

## Prayers of the Faithful

**PRIEST:** My brothers and sisters, the coming of Jesus Christ into human family is the source of our happiness. We pray to the Lord to deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to Jesus.

Reader: Stir in us the rejoicing that this Gaudete Sunday invokes. Instill this joy in us, so that we too may find a life that matches "bringing good news to the oppressed, binding up the broken-hearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners". Lord hear us.

**ALL: and give us your peace.**

Reader: Let us see and feel that we are waiting for the "Word to become flesh and live amongst us, full of grace and truth". Grant us the Wisdom of your Spirit as to the true meaning of what this promise involves, that we might reflect your Son's love to all we encounter in this fractured, struggling world. Lord hear us.

**ALL: and give us your peace**

Reader: Teach us to wait in the hope of God's free choice to share the lot of humanity, to enter into the experience of human life with all its vulnerability, its risks, its poverty and its mortality - the joy of the manger. Let us know this inner reality that will shine forth at Christmas. We are never alone; Joy comes to us. Lord hear us.

**ALL: and give us your peace**

Reader: Help us to realise that middle-eastern refugees fleeing persecution as an undocumented migrant, are our brothers and sisters. Help us become Christians ever more capable of hearing the cries of suffering humanity and offering them a path of faith and love. Lord hear us.

**ALL: and give us your peace**

Reader: St John the Baptist, points out to us the road that we have to take to welcome the Lord. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but first of all he has to be born and find a place in our hearts. Help us to remove everything that hinders this welcome. Lord hear us.

**ALL: and give us your peace**

**Priest** - God wants us to be happy and to enjoy peace, in silence let us pray for all that we need. (pause)

Father, we come to you in prayer because we know you want us to be happy and provide us the means of achieving it. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

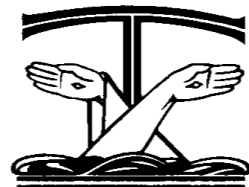
**ALL: Amen.**



### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

**All: Amen** ( As the candle is lit).



My God and My All

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

17th December 2023 – Third 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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### Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of Joy

The message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing give hint to why is it called Gaudete Sunday. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah, the one who was to come, was filled with the spirit and the power. He was to fulfill the promises of God. John the Baptist not only proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, he prepared a path by forming the people to be open to receive Jesus.

As disciples our lives are meant to be sign and pathway for others to come to know Jesus, the Messiah who has entered the world. We proclaim Christ by witnessing to God's presence through our lives and works. Christmas reminds us of the presence of Jesus and points to the kingdom of God.

During Advent we do our best to prepare for Jesus in our hearts and ready ourselves to be of service. With Jesus we want to make the year- a year of favour. Thanksgiving is recognising God's goodness and in return to be of service to others. There are many things to be grateful for and to rejoice about, it is good to be able to name them and share the good news with others.

I am grateful to God for good people in my life. Though I may not be in their company at the present time, we are present to each other in thoughts and prayers. Ministry can be demanding and challenging and entails some sacrifice. Yet it is a privilege to share joy, sorrow, burden and to

celebrate life with others. Christian life is a mystery and paradox, all that is good in life is enhanced by faith. I am grateful for our parishioners and their ongoing support to many ministries in our parishes. Some share their time and resources to support those who are struggling in society as well. CANA community, St Vincent de Paul, shoe box and gift bags, and St Francis Social Services, (House of welcome and Centre 360), are some charities that have the support of parishioners. I give God thanks for you and pray for you and your families. I hope you will have a happy and holy Christmas.

I encourage everyone to continue to think about and pray for others in our world and in Australia. Justice and Peace are necessary for nations and people to flourish. Please remember people of Ukraine and the Holy Land who are suffering.

Conflicts and wars destroy lives and many in our world continue to face hunger, violence, death, broken hearts and lives, incarceration, addiction, mental health and domestic violence and relationship breakdowns.

Christmas is meant to be a happy and cheerful time. For some it can be a hard time. Your warmth, care, understanding, generosity, affection and thoughtfulness can bring comfort to them. Enjoy preparing for Christmas with others.

Fr Anthoni S Selvaraj OFM

### 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

### Parish Office Open/Close Dates

The office will be closed over the holidays  
**from Thursday 12pm 21/12/2023.**

During this period Father Anthoni will be monitoring the phone messages and emails. We ask that you contact us when we re-open for non-urgent requests.

**We re-open Monday 22/01/2024.**

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.

### 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:** Philippa Yarrington

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

**Recently Deceased:** Sr Paulina Pilkington, Sr Anne Crowley, Sr Patricia Heenan, Tim Campbell, 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 Memorium:** Jose' Luis Herrera, Joseph Tabone, Maria Catherine Slater, Rex Stephen 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 Noeline 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 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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Parish  
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www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com  
www.sydneycatholic.org  
www.franciscans.org.au

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.



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.

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. May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,  
be offered to you unceasingly,  
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.  
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: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

## 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** cf. Isa 35:4

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.**

**Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.  
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

### SHEER JOY

What brings joy to you? What makes your heart sing? Joy is infectious. Joy rings out today from the beginning of our prayer with the Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." (Phil 4:4-5). Isaiah proclaims, "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God" (Isa 61:10). The psalm, drawn from the Magnificat in Luke, invites us to respond: "My soul rejoices in my God" (Luke 1:46), and we hear "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour" (vv. 46-47). Paul's final exhortation from his First Letter to the Thessalonians begins "Rejoice always" (1 Thess 5:16). What is the cause of all this rejoicing? It is the story of the Good News unfolding from the prophet Isaiah, becoming flesh through Mary's faithful response; it is God's gift of God's son, Jesus, born among us who has been raised. We draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth but we live in the light of resurrection, so we have reason to rejoice. Today's Gospel reveals the witness to the coming of Jesus, "a man sent from God" (John 1:6). We hear emphatic repetition of the truth with both "witness" and "light" repeated three times. John is the voice in the wilderness confirming "the one who is coming after" (1:27). Today our hearts lift with joy amid all that might distress us. We are faithful believers in God's saving grace. Take a moment to hear: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks to God" (1 Thess 5:16-17).

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

17 DECEMBER 2023

REJOICING IN GOD, OUR SAVIOUR. Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Phil 4: 4-5

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.**

**Indeed, the Lord is near.**

## 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.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**R. For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

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. O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,

enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 61:1-2, 10-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**  
*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

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 nations.'

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

**R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. 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. **R.**  
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. **R.**  
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Thess 5:16-24

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Isa 61: 1 (Lk 4: 18)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Jn 1:6-8,19-28

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

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

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

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