

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



Issue 02
6 December 2020
Year B

Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP

(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Assistant Priest

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address

PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925

Office Hours -
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am to 12.30pm

Office Staff
Jacquie Cortese
Jim Smith

Email:

watson@cg.org.au

Website:

www.cg.org.au/watson

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson

Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass
Tuesday & Thursday
6:45am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am
Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

Pray the Rosary

First Saturday each month 3.30pm

**If you are in Urgent need of
a Priest out of office hours
call - 6248 8253**



**If you are feeling unwell please DO NOT come to church.
Please record your name & contact number on the Register
provided in the foyer.**

**PLEASE sanitise your hands on entering the foyer or parish centre.
Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, if you are not taking
it home put it in the bin.**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

FIRST READING

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'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 all 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm: 84:9-14

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

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.

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

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

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

SECOND READING

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

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

SECOND READING

Cont...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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 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

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

CHURCH CAPACITY

Please make sure you arrive before the start of Mass to register. The 10am Mass is now reaching capacity (100 parishioners). Once the 100 has been reached, the door will be locked and no one else will be admitted to fulfill Government requirements.

2nd SUNDAY ADVENT

This week we are called to a **change of heart** as part of our Advent preparations. In a new series of **Advent reflections**, 'It is good to head to our figurative desert this Advent for clarity, to listen and to touch our vulnerability, but our time there should be marked by encountering God's mercy and compassion and an assurance of his personal love for us. Christmas is coming closer and, while liturgically we are preparing for the Nativity, in the secular world we are preparing for the Christmas Day festivities and then many of us are looking forward to a break from work.



**ADVENT MAKES PEOPLE NEW AND GIVES
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE HOWEVER HARD
THE LIFE BATTLE IS!**

RELAXING PENANCE

Second Sunday of Advent.

Fr Denis Minns OP tells us that penance is about looking to the future with hope, rather than to the past with sorrow.

If you look up 'penance', 'penitence', or 'repentance' in the dictionary you will find that all these words are about doing something, often something unpleasant, in sorrow, or regret, or expiation of something wrong one has done in the past. If you look these words up in a good dictionary it will soon become very clear to you that it is the Christian Church that has given this meaning to these words.

In comparison with the weird and wonderful penances some of the other Christian saints have devised for themselves, the wearing of clothes made of camel-hair and the eating of locusts and wild honey might strike us as being at the saner end of the spectrum, though still unpleasant enough. When we read in today's Gospel that John the Baptist combined these life-style choices with the preaching of baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins we might suppose that we have traced to its source the connection between repentance and the doing of unpleasant things.

But we would be mistaken. John's purpose in being clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and eating locusts and wild honey was not to show us how to 'do penance'. His purpose was rather to identify himself as a prophet in the tradition of Elijah the Tishbite -- 'a hairy man, with a leather belt around his waist' (2 Kings 1.8). Just as Elijah opposed the kings of Israel who did evil in the sight of the Lord, so John the Baptist opposed King Herod (Mark 6.18). His rough food and clothing are meant to be, as Jesus recognised, a prophetic rebuke for those who wear soft, luxurious clothes and live in palaces (Luke 7.25).

John did not expect people to imitate his choice of food and clothing. When the multitudes and tax collectors and soldiers asked him what they should do in response to his preaching his replies to them were extraordinarily mild: 'he who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; do not over-tax, rob no one by violence or false accusation, and be content with your wages' (Luke 3.10-14).

John's preaching of repentance, then, did not require the doing of unpleasant things in expiation of past sins. In fact, it was not concerned with what had been done in the past at all, but rather with what was to be done in the future. Repentance, for John, meant being resolved for the future to change the way we see ourselves. From that change in our whole cast of mind will follow changes in the way we behave.

If we think of ourselves as people who should be wearing soft, luxurious clothes and living in palaces then, obviously, we will be anxious about what we shall eat and drink and what we shall wear (Matt. 6.25), and we will busy ourselves with relieving these anxieties.

But if we think of ourselves as people who seek first the Father's kingdom and his righteousness, then we will not need to be anxious about these things. We will know that life is more than food, and the body more than clothing; and that the heavenly Father who feeds the birds of heaven and clothes in glory the lilies of the field will feed and clothe those who are his children. This giving up of anxiety about tomorrow is the beginning of true repentance, for once we are able to relax in the hands of the loving Father who creates us we will no longer be compelled to hoard our clothing from those who have none, or to rob by extortion, violence or false accusation. Instead, we will be 'zealous to be found without spot or blemish, and at peace', living in 'holiness and godliness as we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Pet. 3.11-14).

Fr Denis Minns OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

AN OVERIDING VOICE

'In this pre-Christmas season we find ourselves assaulted by the brash messages about irresistible bargains in the shops and about 'red-nosed reindeer' orbiting our roof-tops. And now, this very Sunday, Holy Mother Church is providing us with yet another voice sounding off with all the urgency of a "Red Alert!" 'A voice cries in the wilderness; prepare a way for the Lord, makes his paths straight. What will give a compelling appeal to the proclamation that the Lord is coming our way?

'In anticipation of such a coming it makes sense that we should get rid of the garbage which is sin. This is my anxiety. With the freedom that God has given us, it is as easy to block out the voice of the Lord as it is to turn off the TV. What chance is there that any of the Advent message will reach any hearts and be more than of passing interest?

'This voice carrying the Divine Word must over-ride all other voices if it is to affect our lives in the way God intends. Such is my prayer for all of us who hear this Word and those of us who proclaim it as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

- Excerpt from a homily by Fr Peter Clarke OP

REFLECT WITH A STORY

In the Holy Land, where ongoing conflict has cost countless lives, women are often messengers of peace and reconciliation. Usually, Israelis and Palestinians live in separate communities and do not talk to each other. But Michal Zilberberg, an Israeli, and Insaf Arabi, a Palestinian, are two women who are changing that. Both women needed to earn money to support their families. When they heard about a basket-weaving class offered by Sindyanna of Galilee, where they knew both Israelis and Palestinians would be present, they signed up.

Michal was uncomfortable when she first attended class because she could not speak Arabic. But a Palestinian woman reached out to her, trying to learn some Hebrew so that they could talk. "I taught her some words in Hebrew and she taught me," Michal said. Insaf has also become friends with Israeli women in the class. "We have this idea that they are so different from us. I now know that they are not so different," Insaf said. "They are like us."

In this class, where Israeli and Palestinian women communicate openly, they're learning what they have in common and being messengers of reconciliation in their communities. At Sindyanna, "now we are all friends," Insaf added. "Our families are friends and we even go to each other's homes to visit."

NATIVITY FESTIVAL

10th to 13th December

NORTH CANBERRA ECUMENICAL NATIVITY FESTIVAL

Exhibition of 200 Nativity scenes - an entrée to family discussion on the true meaning of Christmas. From 40 countries, they show diverse cultures that embrace the Christian story.

Thu 10th - Fri 11th: 10:00am - 2:30pm

School groups by appointment (Ph: 0412-376-324)

Thu 10th - Fri 11th: 2:30pm - 4:00pm – **Kids & Families**

Sat 12th - Sun 13th: 9:00am - 7:00pm – **PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

St Margaret's Hall, Cnr. Antill St. & Phillip Ave, Hackett.

Contact: Keith at linard.keith@gmail.com.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

13th DECEMBER – ECUMENICAL SAUSAGE SIZZLE & COMMUNITY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, 6:30pm - Free Community BBQ / Sausage Sizzle (& Nativities Viewing) followed by Carols by Candlelight at 7:30pm. St Margaret's & Holy Cross Church Grounds, Hackett.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please check the notice board in the foyer for Covid 19 rules for the Church.

CHRISTMAS TIMES

Christmas Mass Schedules are now on the exit tables. Please take one home. Parishioners will need to book for Christmas Masses by sending an email : watson@cg.org.au or calling the office on 6248 5925.

If you are available to volunteer for the Christmas liturgies, please put your name on the sheet in the foyer

SINGING CHRISTMAS

This year, preparation for Advent and Christmas, is in the church on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm. Covid restrictions will be observed. It would be great to have some new singers come along. Singing Christmas makes it so much more alive and meaningful. No auditions, no age barriers. If you want to sing, come and join us! For more about the music, phone Maureen 61617100

WEEKLY READER FORMATION

Weekly Reader Formation sessions have resumed on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. All parishioners are invited. – Meet at the door of the office at 7.30pm OR join us online using Zoom. Zoom details are - <https://zoom.us/j/91493407836?pwd=eVBQRohnZo5CL1YzWU93YmJLNm53UT09> The Meeting ID is 914 9340 7836 and the Passcode is 389526.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL



With the support of the Holy Rosary Primary School, the Parish Vinnies Conference will again be organising Christmas Hampers this year for local families in need.

A box is in the back of the church for your hamper donations.

We are looking for donations of: Biscuits (tins for seniors are very popular), shortbreads, chocolate and savoury biscuits.

Puddings this includes plum puddings, jellies, fruit or pudding mixes. Jams, Pickles, Tomato Sauce, Vegemite, Pasta and Rice, Packets of Cereal. Cake mixes eg. cupcakes, muffins, pancakes etc. Lollies. Tea & Coffee. Gift vouchers for teenagers would be appreciated. Small gifts for older persons.

We cannot accept nuts or nut products for health and safety reasons. We will also need to sanitise goods before we pass them on. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

The Vinnies Watson Conference is conducting its annual Christmas appeal this weekend.

Donation buckets will be available at the exits. If you want a receipt, donate via a Vinnies envelope which will be available at the rear of the church. Complete your details on the envelope and Vinnies will send you a receipt.

If you are unable to donate cash, please consider making an online donation. You can access our donation Webpage by using your phone to access the QR code below. Alternatively, you can go online and donate into BSB: 062-786, ACC: 14760.

Please make sure you enter the reference: CHRISTMAS APPEAL WATSON.

If you require a donation receipt, please email finance.cg@vinnies.org.au with your name, donation amount, donation date and our parish location.



In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Alexia Harris, Maria Martiniello, Greg O'Neill, Moya McGrath, Barbara Parsonage, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Frank Zobec, June Pollard, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Zelma McManus, Elizabeth Webster, Joe Schimizzi, Bob Hackett, Elsie Laughton, Paul Neddrie, Pamela Sandy, Beth Delos Santos, Terry Stephens Maureen Blood, Anna Linard, Bernard Druett, Mary Lou Pentony

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.

Patrick Crowley, David Shepherd, Marie Bartlett, Elizabeth Tisdell

In Loving Memory

Vin Murphy

PARISH

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION - Parish School of Religion is in recess until next year.

MASS INTENTION - please email or phone the Parish Office.

PRAY THE ROSARY - First Saturday each month 3.30pm

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm

Thursdays in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for information.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - www.wccm.org

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on **Wednesdays**.

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is NOON TUESDAY
Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

WANTED: LOVING MARRIED COUPLES

Become a Sponsor couple - SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church. Find out more at this free information session: Wed, 9 December - 8pm AEDT| www.smartloving.org/webinar

ROSTER 12 / 13 December

Saturday 5pm

Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	J. de Riva O'Phelan	

Sunday 8am

Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	E. Smith	J. Smith

Sunday 10am

Acolyte / Server	H. Beasley	
Readers	M. Fitzgerald	K. McCluskey

Sunday 5pm

Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	K. Watson	