joy then must be counter cultural. We must show the world the path to true joy is found not in the things of this life but in Christ and the things of heaven. How can we show the world this true joy if we make so many compromises with it? Our secular colleagues do not often detect Christian joy in us but rather Christian disapproval or Christian "sadness". Or these secular contemporaries only ever see a Christian who opts for a second class contentedness from earthly comforts.

Our work as Christians is to endeavour to dialogue with those around us and explain to them the true nature of the faith, the true nature of our joy. We should be able to explain what is positive in our faith, what are its benefits, what is its goal, and what gives us joy.

Yet our Christian joy must also be remembered in times of grief, sorrow and distress. How is this possible? To guard our Christian joy, we must be people of constant prayer, we must be people who continually have before us the reason for our joy - which is Christ. The prayer of adoration, prayer which ponders on the mysteries of Christ's passion, death, and glorious resurrection all establish in us a motive, a seed of Christian joy. That is why we come to mass. We come to remember the saving power of our God, to be thankful for it and to be consolidated in the reason for our joy.

We are joyful because we have been offered the path to complete and utter joy, which is nothing other than the life of god, the life that fulfils us utterly. Our joy is found in the fact that, unlike many of our contemporaries who live without purpose, we are bound for a life far greater than this and it is all possible because of Christ Jesus our God who became man.

Cont...Finally, let us be mindful however that Christian joy is *not* found in happy, clappy outbursts or sanctimonious looks, rather Christian joy is something that is deep within us and rooted in our souls. It is present when times are tough, it is present when we feel all other hopes are lost, it is present when we can say like St Paul:

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God love you. Fr Mannes OP

MAKE STRAIGHT THE PATHS OF JOY

Our joy as Christians cannot be contained. It must not be restrained. The penitential always gives way to the salvific. That's the only point of our penance: to make our path straight for rejoicing, to liberate us from the sadness.

Sadly, I think the penance, the preparation Advent most demands of us Christians these days is to learn anew to be joyful and to learn again to share our joy with others. Please! Christians! Your joy is what's demanded of you -- instead of all that plaintive sermonising against the commercialisation and materialism of the secular Christmas or all that anxious news commentary on how stressful a time Christmas is for people. Christians cannot oppose the world's misdirected 'spirit of Christmas' with some kind of sober sadness or any kind of preaching guilt-trip. They must oppose it with their joy.

What is the source of our joy? Exactly the good news being celebrated, sung, spread and proclaimed in our readings: God has come to be with us. And God shall come again so that we may be with him forever. And not only us, for 'all shall see the salvation of God'. This is no mere clap-trap, no happy-clappy God delusion. It's not any 'spirit' of Christmas, it is Christmas.

We Christians are not unaware of or untouched by the sadness, the suffering and the pain in human lives. Sorrow and distress are not absent from our wardrobes. We don't so much hide it away as we put all that in its proper place. And it is not that our faith does not motivate us to make our world a better place. We can ask, as anyone might, why, despite the best efforts of men and women of good will, there is still war, hunger, sickness, loneliness and all manner of sorrow in our world, but we cannot say, as others might, that God does not know or that God does not care.

In Christ Jesus God has manifested the depth of his care for us. God is with us and God wants us to be with him forever.

For some that's not enough. Perhaps they want Father Christmas to bring them other gifts. Don't begrudge or be scrooge those who have a different wish list this Advent and Christmas. Respect those who don't see the Father's gift of his Son as the greatest of all gifts. But since we Christians believe that it is, we must show it. We must show ourselves to be the very opposite of a sad people. We must make St. Paul's words our own: 'Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy...'

Fr Mark Edney OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

*Don't be impressed by money, followers, degrees and titles.
Be impressed by humility integrity, generosity and kindness.*

EAGER ANTICIPATION

'The people in today's Gospel think John the Baptist must be the Christ, when all he is doing is telling them things they already know. John, however, knows that that will not be enough on its own, that what he offers is not the transformation that they really need. Repentance, which is John's message, is a very important part of what we all need, but it will only be part of what will save us; and when I say 'save us', I mean primarily from ourselves, from the moral forgetfulness that we've willed upon ourselves, and the terrible harm we do to ourselves and others when we act from that forgetfulness. 'We are waiting with eager anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas because God in Christ is offering us far more than that. The hope Christ brings is a new birth, not just a second chance. It's a return to the hope of our childhood and even more: a new and certain hope of life with God, of being a child of God, in this life and forever.' *Excerpt from a homily by Fr Austin Milner OP*

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Vinnies is organising pre-made hampers for our hamper families this year. We are required to supplement those hampers with treat items and gifts. We are seeking your assistance with these things. We need small and larger Christmas puddings and Christmas cakes, biscuits, lollies, chips (but NOT nuts or nut products), small tins of hot chocolate, milo or quick, gravy or gravox, bottles of long-life juice, custard, pancake mix, jelly and bonbons. We don't need many gifts. A small number of toys for children under 10 and some gift cards for teenagers. Cards should be between \$20-50 in value.

A box has been placed at the rear of the church for these donations. Please provide gift cards to a Vinnies conference member or to the Parish office.

Donations to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal can still be made by using the QR code on the Vinnies' posters in the church foyer. Using a smartphone to donate in this way you will receive an automatic receipt.

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

The Marian Movement of Priests invites you and your friends to the 15th Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil at St Brigid's Church, Friday 31st December at 8.00pm.

LITURGICAL ROSTERS

The Liturgical Roster for the New Year will be prepared soon, if you would like to volunteer please put your name on the roster in the foyer. If you are able to volunteer for the Christmas Liturgies a separate roster is also in the foyer. Please consider volunteering as we are very short of volunteers for all Masses.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, parishes will be conducting the annual Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. Please see the noticeboard for further details. To donate to the Appeal please use the Tap & Go machine on the Offertory table.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

"Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!" – Psalm 117
12th December | 6:30pm Holy Rosary Catholic Church Watson Presented by Swara

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill: Greg O'Neill, Ruth Burke, Frank Zobec, Carol Hallam, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, June Pollard, Anne Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Bob Hackett, Joe Schimizzi, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Mary Lou Pentony, Elizabeth Webster, Una Bell, Peter Catlin Pamela Sandy, Maureen Blood, Beth Delos Santos, Terry Stephens, Bernard Druett, Denis Lawrence, Veronica & Paul Cornelly, Patricia Torzi, Gwen Gleeson

*Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.
Elaine Momcilovic & Fred Farlow*

In Loving Memory - Paula Savas, Petronila Rico

PRAY THE ROSARY On Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. You are most welcome to join in.

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm 1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for information.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre every Wednesday.

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

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

WEEKLY READER FORMATION - Formation sessions have are 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=eVBQR0hnZ05CL1YzWU93YmJLNm53UT09](https://zoom.us/j/91493407836)

The Meeting ID is 983 138 1937 and the passcode is 815443.

ROSTER 18 / 19 December 2021

Saturday 5pm

Acolyte - I. Buckley, Reader - J. de Riva O'Phelan

Sunday 8am

Acolyte - K. Linard, Reader - N. Clarke & G. Thompson

Sunday 10.00am

Acolyte - H. Beadsley, Reader - J. Cooke & S. Coles

Welcome - K. O'Brien

Sunday 5.00pm

Acolyte - S. Sedgwick, Reader - M. Proctor

Data Projector - C. Bailey

Counters - C. Ryan & J. Smith

Life is a journey not a competition.

NORTH CANBERRA NATIVITY FESTIVAL

Holy Cross Anglican & St Margaret's Uniting Church Hackett - Festival to be held on Sat 18 - Sun 19 Dec

9am-5pm ~ Exhibition nativity scenes

Sat 5.30pm ~ Concert Sun 6.30pm ~ Community BBQ

Sun 7.30pm ~ Community Carols by candlelight.

Free & open to all -

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A quiet, alternative service for anyone who is experiencing grief, loss and pain this season.

Monday 20 December at 7.30pm held Holy Cross Anglican & St Margaret's Uniting Church Hackett

Happiness is the new rich. **Inner peace** is the new success. **Health** is the new wealth. **Kindness** is the new cool.