

Prayers of the Faithful

PRIEST: "The Word became flesh and lived among us." As we encounter God anew this Christmas, we offer up our needs and the needs of the world.

READER: As we remember Jesus' birth on that first Christmas Day, we pray for families in our community and around the world. May this Christmas be a time of healing and drawing closer together. May we use this time to reflect on the ties that bind us. We ask for the wisdom to seek and navigate reconciliation with all those from whom we have become estranged. Let us model our family lives on the lives of the Holy Family, and learn again to welcome Christ to the table, whenever we sit down to eat. Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: As winter gives way to summer, let us take notice of the natural world blooming all around us. May we learn to seek and recognise God's design in nature. We ask for the wisdom to value it, the courage to stand up for it and the generosity to share it with others. May we be true stewards of God's creation. Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: For peace in the Holy Land and Ukraine, and wherever conflict continues to disrupt lives and communities. Christ was born into a fragmented, warring world. Now, two thousand years on, we ask for the strength to stand up for the values He taught us: for peace, mercy, reconciliation and mutual understanding. Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

READER: For the homeless, the poor, the hungry and all those in need. We pray that their Christmas may mark the end of their time in the wilderness, and the beginning of better days to come. We ask for renewed zeal to reach out to our neighbours and ensure that no one is excluded from this Christmas feast. Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Jesus came into the world to teach us, to help us and to share God's infinite love for us. We offer these prayers, with confidence, in Jesus' name. Amen.
ALL: Amen.

CATECHISTS NEEDED! Training Provided

Currently we have openings for helpers who can fill in for Catechists. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Catechist please contact the Parish Office.



St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff Parish Newsletter

25th December 2023 – Christmas Day—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

The incarnation of Jesus is central to Franciscan life and spirituality. St Francis of Assisi throughout his life wanted nothing more than to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. In 1223, he and the townspeople of Greccio, a commune in central Italy, worked together in creating the first live nativity. When it was ready, Thomas of Celano, Francis' first biographer, wrote, "There simplicity was honoured, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem." The birth of the saviour was a momentous event in history. St Francis wanted people to experience, and grasp its meaning in a way that is personal and profound.

The Bible begins with the creation of all things and ends with the renewal of all things, and in between it offers an interpretation of the meaning of all history. In "*The New Testament and the People of God*", N.T. Wright says that the divine drama told in Scripture "offers a story which is the story of the whole world. It is public truth." It is the only story that explains the way things were (Creation), the way things are (Fall), the way things could be (Redemption) and the way things will be (Restoration). The biblical narrative helps to appreciate the calling each one of us to find our place in salvation story. By embracing the story God is telling, we find meaning, purpose and make connection.

Our two parishes have been under the care of Franciscan since 1879. It is a privilege to serve you. We are entering into a new era and I need your help to reorganise and renew our parish life. Your support, commitment and participation are vital for the future. I am confident that we can do some exciting, imaginative good things for the people that modern secularism cannot offer us.

May the Lord grant you and all your loved ones peace, joy and goodwill. Have a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2024. Fr Anthony Selvaraj OFM

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.

Franciscan Calendar 2024. \$10

The 2024 Calendar observes the 800yr anniversary of the Stigmata of St Francis with the story and images of Mount la Verna, where it is said to have occurred. A handy gift which includes the dates of the religious feasts and holidays for the year. Available in church.

8 December 2023 to 2 February 2024

If you would like to find out more about the 800 year anniversary of the first nativity scene by St Francis at Greccio. <https://ofm.org/en/plenary-indulgence-on-the-occasion-of-the-800th-anniversary-of-the-nativity-scene-at-greccio.html>

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.

Seven year old Lizzie breaks open her piggy bank.

"Look!" she says, I've got nine dollars and cents to spend on Christmas presents." Michael, her thirteen year old brother is not impressed. "You can't buy something for everyone with nine dollars and ten cents." "Well, I'm going to try" Lizzie says. Michael says, 'they're going to be cheap presents.' But Lizzie replies with great conviction, "Michael, it's not cheap if it costs all the money you have."

At Christmas God gives us all he has. He gives us Himself. He becomes one of us. St Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians, of Christ 'humbling' himself to take the form of a slave. A human being. The creator became one of the created, the Master became one of the slaves.

That's the mystery of the Incarnation. That God continues to love us and call us back to him, despite us sometimes ignoring Him. In Christ he calls us to give to others as totally and unconditionally as he has given to us. In this season of gift giving and gift receiving, let's remember the Gospel according to Lizzie: No gift is cheap when it costs all the money you have.

Father Peter Clifford ofm.



Christmas Mass Times



ST JOSEPH EDGECLIFF

Christmas Vigil
5.00PM *Family Mass*
6.30PM (Carols -6.15pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY
9.00AM
10.30AM

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PADDINGTON

Christmas Vigil
5:30 PM *Family Mass*
9:00PM –Choir
***No midnight Mass**

CHRISTMAS DAY
8:30 AM
10:00 AM -Choir

Kind

"Little deeds of kindness"
Little words of love, Help to make earth happy,
Like the Heaven above." *Julia Fletcher Carney*

"Let me be a little kinder, Let me be a little blinder To the faults of those around me." *Edgar E. Guest*

Parish Office Open/Close Dates

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

During this period Father Anthony 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.

Thankyou...

The Friars would like to thank you for your support throughout 2023, for your gifts, greeting and good wishes for Christmas. We will remember you in prayers and masses.
A special thank you to all the helpers at Christmas.

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 (N/B There will be new mass days from 1st Jan:

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Sunday: 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 5.30pm

Liturgy of the Word/Communion: Tuesday & 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, Thursday & Friday: 9am

Liturgy of the Word/Communion: Tuesday & Wednesday: 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.

On break until February.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER AND MASSES

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

Recently Deceased: Consorcio Apostol, 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 Memoriam: Jack and Maureen Brett, Patricia Brett, Tony Ponte, 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, 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, Sam Velasi & family. Antonio Sinapi.

Mass Intentions: Sister Julia Lourey S.M., 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@sydnecatholic.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

*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.*

VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ex 16:6-7
Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page

COLLECT
O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5
RESP PSALM Ps 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia Alleluia!
Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
The Saviour of the word will be our king. Alleluia!


GOSPEL Matthew 1:1-25 (or 1:18-25)
Profession of Faith – see front page

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Isa 40:5
The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – see front page



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR
BRING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
HOPE, PEACE AND JOY.

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 2:7
The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.
or
Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page

COLLECT
O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:1-7
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13
R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:10-11
Alleluia Alleluia!
Good news and great joy to all the world: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14
Profession of Faith – see front page

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
May the oblation of this day’s feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 1:14
The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer’s Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – see front page

MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Isa 9:5
A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page

COLLECT
O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:1-6
R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia Alleluia!
A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18
Profession of Faith – see front page

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.


COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 97:3
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – see front page

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 641. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / B 25 DECEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON see back page for respective Mass

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. Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: 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.
R. Amen.

GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT see back page for respective Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD

see back page for respective Mass

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS: see back page for respective Mass

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, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
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

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 see back page for respective Mass

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION see back page for respective Mass

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
SOLEMN BLESSING
P. May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.
R. Amen.

P. May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son’s saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.
R. Amen.
P. And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.
R. Amen.

P. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
R. Amen.
P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
R. Thanks be to God.