

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Issue 2
10 December 2017
Year B

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest
Fr Kieran Adams OP

Assistant Priests
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

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

Postal Address
PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925 Ph.6248 5085
Fax 6248 7564

Email: watson@cg.org.au
<http://www.cg.org.au/watson>

Office Staff
Jacquie Cortese
Jim Smith

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9.00am—12.30pm

Parish Council
Andrew Blakey

Mass times
Wed 5.30pm
Tues & Thurs 6.45am
Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 5pm (Vigil)
Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm
9am Mass Saturday & Public
Holidays
excluding Mondays

Pray the Rosary
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass
Saturday after 9am Mass
and First Saturday each month
3.30pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

ACU Chapel Signadou
Masses are now suspended
until February 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Good News
Prepare the Way



If you are in Urgent need of
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	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.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.
READINGS	Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 2 Peter 3:8-14 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

CHRIST WILL COME

This season of Advent is a time of grace for us. It is a time of grace given to us to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to receive Christ at Christmas. That is what Christmas is all about, Jesus. We do not want to get lost in the frenzy of the run up to Christmas and forget what Christmas is all about. Advent is a time of grace to remind us that Jesus is the reason for Christmas. We have just heard the beginning of the Gospel of Mark which reminded us of the prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled in John the Baptist, Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' (Mark 1:2-3)

PSALM : 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

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.

Advent and Christmas are upon us and the Parish has been planning and preparing for these special seasons for some weeks.

'O Antiphon' - One of the ways we can participate during Advent is to pray together at Mass and this Advent, at each Sunday Mass we will add a new element: for the four Sunday's of Advent we will sing or hear O Come, O Come Emmanuel the final "O" Antiphon. **Booklets are available on the exit tables if you would like to read more about the "O" Antiphons.**

'Advent Wreath': A **second booklet on the exit tables** 'Advent Wreath' has the readings for each week for the lighting of the Advent wreath candles. This will be read in two parts with parishioners from the centre isle to the organ reading **Part 1** and the centre isle to the confessional reading **Part 2** and **All** reading the final reading.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

GRACE EMERGES IN SURPRISING WAYS

The Christmas Mass Schedule is available.
Please make sure you take one home.
There some important Mass Time changes and
cancellations. Copies of the Schedule are on the
exit tables and in the foyer.

The Christmas Liturgical Roster is in the foyer for
parishioners who would like participate in the
liturgies.

'We are facing a moment in the Church which is difficult, and which requires creativity and imagination. What we mustn't do is go on autopilot, into maintenance mode. This is not time to circle the wagons, however tempting it may be to do that. While we might be seeing diminishing numbers of clergy, a decline in apostolic religious women's congregations, and less people attending Mass, one thing we don't have less of is grace.

'God's grace is alive and well and emerges unexpectedly in surprising ways. What we need now are structures and strategies which respond not only to the facts of this time but also to the grace of this time. The grace may not be what people of my generation expected; it may not even be the grace we wanted. But it is the grace that is on offer from the Lord who is not less attentive and generous now than in the past.'

- Archbishop Mark Coleridge

**BREAK OPEN THE WORD
DAILY MASS BOOKS**

AN OVERIDING VOICE

BREAK OPEN THE WORD - Readers should collect their copy of 'Break Open the Word' from the Sacristy before you leave Mass.
The new **DAILY MASS BOOKS** are now in the Church. We ask that you **PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THEM HOME** as they are there for all parishioners.

'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 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

FRANKLY

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

The latest Frankly book is also available in the foyer.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

This plan, required under the Archdiocesan Health and Safety Policy, is on display next to the Holy Water fonts , in the foyer and in the Parish Centre. Please familiarise yourself with the plan and exit doors closest to where you sit in the church.

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal raised a total of \$6,214.60. Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Maureen Blood, Fr Ellis Clifford, Philip Bailey, Mary Bui, Dion Convine, Edith Jensen, Alexia Harris, Joe Schimizzi, Mary Harrigan, Rosemary Denmead, Philip Bailey, Elizabeth Webster, Rosa Maria Santos, Beth Delos Santos, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Elsie Laughton, Lynn & Richard Bale, Patricia Zorzi, Maria Martiniello, Mimma Giampietro, Charles Ryan, Anne Corver, Joebert Tabiola
Please remember our deceased:	Breda and Bob Foley, Ray Ramsay, Steve Dospot, Bruce Valentine
In loving memory	Vin Murphy

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir Practice in preparation for Advent and Christmas. Mondays, 7.30 pm, in the church. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS



The Children's Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 24th December at 6pm in Holy Rosary Church. Come and be a part of our Children's special Mass to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Children who would like to be involved in this Mass are invited to come and join the celebration. A practice for the Children's Christmas Eve Mass will be held on Saturday 16th December and Saturday 23rd December at 10am. To participate, the children must first have a permission note from their parent/s and an assurance that they will be attending this Mass. There is need to practice on both days 16th and 23rd December at 10am, Children will be required to attend both practices. Please put your name on the form in the foyer if you would like to be part of the Mass.

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."

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Belle Joseph who graduated with a Ph D in French literature from the ANU last Friday. Belle is a catechist with our School of Religion and prepared children for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Wishing you health and happiness for your future.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Second Sunday of Advent.
Fr Mark Edney OP sympathises with those who yearn for a new world.

Many today could sure use hearing the words God speaks to the prophet Isaiah: *Be comforted, be comforted my people!* Though most of us are not experiencing the tribulations ancient Israel had to live through, there is plenty enough distress in human lives these days. Plenty enough reason for us to need to be comforted. Economic systems teeter on the brink of collapse. Political systems (or, at least, the politicians in charge of them) no longer seem adequate to the task. The old are not sure of their pensions. The young cannot find jobs. People are at risk of losing their homes. We do not have to look only to God's prophets to hear apocalyptic warnings in our day. We have been exiled from our usual 'comfort zone', exiled from the familiar comforts of a taken-for-granted prosperity. Old certainties have given way to new anxieties. It would be easy to respond with a false optimism, the kind that agitates protests but changes nothing. Everything's going to turn out fine: when we turn out one government for another or when the politicians put another jumble of laws on the books or when the heads of nations cook up yet another half-baked debt deal.

None of these schemes seems likely to solve our problems. The stock market—that modern barometer of the world's expectations—oscillates wildly between hope and despair, as one quick-fix solution after another fleetingly evaporates. In spite of the hardship that people are now facing, there is cause for hope. When the status quo becomes intolerable, people look for change. People demand change. We Christians should give support to the yearnings of a broken world looking for a chance to start afresh, the chance for a new advent. Yearning such as these must have been why so many people went out to hear the message of John the Baptist. They went into the place of 'beginnings' which is what the desert represented. It was there that the people of God were found by him and from there that they were led by him.

There are many these days who promise that a new world is coming. If we profess hope and believe in the possibility of change, they urge, then we can build a new world. The truth is that we cannot build it. We must allow God to build it with us and in us. We are to become the living stones of God's new creation. As we know, John the Baptist did not flinch from denouncing injustices and demanding righteousness from those who claimed to be leaders of the people. Neither John nor the mightier one coming after him was especially interested in reforming structures or changing systems. They challenged people to change their lives.

This new world, this new kingdom begins not with a change of regime but with a change of heart—that is, with conversion. John tells us 'your job is to change you and in this way your world will be changed'. *Be comforted, be comforted my people!* You can begin again; but begin with you.

Fr Mark Edney OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

ADVENT

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* or "coming." Originally, Advent represented a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for the baptism of new Christians at a January feast of Epiphany, but over time, Advent became associated with Christmas time and the celebration of the first coming of Christ. Today, instead of lasting for 40 days, the Advent season begins on whichever Sunday falls between November 27th and December 3rd and continues for four Sundays, culminating on January 6th, the feast of the Epiphany. A common advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emanuel," captures the meaning of the Advent season as a time when Christians look back on the first coming in celebration while awaiting the return of their saviour, Jesus Christ. In a way, this is a time where Christians prepare their hearts and homes for the possibility of a second coming.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

CARDS & CALENDARS - You can purchase Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars in the foyer. Cards \$8.00 & Calendars \$10.00.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The cost for a copy of the Catholic Weekly is \$2.00. If you wish to purchase a copy please put the money in the box marked 'Catholic Weekly'.

CATECHISTS FOR 2018

Our Parish is looking for Catechists for 2018 to assist our team currently teaching School of Religion classes on Sunday mornings. No prior experience is necessary, other than an interest in teaching Primary school-aged children about their Catholic faith. A commitment is required of approximately 2-hours each week during school term time. Classes begin 11 February 2018. Training and support is offered by the Archdiocese. Please contact Jacquie Cortese at the Parish Office if you'd like more information.

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

CARDS Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

COFFEE GROUP Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

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

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

WEEKLY READER FORMATION Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

PRAY THE ROSARY will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T- switch on your hearing aid.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms. **It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.**

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

EVENTS

11 December - PART 2 of PSYCHOLOGY and SPIRITUALITY of RELATIONSHIP will take place on Monday 11th December at 6.45 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Centre Curtin. All welcome Entry FREE.

8-10 December: INTERNATIONAL NATIVITIES EXPO

This exhibition of 350 Nativities is an entrée to family discussion on the true meaning of Christmas. From some 80 countries, they present the diverse cultures that embrace the Christian story, from the Palestinian Territories to Vietnam and China. Venue: Catholic Pastoral Centre, 55 Franklin St. Manuka (behind St Christopher's Cathedral). Fri 8th: 2pm-7pm; Sat 9th:10am-5pm; Sun 10th: 9am-7pm. Contact: Keith Linard on 0412 376 317 or linard.keith@gmail.com

13 December - WODEN VALLEY YOUTH CHOIR

Woden Valley Youth Choirs 73rd Carols By Candlelight at Stage 88 is on Wednesday the 13 December. Preorder a picnic hamper from Southern Cross Club. This year money raised will go our chosen charity Parkinson's ACT.

31 DECEMBER - MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

The 11th Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil, St Michael's Church Kaelen, Sunday 31st December at 8.30pm. First Cenacle is prayed at 8.45pm (Joyful Mysteries), Second Cenacle at 9.45pm (Luminous Mysteries), Third Cenacle at 10.45 (Glorious Mysteries). Exposition from 8.30pm until 11.45pm followed by Midnight Mass. For further inquiries - Judy & Joe Mewburn 6245 6202

For the first time, the Archbishop will be 'taking over' our Archdiocesan Twitter account while he attends the ACYF youth conference. If you haven't already, join in the fun and follow us!

Archdiocesan Twitter account - <https://twitter.com/CGCatholic>

Archdiocesan Youth Ministry account

<https://www.facebook.com/CGYouthMinistry/>

Youth Ministry app: Download the app from the Apple App Store or the Android app on Google play

<http://cgatholic.org.au/youth/youth-ministry-app/>

Subscribe to the Living Word Gospel Reflection...its free!!

<http://cgatholic.org.au/subscribe-to-gospel-reflection/>

CARE OF THE SICK If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

COELIACS Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten)

If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

Christ was born in the first century, yet he belongs to all centuries.

He was born a Jew, yet He belongs to all races.

He was born in Bethlehem, yet He belongs to all countries.

ROSTERS 16 / 17 December 2017

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Paul	
Readers	T. Dennis	J. Maclean
Presentation of Gifts	Anderson / Dennis	
EMOE	C. Lewis	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	N. McGahey	
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle
Presentation of Gifts	Bandle Family	
EMOE	E. Smith	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	H. Beasley	
Readers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Presentation of Gifts	Hall-O'Brien Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	M. Proctor	
Presentation of Gifts	De Luca Family	
EMOE	K. Sneddon	V. Van der Sanden
Counters	R. Walpole	T. Ryan