

## Prayers of the Faithful

**PRIEST:** Prepare to let God come into our lives. Prepare to be changed by what God demands of us. Moved by the preaching of the Baptist, we recall our needs before God.

Reader: For the gift of consolation. (pause) God promises consolation and peace to those who follow the way of the Lord. In this time of Advent, may we turn to the Lord in prayer and penance and be filled with the peace that only God can give. Lord, hear us.

**ALL: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the gift of hope. (pause) We pray for the gift of hope, confident that our God who led us through exile and bitterness will be our consolation, bringing us refreshment and new hope. Lord, hear us.

**ALL: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the gift of repentance. (pause) May we be aware of our need for repentance, regretting the evil we do to others and resolving in this time of preparation that Sin will not control our lives nor selfishness the values we live by. Lord, hear us.

**ALL: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For prophets in our church. (pause) John the Baptist is God's messenger who prepares the way of the Lord.

May we welcome prophets in our church who remind us of gospel values, making straight the paths of our God. Lord, hear us.

**ALL: Lord hear our prayer.**

**PRIEST:** In this time of waiting, we commend ourselves and our needs to our God who cares for us like shepherds caring for their lambs. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**ALL: Amen.**

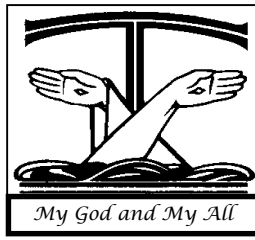
## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**All:** Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by working for Christ's peace to take root in our family. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.: Amen. ( As the candle is lit).

## Parish Office Open/Close Dates

The office will be closed over the holidays from midday 21/12/2023 We reopen Monday 22/01/2024.

*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

10th December 2023 – Second 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

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043

Email: office@stf-stj.com Website: www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com

### Be open to the surprise of hope.

End of the year and Christmas season often lead us to think about the past. People recall past events about which they feel nostalgic. Studies suggest that looking back at the past tends to make people feel good. These studies also suggest that nostalgia is a double-edged sword: If we try to look back at the past for events that make us feel nostalgic, we often think about positive things from our past that can lead to feelings of contentment and happiness.

However, recalling life events can also trigger memories that are not as positive, and that can have a negative impact on our sense of well-being which can last for a few days. The tendency to experience nostalgia was related both to a focus on avoidance as well as to the personality characteristic. In general, the tendency to experience nostalgia relates to the experience of negative feelings, depression and regret.

Today's readings lead us to reflect on our future which is in God. In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what seems impossible, God's help can change their situation, hope is given to enable people to move forward. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise. The surprise that God is in no way limited by the consequences of human weakness or sin. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in

the wilderness by John. The images tell us to trust God, who can work a new creation. Hope is not wishful thinking in Christianity.

What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears. Salvation history helps us to understand the history of God's people.

In our brokenness and living in a negative world, an emptied heart can be filled by God with hope. What started in the wilderness can flow into cities to inspire all peoples. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope. In this season of watching and waiting, preparation is the theme. The coming of the Lord and the birth of Jesus are the central actions during this liturgical season. The Gospel of Mark presents John the Baptist as one who calls us to prepare the way of the Lord.

Fr Anthoni Selvaraj OFM

### Volunteers for Christmas Masses

We need help at Christmas Masses for both Churches, some of our regulars might not be available to assist during Christmas weekend. There will be clipboards at entrances to record your availability. Please let us know if you will be present to support our masses in any of the following roles:

**Greeters Readers Collectors Communion Ministers**

### Thank You

I sincerely thank all those provided and organized the following events.

Advent reflection - Genevieve for supper and Sr Margaret for [reflection](#).

Quiche and Chardonay – Adam, Frank, Kathy and Emmanuel

Pizza and games – Cate and Finn

Christmas party – Jan and Louise & 5.30 pm Sun mass goers.

Christmas Weekend Helpers-Volunteers

### 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.

**All are welcome**

**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

*90 Years Young*  
We wish Father Peter Clifford a wonderful birthday.

### St Francis Parish Boxes and bags for our Elderly in Care

\*\*We still need contributors for the bags for Woollahra Ronald Coleman Lodge. Quick reminder to return your box asap.

### 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

**Baptism:** Rowan Alexander Downey-Jones

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

**Recently Deceased:** William 'Billy' O'Riordan, Fr Arul Mariadass OFM, Patricia Mary Agnes Smith, John Connolly, James Patrick Gooley, Sr Colette Jones OSC, Barbara Koryzna-Kijowski, Fr Gregory Bourke ofm, Peter Spencer, Peter Roy Thomas Hoareau, Colleen Quinton, Margaret Smith.

**In Memoriam:** Joseph Tabone, Maria Catherine Slater, Rex Steven Porter, Carmelo Raco, George Farah, Peter Herro, Herbert Odillo Maher & Family, Ellen and Mathie Gilligan, Pamela Rex, Frank, Shane, Patricia and Frankie Jr (McAlary Family), Margaret Mary Kiernan, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Joel Fernando, Jones Family, Billy Mosati, Thorpe and Starr Family, George and Noelene Waldron, Hector Destro, Domenic and Nita Casamento; Finbarr O'Farrell,

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

**Mass Intentions:** The Silva Family, 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, Concepcion Family, Carmela Lagudi,

## 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 safeguardinginqueries@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



Franciscan friars

@OZFranciscan



Parish  
Archdiocese  
Franciscan friars

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



The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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. Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. 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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### IN THE WILDERNESS

In Australia we experience the desert and wilderness in all its beauty and expanse, yet it can be a lonely, dangerous place. Today we hear a voice crying out in the wilderness in the time of Isaiah and echoed in the Gospel. This voice also cries out to us today, in the wilderness and the desert of our lives. The voice is consolation: "Console, console my people" (Is 40:1). It bellows, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Is 40:3). Isaiah's words create an image of the landscape of our life and soul, in need of God.

The Gospel engages this imagery for John the Baptist, a guide in the wilderness who heralds the Messiah. Mark gives name to the voice just as he identified that this writing is "The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (1:1). Although the name of Isaiah is invoked, the first quote is from Malachi "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way (1:2 cf. Mal 3:1); then comes the echo from Isaiah 40:3. Here in the wilderness John announces the one who is to come who will baptise with the Holy Spirit (Mark 7-8). This is the announcement of the Messiah, the one longed for. As we hear that voice in our wilderness, we know that Jesus is with us. We can reflect on our attention to his presence and our welcome to him in our souls and lives.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023. No 638. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

10 DECEMBER 2023

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD. Engulfed by many chores in the lead-up to Christmas, we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Let us resolve to include some time to pray, to reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and to seek reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf. Isa 30: 19, 30

**O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

## GREETING

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

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 40:1-5, 9-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 84: 9-14. R. v. 8

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace, / peace for his people. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Pet 3:8-14

**A reading from the second letter of St Peter.**

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*



There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 3:4, 6

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mk 1: 1-8

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.**

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*