



Lord, it is wonderful
for us to be here.

PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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31 December-1 January 2023, Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God, Year A

WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND MASSES, LITURGY and RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Monday	9.30am Curtin
Tuesday	9.30am Curtin
Wednesday	9.30am Curtin – Liturgy of the Word and Communion
Thursday	5.30pm Curtin
Friday	9.30am Curtin (including Anointing on First Friday)
Saturday	Reconciliation 5.00-5.30pm; Mass 6.00pm Curtin
Sunday	9.30am and 5.30pm Curtin

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: May God bless us in his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

Recently Deceased: Fr Desmond Purcell, Yongrae Lee, Connie Vella, Kate Madden, Romano Ipolitti, Henry Keough, Katie Smith, Bill Byrne, Dao Jensen, Margaret Linden, Shooting victims in Qld, Mary Milton, Robynne Morton, Ramil S. Cruz, Roderick M. Pagdanganan, West Java earthquake victims, Sharon Woods, Fr Peter Maher, Nessa Delaney, Scott Roberts, Leodegario Alimangohan, Veronica Sen, Adam Ryan, Laurence Patrick Bennett, Greg Cusack, victims of Korean 'crush', victims of Indian bridge collapse, Peggy Down, victims of war in Ukraine and victims of COVID.

Anniversaries of Death: Noel Lane, David Power, Dix and Keily families, Margaret Cusack, Brian Brown, Joanne Binutti, Judith Whittaker, Jodi Johnson, Christopher Perkins, John Holtzapffel, Peter Malow, Vincent Huang, Ellen Stening, Peter Majer, Bali bombing victims, Denzil Gomez and victims of COVID.

MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Pope Benedict, Stephanie De Jongh, Shaun Clancy, Patrick Jones, Julianna Maher, Jack Kennelly, Susie Menadue, Philomena Fisher, Rajan Fernandez, Kathleen Belfanti, Ljubica Gotovac, Jose Arquero, Olga Johnson, Patricia Zorzi, Wendy Altimore, Karen Lloyd, David Swan, John O'Connor, Grant Brookes, John Grant, Rosa Winstanley, John Manning, John Della Libera, Iole Cicolini, Gaie Ross, James Biddle, Carolyn Wightman, Peter McDade, Lorraine King, Greg Geering, Chandrika, Anselm and Venura Grero and those afflicted with COVID.

DISCIPLES PONDER AND ACT

Happy New Year! Yes, new possibilities. And so from the 'get-go' the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Mary, Mother of God. It is the most ancient of the Marian feasts. It affirms the gift of new life *"channeled to us through Mary in the person of her Son and continuing to be channeled to us through her powerful intercession. In this sense it is a fitting celebration to mark the beginning of a New Year and promise of life that it holds out"* (Brendan Byrne). In Christ there are always new possibilities. As we reflect on the unfolding of the story of salvation, our First Reading contains a threefold blessing. The early Church saw this as a *"forerunner of the Christian grace and blessing in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Cor 13:13)"* (Byrne). We draw on the past to situate our present experience and we project into the future under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, as the Gospel relates, the shepherds, 'the outsiders' *"had come to know God as a God who fulfils promises, no matter how contrary the "facts" and how strange the message may initially have seemed"* (Byrne). The Gospel notes that Mary pondered many things in her heart (2:51b). As it was for Mary, so much of the future is unknown for us. No doubt, it will encompass both wonder and joy, surprise and confusion and perhaps painful surrender. Through it all is God's call to life. Today's solemnity therefore *"invites us to enter more deeply into her contemplation of mysterious ways in which God gives life to the world"* (Byrne). In his *Urbi et Orbi* ('to the city and to the world') Christmas Day message, Pope Francis made an

impassioned plea: ***“May the Lord inspire us to offer concrete gestures of solidarity to assist all who are suffering, and may he enlighten the minds of those who have the power to silence the thunder of weapons and put an end to this senseless war!”*** He was addressing the violence in Ukraine, as well as that in Syria, the Holy Land, Yemen, Haiti, Lebanon, Myanmar and Iran. Noting that Bethlehem means ‘house of bread’, he also lamented the hunger of many, especially children, while much food is wasted every day and scarce resources are being spent on weapons. **For and one all who celebrate ‘God-is-with-us’, we join with Mary, ‘the first disciple’, seeking her intercession to be channels of good will, love, truth, justice and peace.**

Fr John

THANK YOU to all who assisted with the set up and celebration of the Advent-Christmas liturgies. In song, spoken prayer, reflection on our symbols and nourishment in word and sacrament we united our hopes and aspirations with those of the people of old and for our world today. We continue our journey “walking together”.

SS PETER AND PAUL’S GOULBURN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join another volunteer for 2 hours per month to welcome visitors to the beautifully refurbished and only greenstone church in the world. Sign up via the QR Code [bit.ly/3FIKWRq] or E: goulburn@cg.org.au www.stspeterandpauls.com.au



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT for our local **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS APPEAL**. So too for the **AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS UKRAINE APPEAL** which raised **\$1058.50**. The hampers will assist local needy folk and funds will assist Ukrainians enduring a harsh winter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB PERKINS: At the recent national meeting of the Knights of the Southern Cross held in our parish, Bob was awarded the Supreme Knight’s Award for 24 years outstanding service as National Executive Officer. Well done Bob, and we wish another parishioner, Brendan Long all the best as the new Executive Officer.

THANK YOU to all who have passed on expressions of sympathy and prayers following the death of my sister Sharon. Your support is much appreciated. Thanks also to those who have passed on Christmas greetings and expressions of the same. We walk together. Fr John

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD: Fr Emil Milat has been appointed Vocations Director for the Archdiocese as of 6 February. Cinnil Thomas will next year join our seminarians Mark Ha and Bran Gric at Good Shepherd Seminary, Homebush. Walking together in faith, we pray for vocations to the priesthood. Archbishop Christopher noted that after 60 years in Canberra the Dominicans will be leaving the Watson Parish at the end of November 2023.

ARCHBISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022 will support the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal, diocesan projects in Nigeria, India and PNG, as well as the La Salette Matha Province in India and students attending Bethlehem University.

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER’S TALK ON ‘ENCOUNTER, DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION - THE THREE FUNDAMENTALS OF EVANGELISATION’ is available at the exits. Evangelisation is the mission of the Church and therefore all of us.

MEDITATION GROUP: 6pm, Wednesdays. All welcome. Contact Vikki, 0437 876 487, mulvaney@netspeed.com.au.

PRAYER CIRCLE SUPPORT: Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

Readings for next Sunday: Feast of the Epiphany Year A, 8/1; Isa 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12.

LITURGICAL ROSTERS NEXT WEEK:			
<i>2nd Sunday of the Month</i>	Curtin Sat. 6pm	Curtin Sun. 9.30 am	Curtin Sun. 5.30 pm
Acolyte	Dan McKay	Stafferd Fernandez	Mark Murphy
Servers			
Reader	Volunteer required	Bianca D’Rosario	Rita Daniels
Commentator	Rachel Smith	Margaret Frawley	
Welcomer	Margaret Ryan	Ted Frawley	
Ministers of Comm.	Melissa Bray, Sarah Buchanan	Sue Phillips, Mary Henry, Amy Doszpot	Pat Wadsworth, Cushla Sheehan, Barb Mills
Communion to Sick	St Andrew’s: Morna Falkland	Fred Ward: Margaret Ryan	Homes: Volunteer required
Collectors	J David	Volunteer required	P Kelly, Ava & Ella Morris
Collection Counters	9 Jan.	John Eyers, Michel Duffy	
Wednesday Liturgy	4 Jan.	Prayer Leader: Margaret Ryan	Eucharistic Minister: Sr Frances Fitzpatrick