



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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3rd Sunday of ADVENT Year B, 16th-17th December, 2017

This Week

SUNDAY 17th Dec
3rd Sunday of ADVENT
 9am, 11am, 6pm Mass
 Baptism Prep at 3.45pm

MONDAY 18th Dec
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

TUESDAY 19th Dec
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

WEDNESDAY 20th Dec
 6.30pm Rosary
 7.00pm Mass

THURSDAY 21st Dec
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

FRIDAY 22nd Dec
 8.30am Rosary
 9am Mass
 9.30am Divine Mercy

SATURDAY 23rd Dec
 10.30am Reconciliation
 6pm Mass

SUNDAY 24th Dec
4th Sunday of ADVENT
 9am, 11am
 Baptism Welcome

Christmas Eve
 7pm, 9pm & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
 9am & 11am Mass
 (no Evening Mass)

Message from Fr Kevin (PP)

Dear brothers and sisters of community of St. Paul Apostle.

Well, I've finally arrived. And what a time to come! The season of Advent is so full of energy and fresh hope. The words of Isaiah in our first reading this Sunday are so encouraging.

"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly....to heal the broken hearted.....to announce a year of favour from the Lord".

Thanks for your welcome to me on my first weekend with you. It gave me real encouragement. I hope that I can listen to the Prophet's words and remember that the Spirit of the Lord, poured out on Jesus, is shining on us right now. I want to remember that the Spirit that gave Jesus such energy in his mission is the same Spirit that calls every one of us to be **"good news"** to one another.

So let's use the remaining days of Advent well. Let's each try to make our community a bit more alive with hope and kindness. As well as decorating our Christmas trees; as well as wrapping the gifts we will give, let's each try to make our suburb a little brighter, a little kinder. This is my prayer and my hope for you and for me.

I really look forward to being with you and I ask the good Lord to bless each one of you, to bless your families. If you are having a hard time at present, I ask that you may find support and hope from the gift of Jesus as the kindness of God and the care of the people around you. Let's continue the journey which always brings us to the Christ-child.

Reflection

(adapted from John O'Donohue, Benedictus, p. 26 by Cathy Jenkins)

Dear Friends,

Last week, Advent smacked me in the head, but it took persistence. I was so distracted one day that I forgot where I had parked my car; then I made a thoughtlessly mean comment prompting a friend to a gentle rebuke of 'be a little kind' and, in my haste to get the Christmas box down from the attic, I reached too far and a ladder fell on my head. And then I realised – it was time to be still and to pay attention.

I have always liked Advent – the idea of the Liturgical year commencing just as we are in midst of the ending of our calendar year seems to offer a profound symbol of hope. This in-between time, a reminder, perhaps that beginnings and endings are always entwined. And there is something wonderful about the world being swept up in the idea of Christmas – angels, lights, carols, the Christmas crib, the urge to generosity: this is God made visible for so many.

Liturgically, we read the wonderful Advent texts that contain so many echoes for us of the stories that we have heard and will continue to hear as the liturgical year unfolds. Different ideas may settle in us from these texts depending on what is happening in our lives. Perhaps we have been humbled by grief or loss and are drawn to the prophet Isaiah's profound sense that God is a God in whom we can trust. Perhaps we are weighed down with the troubles of the world and respond to Isaiah's gracious God – a God who hears the cries of the world and answers them. Perhaps we feel we have lost our voice and find the courage to cry out without fear.

Kevin Danell cp.

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Parish Calendar, News & Events

DIARY

- 17th Dec:** Hamper Mass at 6pm Mass
Christmas Carols at 7.30pm
- 18th Dec:** Hamper Collection by agents
- 18th Dec:** South School Graduation Mass at 6pm
- 19th Dec:** North School Graduation Mass at 6pm
- 24th Dec: CHRISTMAS EVE**
7.00pm Children's Mass (with Nativity Play)
9.00pm Family Mass
11.30pm Christmas Carols follow by\
MIDNIGHT MASS
- 25th Dec: CHRISTMAS DAY**
9.00am & 11.00am Mass
- 31st Dec:** Parish Dinner Dance
- 1st Jan:** Mass at 10am

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Or, perhaps we come to the end of the year with a sense of the blessings of our lives and are carrying rejoicing hearts into the Christmas season.

But it can also be a strangely sad season for many of us. The hurts of the year may well up and we may feel overwhelmed by them. All the little injustices that don't seem to have been made right may be causing our hearts to harden. The memories of past, happier times may seem closer than usual – most families have an empty chair or two around the Christmas table.

The work of the Royal Commission, our concern for those who have been abused and the enormity of what has unfolded may be weighing heavily on us. Perhaps we have a personal experience of abuse that shadows our life. We may suddenly realise how deeply affected we are by journeying with an aging parent, a sick partner, friend or child. Perhaps in gazing at those highly stylised catalogue images of families enjoying their Christmas trees/tables/presents we wonder why our families can't or don't look like that. And in the midst of all this talk about hope and joy we may just feel burdened, lonely and lost.

But perhaps this is the grace the holy space of Advent offers. This waiting time provides a reminder to us that God is at the heart of life. We place the stories of our ancestors alongside the stories of our lives and then we know that there will be justice, that the loved ones we miss so dearly are resting in the peace of a loving God and that God is woven into all of our memories and is on this journey with us.

But most of all we know this because on Christmas day we will sing that the Christ child is born. We will celebrate the hope that the Emmanuel, God-with-us brings.

So let us allow our hearts to be imprinted with the joy of this ancient story about a man, the Son of God, who lived, loved, died and rose again revealing for us God's deep love for humanity.

May the Emmanuel of 2017 bring joy: to weary hearts, to lonely hearts, to lost hearts. May we be strengthened in our belief that we, too, can be bearers of hope, healing and justice and that this is a beautiful, graced, albeit imperfect world because Jesus is God with us.

And may we live 2018:
*Compassionate of heart,
Clear in word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
Generous in love,
With Jesus at our side.*

FATHER TIM (Message from Provincial)

As you may know Fr Tim has been dealing with serious medical issues over many months now. He has had extensive surgery for abdominal cancer. He will soon begin a substantial period of chemotherapy. As Tim continues to deal with these health issues, he asked to be able to concentrate completely on his own recovery. Of course, we want Tim to have all his available energy and focus for the difficult months of treatment ahead.

So that Tim is able to do this, I have accepted his resignation as Parish Priest of St Brigid's Parish, Marrickville. I do so with complete understanding, but with great sadness both for Tim and for the parishioners.

I thank Tim for his original acceptance of this ministry of accompaniment and service to you, the people of St Brigid's. In the short time he has been our PP he has won the hearts and affection of our St Brigid's Parish Community. He is already much loved and respected by the Parish Team, the Parish Council and all the various committees and groups who keep the parish running.

I know you will all be keeping Tim in your prayers at this time.

Fr Tom CP
Provincial Superior

Christmas Ministry Rosters:: Thank you to all who have offered their services. We have slotted in the names. There is just one area where there is more people than are needed but that can be resolved. More importantly there are some gaps that still need to be filled. If you are a minister and you know which Mass you will be present at please look at where the gaps are and fill in please. Think of it as your Christmas gift to the

community.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to all parishioners who have generously supported this ministry. *After the 6pm Mass this Sunday (17th Dec) we will continue our evening at the Community Hall for Christmas Carols.*



All parishioners are invited to join in. We will provide some sausage sizzle. Fr Chris and his band as well as some of our young member.

NATIVITY PLAY

Every Year our children will act the Gospel. We are in the search of many parts in it. If your children wish to join in, even if they have missed the previous practices, they are still welcome to join in. This is for any children age up to Grade 6. Our next practice is **TUESDAY 19th December at 4pm in the church**



SENIOR'S MASS AND CHRISTMAS BRUNCH:

A big thank you to all those who organised the Seniors' Mass and Brunch on Tuesday. Thank you to the children from both our schools who came and sang Christmas songs so beautifully and who gave great joy to all. Thank you to the teachers and parents who accompanied them. Thank you to the young people who came and served the food and helped clear up. Thank you to all who contributed by bringing food. Thank you to Linda and her team who helped manage the serving of food and the gifts. It was a real example of good planning and collaboration.



THANK YOU also to all those who have helped prepare the Church to build up the atmosphere for our Christmas celebrations, those who are preparing the Crib, those who set up the Christmas giving tree in the gathering space with the real gifts of Christmas.



MINISTRY ROSTER: If you have not responded to the ministry sign up, you are still welcome to join in, just by informing the Parish Office. Please let us know if you wish to continue being on the rosters and please encourage new people to come along.

PARISH NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Let us farewell 2017 and welcome the New Year 2018 together in the parish. No better way to celebrate but have fun and dance the night into the new year with the band "Mahogany" and a DJ. Tickets: Adults \$25.00, Children 4-12yo \$15.00. BYO Drinks. Light supper & champagne provided. Tickets are on sale now. Contact : Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675, Gordon 0425 704 124, Valentine 0411 590 082, Zac 0411 449693

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This weekend you will see that a new set of the Stations of the Cross have been placed in the Church. The originals were painted by the Benedictine Sisters in Turvey Abbey in England. They are now available as poster sets. A special thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council for the planning and thought that went into this project from the outset and then the framing and placing of the stations and thank to Ray who put them up so carefully. A big thank you to Fr Brian who supported and encouraged the PPC to make this a reality.

Sunday Readings

THIS WEEK:

3rd Sunday of ADVENT Year B

Is 61: 1-2, 10-11;
1 Thess 5: 16-24
Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

NEXT WEEK

4th Sunday of ADVENT Year B

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Anjana, Clifford Lenillour; Li Tsu Lay, Emma Segovia, Lambert D'Silva, Gloria Jablam, Edgardo Sotiar; Elwood Esteban, Garry Howell, Kim Lay, Roselyne Benoit, Beryl Ratnayake, Dina Nagliati, Yap Djiang, Marie Martin, Emily Martin, Pat Garard, Muliaga Vaifale, Nicholas Lee, Joanne Withers, Raquel E. Guinto, Anne Silva, Gihan Tillekeratne, Shenelle Fernando, Crescenciana Tuazon, Lesley Nadarajah, Edna Fonseca, Joachim Fernandes, Giorgia Vella, Frederick Quinless

For those who have died

Lucas Fraga, Carla Corso, Matt Ryan, Petronella Mulder, Thomas Cham, Robert O'Hara, Valentine Silavant, Alice Cahill, Francisca Calunsag, Eduardo Matic, Paul Morin, Oscar Calunsag, Anthony Rajaram, Josephine Caruana, Leslie Wignall, Emmanuel Zamudio, Albertus Salindeho, Carlos Jeronimo, Paul Pham Cao, Benedetto Faiola, Charlie Edgar Parker, Pietro Rubino, Leonida Vidot, Evelyn Gunasekara, Walter Carvalho

May they rest in peace



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

Priests:

Fr Kevin Dance CP (PP)

Pastoral Associates:

Sr Joan Smith CP

Sr Brigid Murphy CP

Parish Staff:

Bursar: Gillian Velupillay

Secretary: Didi Karkas

Passionist Community

Fr Brian Gleeson CP (*leader*)

Fr Kevin Dance CP

Fr Jose Mathew CP

Fr Chris Mithen CP

Sisters of Cross and Passion

Sr Brigid Murphy CP

Sr Joan Smith CP

Karen Englebretsen


**St Paul Apostle
North Primary
School - 9700 6068**
Mrs Mary Lucas

**St Paul Apostle
South Primary
School - 9700 3663**
Principal
Mr. Paul Gleeson

**St John's Regional
College - 9791 3366**
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan



Roster for this weekend 16th-17th December (3rd Sunday of month)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
Welcome	Lien Phan, Carlos & Sylvia Fernandes	David & Sandra McGuire, Carolyn Tinney	Marie Allas Jean Jansz	Volunteers
Sacristan	Peter Miller	Sandra & David McGuire	Antoinette Gargano	Mignonne Meerwald
Readers & Commtr	Jessica Satya Graha Karen Rolfe Liseby Lapierre	Nick Dimitrakas Bernie O' Hara (Comm only)	Irene Wilson Dianne Allegany Anne Astin	William Roncon
Gifts	Gertrude Akom Emmanuel Jeganathan	Lionel & Dharshi Alwis Sabina Chitaranjan	Marie Nelson Hanan Matty	
Communion	Paul Negri Michelle Boissezon, Lionel & Riona Alvey Naisha Pande Nina Pande, Mark Rolfe	Paul Smith Danny O'Hara, Mary Moore, Peter van Helmond	Glen Johnson Damian Kearney Rhonda O'Connor Christine Gaiardo Meagan O'Connor Shaniah Pereira Sharon Normington	Mignonne Meerwald Eugene Rebeiro Swineetha Disanayake Margaret Keating Daniel Masset Volunteer
Servers	Andrew, Christopher Ananya, Avinda,	Mark Harper, Joyen, Luke	Calvin, Cassandra, Joquin, Kiara	Lakni Adrian, Schron

Roster for next weekend 23rd—24th December (4th Sunday of month)				
	6pm	9am	11am	
Welcome	Carmeline Don Paul Denise Richie, Trevor Saldanha	Anne Peters, Danny & Danny & Rose Sugunasekera	Anabela Costa Yvonne Sherwin	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day's Spe- cial Roster 
Sacristan	Lien Phan	Volunteers	Yvonne Sherwin	
Readers & Commtr	Mark Rolfe Liz Flood	Marina Nadarajah, Patricia Shaw-Dennis	Florence Madeira Meagan O'Connor	
Gifts	Van Nguyen Jessica Vu	Glenn & Romaine Todd Shami Denham	Dilinger Family	
Communion	Steven Herbert Bridgette Herbert, Lien Phan Dominica Arena, Karen Rolfe, Naomi Barrow	Fred Hall Marina Nadarajah Anne Peters Elaine Gillett Glenn Todd Ayomi Fernandez	Charlene Pereira Yvonne Sherwin Christine White Geraldine Mutthumani, Ging Calixto, George Jornet, Shaniah Pereira	
Servers	Jocelyn, Christopher, Avinda, Joshua	Ashvika, Tara, Joyen	Calvin, Cassandra, Joquin, Kiara	
Cuppa	Nora Robinson	Denver & Siro De Rozairo, Bernard & Edna Da- vies	Antoinette Gargano Cheryl Anthony	
Flowers	Church Prep Team 4 G Velupillay	Communion to the sick (after 9am Mass) Errie Gunawan	View Hills: - Friday 22nd December Mass at Reema Boule- vard care Marie Nelson	

Sacraments:

Baptism are held on the **1st & 2nd Sundays** of the month. Preparation is on the 3rd Sunday of the month. **Parish Office**

Marriages require 6 months notice to one of the priests, participation in a FOCUS marriage preparation program, or a CatholicCARE Course.

Anointing of the Sick is held during Mass on the 1st Friday of the Month at 9am. Before going to hospital for major surgery, why not ask one of the priests to pray with you and anoint you.

Children's Sacraments require full participation in the preparation phase.

Registration forms in the Parish Centre

John 1: 6-7; 19 - 28

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light....