

Prayers of the Faithful

PRIEST: 'Be on your guard. Stay awake!' Advent is a time of waiting - waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus. In a spirit of openness to what God wants of us, we recall our needs and the needs of all God's

Reader: For the gift of openness to God.(pause) In this time of Advent, may we be open to what God wants, taking seriously the command to prepare for God's coming into our lives. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader:For the gift of faith. (pause) May we continue to grow in faith in our God who is with us. May we be alert to the signs of the times, steady and blameless in our lives as we wait for the Day of the Lord. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the gift of patience. (pause) Like the servants in the gospel story, may we be alert and prepared, waiting for the return of Jesus our Master. May we be ready to greet him when he comes, worthy of his confidence in us. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the gift of hope. (pause) Jesus commands us to be on our guard at every hour of the day. May we so live according to the gospel, that we may be filled with hope as we wait for the Lord's coming. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Creator God, you command us to pray for the coming of your Help us to prepare for your coming in our lives and to look for it with confidence and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Priest: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
*He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the Saviour of every nation.*

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends and be with all those who are in need. Amen. (As the candle is lit).

Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff

3rd December 2023 – First Sunday of Advent—Year B

In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

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Stay Awake!

"The witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed." 1 Cor. 6-7.

Christmas parties and end of the year celebrations have already started. While preparing for Christmas and the New Year we create opportunities to gather with friends, parishioners and work mates to celebrate. Usually on Christmas day we gather with special people and family. The season focuses on relationships. Covid lockdown and restrictions taught us the importance of gathering with others. As Christians we know that community life is to do with the Incarnation of Jesus and our belief in a Trinitarian God.

In the past few months, I have been taking initiative to join people for dinner, invite smaller groups of people for a shared meal and visit people. The aim is to get to know people and give parishioners the opportunity to interact with me and others in different environment. I persevere in writing for our newsletter weekly to ensure that you know and understand what my thoughts and feelings are on matters of faith. I am pleased to report all the necessary things are being attended to with the help of staff. Our numbers are not big but we have all the needed support.

As we enter into the season of Advent, the readings remind us of our responsibilities while waiting for the return of the Lord. I invite you to join me in a prayer to seek God's wisdom and light to guide us in our discernment as we move forward. We are blessed with good and committed people. The Time and Talent

forms indicate the desire of people wanting to be involved.

In the recent past we have kept things simple to ensure we were not disappointed or stressed in trying to organise events with the challenges presented by Covid. We have had enough time and space, to reorder our lives post Covid restrictions. It is timely to embark on a process of renewal. As partnered parishes we have to find creative ways to use our resources effectively including being served by one friar.

I invite to join me on Tuesday for advent reflection at 7.30pm. Let's us gather to pray and to listen. Change is part of the incarnational reality of the Church while remaining faithful to the Gospel of Jesus, which does not change. The context and priorities of people are changing. I need help to look for ways to engage people, reorganise the parishes and nurture people's spiritual life.

Participation and having a sense of belonging are vital in ensuring parish life is vibrant. Please try to join in one of the events during the season of Advent-Christmas. Find opportunities to gather or visit parishioners. Introduce yourself to others at masses and other gatherings. Let your opinions be part of conversations about parish life, let our ideas grow and mature. God will help us to find a path forward as one.

Father Anthoni Selvaraj OFM



Advent Reflection Evening At St Francis

5th December 7.30pm Prayer with reflection by Sister Margaret Beirne RSC followed by fellowship.

Feast Day Mass-The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8th December St Francis 9am

8th December St Joseph 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS and Nativity Play

St Francis of Assisi Church Paddington

Children are invited to wear angel wings, or shepherds head-dress to the family mass on Christmas eve and will be encouraged to sing on the night. There are a number of main characters to play. If you are interested in being part of the play please call Maria Hoareau. Mob: 0434-514-520.

PLEASE JOIN US- All are welcome.

Quiche Chardonnay Christmas Party St Joseph

3rd December after the 10.30 Mass

Christmas Party at St Joseph

10th December after 5.30pm mass.

Please put your mass intentions in with the collection or the office to ensure that it is published in a timely manner. please indicate the most relevant. i.e. recently deceased, significant anniversary, health etc.

Christmas Weekend Mass Times

ST JOSEPH EDGECLIFF

24 DECEMBER
9.00 am (4th Sun Advent)

Christmas Vigil
5.00PM Family Mass
6.30PM(Carols -6.15pm)
CHRISTMAS DAY
9.00AM
10.30AM

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PADDINGTON

23 DECEMBER 5.30pm
24 DECEMBER
8.30 am (4th Sun Advent)

Christmas Vigil
5:30 PM Family Mass
9:00PM (No midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY
8:30 AM and 10:00 AM

St Francis Parish Boxes and bags for our Elderly in Care

**We still need contributors for the bags for Woollahra Ronald Coleman Lodge. Thanks to those who have supported our Christmas drive.

CANA Christmas Goods on Sale (Card or Cash)

Jams, Vino Cotto, Olives Chutney & Candles still available. For purchase at St Francis.

APPEAL (Tax Deductible)

The Vinnies Appeal. Envelopes in church. CWF Each Parish contributes an amount set by the archdiocese. The shortfall comes from parish funds. **Please direct all donations via the parish.**

WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass to introduce yourself and find out more about our community. We also welcome you to contact our Parish Office.

OUR PARISH

Parish Administrator: Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm
Franciscan community: Fr Peter Clifford ofm, Br John Lourey ofm
Parish Secretary: Enza Sinapi, Cate Stivala
Catechist Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Support: Enza Sinapi
Cantor, Edgecliff: Tanith Bryce
Music Dir. & Organist, Paddington: Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne
Cantor, Paddington: Nicole Smeulders
Principal, St Francis of Assisi School: Nicole Hudson

MASS TIMES

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Sunday: 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 5.30pm

Liturgy of the Word/Communion: Wednesday, Friday: 5.30pm
(Reconciliation: prior to Thursday evening Mass - from 5pm)

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 11.45am

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Saturday Vigil*: 5.30pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10am with choir

Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9am

Liturgy of the Word/Communion: Wednesday, Thursday: 9am
(*Reconciliation: prior to Saturday Vigil Mass - from 5pm)

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11.45am

Children's Liturgy
2nd & 4th Sundays during 8.30 mass.
Parents and Children Welcome

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER AND MASSES

Wedding: Danny Fu and Yen Dao,

Prayer Intentions – for the sick, the elderly in aged care facilities and homebound, children preparing for confirmation and peace in Holy Land.

Recently Deceased: Patricia Mary Agnes Smith, John Connolly FRCS, James Patrick Gooley, Sister Colette Jones OSC, Barbara Koryzna-Kijowski, Fr Gregory Bourke ofm, Peter Spencer, Peter Roy Thomas Hoareau, Colleen Quinton, Margaret Smith.

In Memoriam: Peter Herro, Dr Herbert Odillo Maher & Family, Ellen and Mathie Gilligan, Pamela Rex, Frank, Shane, Patricia and Frankie Jr (McAlary Family), Margaret Mary Kiernan, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Rami Antoine Khater, Joel Fernando 1st Anniversary, Jones Family, Billy Mosati, Thorpe and Starr Family, George and Noelene Waldron, Hector Destro, Domenic and Nita Casamento; Finbarr O'Farrell, Belinda O'Connell, David de Carvalho,

Health and Family: Lelma Farnsworth, & Family, Aoeiffe and Leon Ebbelaor, Kevin De Souza.

Mass Intentions: Jill N, David and Josie White, Mila Svehla, Eva Khun, Giuliano Family, Kelly Family, Anne Conlon, Frank Kaine, James Evans, O'Farrell, O'Flynn and Orr Families, Harrison Watkins, Dr and Mrs O'Shea, Jane Pike, Glade Pike, Steve Martin, Concepcion Family, Carmela Lagudi, Mrs Yule Family.

Overview of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Policy

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf>

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, You can contact the *Safeguarding Ministerial Integrity Office: on 9390 5180 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org*. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.



Archdiocese
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Australia



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www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
www.sydneycatholic.org
www.franciscans.org.au

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 84: 13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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COME, LORD JESUS. The prophet Isaiah implored God to tear the heavens open and come down to save the people. God, however, did not come among us in such a dramatic way but in the humble form of Jesus of Nazareth. God continues to enter our lives in unexpected ways. If we are watchful for the presence of Christ in each day, we will recognise him when he comes in glory.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, (striking the breast) through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down — at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like dry leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/shine forth from your cherubim throne./O Lord, rouse up your might,/O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/look down from heaven and see./Visit this vine and protect it,/the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,/the man you have given your strength./And we shall never forsake you again:/give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**



SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 13:33-37

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task;

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.