



ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH BULLETIN

1 Cox Crescent, Dundas Valley

PO Box 248, OATLANDS NSW 2117

Tel: 9871 4414

3rd Sunday of Advent – Year B: 12-13 December 2020

From the Padre:



This Sunday is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, which is the Latin word for “Rejoice.” The vestments change from violet to rose colour as a



sign that the celebration of Our Lord’s birth is near, and our hearts rejoice at the coming of our Saviour. One of the strangest things is the celebration of Christmas in the secular world. Imagine celebrating the birthday of your child but completely ignoring that child – not talking to or greeting or even coming near the child!! That is what so often happens at Christmas in our “modern” secularised world. In the USA they even try to remove any reference to the Child by saying “happy holiday!” Why pray tell do we have the holiday if not for the birth of Our Lord? The real gift we can give Our Lord this Christmas is a genuine confession and receiving Him in Holy Communion in the state of grace. He wants us to be close to Him, even more, to be in union with Him. The Mass and Holy Communion make this possible.

Christmas Mass & Confession Times:

Christmas Eve:	Confessions 6.30pm – 7.15pm Family Mass 7.30pm (Carols starting at 7.00pm) Confessions 11.00pm – 11.45pm Midnight Mass 12.00am (Carols starting at 11.30pm)
Christmas Day:	Mass 9.30am
New Year’s Eve:	<u>Mass 11.00pm</u>
New Year’s Day:	Mass 9.30am

READINGS FOR MASS:

Entrance Procession

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

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.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. R.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. R.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 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.

Communion Antiphon

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

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

NOTICES:

❖ **Sunday School (Commencing Term 1 2021)**

The Parish is preparing to offer Sunday School lessons for school-aged children in Term 1, 2021. The program will focus on Scripture and Catechism. Lessons will be held in St Bernadette's Primary School, starting at 11am on Sundays during term and finish no later than midday. If you are interested in availing of catechism classes for your children, please let the parish office know.

❖ **Cleaning Roster** for 2021 is available for collection in the Front Foyer of the Church.

❖ **Bishop's Christmas Appeal:** Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and CatholicCare thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit **yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal**.

❖ **The Last Holy Hour** for this year will be on Thursday the 17th December

❖ **Parish Office** will close on Wednesday 23rd December 2020 and will reopen Tuesday 2nd February 2021. For Emergencies: please leave a message on the answering machine.

❖ **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** There is an email scam going around using Father Christopher Sarah's name asking for money. This is **NOT** from Father Christopher. He would never ask for money via an email. It is wise never to respond to any email asking for money but trash it immediately.

YOUTH NOTICES:

- ❖ **RETREAT UPDATE:** Please be informed the **VENUE** for the Youth Retreat has **been changed!**. This Sunday 13th December at Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre (230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa). *Please RSVP asap* to **Roshi** on **0437061325** or roshi.weerakkody@gmail.com including any dietary requirements or transport needs so we can accommodate you.
- ❖ **Catholic Central:** Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/3195895270470713/> for further information and to RSVP.



Parish Priest: Father Christopher Sarah FSF
Assistant Priest: Father Ruben Martello FSF
Assistant Priest: Father Benedict Mackenzie FSF
Parish Secretary: Joanne Habib
Parish Office: 9871 4414
Sacramental Coordinator: Frances Zore
Website: www.friarsofstfrancis.org
Email: neversdv@bigpond.com

Contributions to Planned Giving:

(Please quote in the reference either your INITIAL & SURNAME or ENVELOPE NUMBER)

Name: St Bernadette's Catholic Parish
BSB: 067 950
Account: 00000271

ROSTER FOR MINISTRIES: 19-20 Dec 2020

	Sat Vigil 6pm	Sun 8am	Sun 9.30am
Readers:	Youth Volunteer	P Walsh	F Orji
Altar Servers:	Rafael Barisevic Rick Atie William Ha Sara Ha Reshan Weerakkody	Brandon Nakhoul Joshua Locke Lucas Raish Ryan Raish	Sofia Skocic Rivera Family Xavier Redolfi Mary Taouk Liam Maze
Acolytes:	Cameron McAuley	John Paul Abi-Khattar	Gerard Redolfi
Flower donor:	(For Christmas): Mr Stephen Rossi, Irene Barry, Gail Hatcher		
Altar Gowns:	Loretta Mackenzie		
Floral Arrangers:	Advent – No Flowers (For Christmas: Yenny/Stevie/Socheata/Sylvana/Nisha/Mary/Mandalina)		
Altar Society:	G 3: Thurs 17/12/2020 @ 9.30am: Irene Barry, Rosemary Parsons, Geraldine O'Connor, Val Goodwin		
Cleaners:	G 2: Saturday 19/12/2020 @ 8.00am: A Hanson, B Chuah, Peter & Nisha Thomas, C Reyes, Y Tanggaraju, Brendan & Julieanne Chuah		

Let us pray for all our sick relatives, friends and parishioners, especially:
 Ellie Eagan; Rima Sammour; Grace Wheatley; Jen Hogan; Lois Grant; Kathy Krahe; Emily Carter; Jan Joyce; Cosimo Arcorace; Isobel Espiritu; and all of our sick parishioners and loved ones.

Let us pray for our deceased loved ones, especially:
 Frieda Piesch; Hana & Ramsa Saba; Bill & Nadhia Khaill; Jack Riordan; Eileen O'Connor; Cosimo Arcorace; David Parker-Wood; Teresa Yew & Luke Tony Poon; Peter Monaghan; The Holy Souls in Purgatory; ***May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.***

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
 defend us in the battle; be our protection against the malice and snares of the Devil.
 May God restrain him, we humbly pray, and You, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the
 divine power cast into Hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who roam through the
 world seeking the ruin of souls.
 Amen.*

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: have mercy on us. (3 times)
 Immaculate Heart of Mary: pray for us*



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11 Fennell Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
 PO Box 2371 Parramatta NSW 1750
 Australia
 P: (02) 9633 1826 F: (02) 9687 8114
 M: 0413 853 331

stevemcauley@mcauleyhawach.com.au
www.mcauleyhawach.com.au

Benidion Financial Services

Alfred Boudib
BEC, CERT IV Finance and Mortgage Broking

**Credit Representative
 Authorised Mortgage Consultant**

E: alfred.benidion@ampfp.com.au

Suite 1, Level 1, 235 Pitt St,
 Merrylands, NSW, 2160.
**M: 0411759975
 T: 9897 7400**

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Richard Khoury - Director
 Sales / Leasing / Property Management

Suite 5, 241-245 Pennant Hills Road Carlingford NSW 2118
 M 0432 221 550 E richard@starrpartners.com.au
starrpartners.com.au