

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Issue 3
17 December 2017
Year B

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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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

Joy

Rejoice in the Lord



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	Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.
READINGS	Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Gospel: John 1:6-8. 19-28

GAUDETTE SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday and our readings invite us to 'Rejoice always!', let us remind ourselves of the happy eagerness of little children who wait for Christmas.



PSALM : Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

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.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

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

My soul rejoices in my God.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

The Children's Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday 24th December** at 6pm. Children are reminded there is a practice on **Saturday 16 & 23 December** at 10am.

THANK YOU

Fr Kieran, Fr Rafael and Fr Bernie as well as members of the Parish Team would like to thank all parishioners for your generosity and help during the year.

We have a huge list of people to acknowledge. 'Thank You' to the members Parish Finance Council & Parish Pastoral Council, to the Acolytes, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, School of Religion, Musicians & Choir, Flower Ladies, Pastoral Care Groups, Altar Linen Carers, Data Projector operators, Counters & Collectors, St Vincent de Paul members, Prayer & Reflection Groups, Social Function Organisers, Maintenance, Garden Care, BBQ helpers, Children's Christmas Mass & Crib Organisers, Wendy, Debbie, Marie & Joy who help the office staff & all the other quiet achievers who contribute to the life of our wonderful Parish!

Merry Christmas to all

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today is the day we light the third candle on our Advent wreath - the pink one! Pink represents joy, and our families should come to know that it is with joy we await the return of Jesus.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

A lovely night of good food and company was had by the many who came to our Christmas Party. Welcome to all the newcomers, we hope to see you again at future Parish functions. **Special Thanks** go to Anne Moore and Kaye Murphy (and their two elves Cathy Feehan and Cath O'Brien) for organising our fun night. Also thank you to our helpers on the night. It was greatly appreciated. Thank You.



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, Natale Palombi
In loving memory	Paula Savas

REFLECT ON A STORY

How do you rejoice? Thirteen-year-old Elias Yeboah-Asiamah, who lives in Ghana, a country in Western Africa, shows joy through dancing. "I like dancing ... When it is my birthday, I wear white because I am happy and my friends come 'round ... We dance together." Elias' joy is evident to others. "People ask me to perform at parties. They say, 'Elias, we want you to dance for us, to make us happy!'" Besides dancing, Elias also enjoys school. He can go to school because his mum and dad are part of a cocoa farmer organization called Kuapa Kokoo. Cocoa is used to make chocolate and this group of farmers even owns their own chocolate company, Divine Chocolate! Farmers from Kuapa Kokoo make enough money from selling their cocoa to take care of their community by building schools and providing school supplies.

On the third Sunday of Advent we celebrate "Gaudete" Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice." It might seem strange that going to school could give somebody deep joy, but Elias knows that going to school will provide a bright future full of promise. It's like rejoicing in God's promise, the promise that John the Baptist points to by announcing the coming of Jesus Christ.

JOHN GUIDES US

"John the Baptist is again our Advent guide, in today's gospel reading from John. Because he has revived the ways of Israel's prophets he has caused quite a stir, and the authorities of Jerusalem send interrogators who ask him to give an account of himself. His selfless response is disarmingly frank: he is not the messiah; he is not one of the old prophets come back to life; he is not the New Moses of Israel's expectations. His role is that of a herald, 'a voice crying in the wilderness', that announces one who stands among the crowd, still 'unknown' to them. The description of his witness in this passage leaves his hearers hungry to know more of the one to whom this great figure shows such reverence - a prelude to a great theme of John's gospel, 'the true light' that is going to transform a darkened world. - "Today's liturgy can serve to remind us of today's call to a 'New Evangelisation' - bringing the true joy of the light of Christ to a world in which there is so much darkness and pain. When the task seems beyond us, let us remember with the old prophet, that we are working for God's future; let us understand with Paul that it is first and foremost the quality of our lives together that will bring people to share our faith; and let us learn from the Baptist that the effectiveness of our outreach will depend upon the unselfish commitment we have made to the Saviour and what he stands for."

by Fr John Thornhill SM

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Will be celebrated in the **St Brigid's Church**, Dickson at 7pm on **Monday 18th December**. All are welcome to attend as a special renewal and preparation for Christmas.

I AM NOT

*Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday).
Fr Benjamin Earl OP preaches on the identity of Christ,
and our own identity.*

St John's Gospel is very clear about the divine identity of Christ. The prologue to the Gospel, a small part of which we read today, speaks of him as the Word which was in the beginning with God and which is God. Jesus himself repeatedly uses the phrase 'I am', echoing the divine name revealed to Moses in the burning bush. There seems, though, to be rather more confusion about the identity of St John the Baptist, also introduced in the prologue to the Fourth Gospel. Unlike St Luke's Gospel, there is no infancy narrative here telling us about the origins of the Baptist; and while St Matthew has Jesus say that, in a certain sense, '[John] is Elijah who is to come' (Mt 11:14), the Fourth Gospel is a lot more cautious on this point and others regarding the Baptist's identity. The Gospel that repeatedly has Christ say 'I am', emphasises with the Baptist 'I am not': 'He was not the light' says the prologue (Jn 1:8); 'I am not the Christ' (Jn 1:20) says John himself, before going on to say he is not Elijah (Jn 1:21) and he is not the Prophet (Jn 1:21). Christ is; the Baptist is not. A similar dichotomy can be found in the thought of St Catherine of Siena. She relates a question of the eternal Father, 'Do you know, daughter, who you are and who I am? If you know these two things you will have beatitude within your grasp.' And the answer: 'You are she who is not, and I am he who is' (Bl. Raymond of Capua, *Life of Catherine of Siena*, 92).

What can this mean? St Catherine of Siena indubitably existed; her relics can be venerated in both Siena and Rome. John the Baptist indubitably existed. How can we say 'she is not' or 'he is not'? Both these saints acknowledge that their very existence depends on God; only because God holds them in being do they exist, and the questions 'who am I?' or 'what does my life mean?' cannot be answered except by answering the question 'how do I relate to God?'

The Fourth Gospel answers this question for the Baptist. 'There was a man, sent from God,' we read (Jn 1:6). Then, after a series of 'I am not's', finally there is an 'I am': 'I am the voice of one crying...' (Jn 1:23). John is the one *sent* by God; he is the *voice crying* the word of God. He is God's instrument in making known the coming of our salvation.

The first sin of humanity was to stop asking, 'how do I relate to God?' and to wonder instead, 'how can I do without God?' In doing so, we not only lost God, but we also lost ourselves, for divorced from God our lives make no sense. Only in relation to him can we know our true identity. The beginning of accepting redemption from our sin is found in realising that in fact we cannot do without God, and in accepting that 'I am not' except insofar as I relate to God.

We need always to ask again what that relationship with God, the ground of our being, should be. The answer will inevitably vary. The Christian calling can take many different forms, but we all share some of what characterises the mission of the Baptist. We have all been called; we are all sent into the world to proclaim, to cry in this wilderness, the good news that the relationship God has with his people is one of love, a love he showed by sending his Son. For those who will answer God's call, the promise made to St Catherine is real: beatitude is placed within our grasp.

Fr Benjamin Earl OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

There some important Mass Time changes and cancellations. Copies of the Schedule are on the exit tables and in the foyer. There is no 8am or 5pm Mass next Sunday 24th.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed Friday December 22 until Monday January 8. To contact a Priest please call 6248 8253 any other urgent matters 0448 737 700

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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

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.

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.

ONLY GOD can turn a MESS into a MESSAGE....a TEST into a TESTIMONY...a TRIAL into a TRIUMPH...a VICTIM into a VICTORY!!

EVENTS

31 DECEMBER - MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

The 11th Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil, St Michael's Church Kalleen, 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

Prepare the Way

I believe in **Christ** like I believe in the sun. Not because I can see it, but by it I can see everything else.

ROSTERS 23 / 24 / 25 December 2017

Saturday 5.00 pm

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Presentation of Gifts	Volunteer	
EMOE	Volunteer	

Sunday 10.00am

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Presentation of Gifts	Volunteer	
EMOE	Volunteer	Volunteer

Children's Christmas Eve Mass 6.00pm

Acolyte / Server	Lino Kim	
Readers	Children	Children
Presentation of Gifts	Family	
EMOE	Kay Murphy	Anne Moore

Christmas Vigil Mass 10.00pm

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	Nancy Clarke	Ken McCluskey
Presentation of Gifts	Trish Ryan	
EMOE	Volunteer	Volunteer

Christmas Day 8am

Acolyte / Server	Maryanne Falk	
Readers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Presentation of Gifts	Volunteer	
EMOE	Volunteer	
Data Projector	Wendy Wade	

Christmas Day 10am

Acolyte / Server	Richard Tanzer	
Readers	Michael Fitzgerald	Katrina Marson
Presentation of Gifts	Volunteer	
EMOE	Helena Zobec	Volunteer
Data Projector	Siobhan Tanzer	

Counters **Not needed**

ROSTERS 30 / 31 December 2017

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	P. English	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	N. Higgins	
EMOE	J. Maclean	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	K. Linnard	
Readers	N. Clarke	G. Thompson
Presentation of Gifts	E. M. Falk	
EMOE	E. Smith	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer	
Readers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Presentation of Gifts	Lestone Family	
EMOE	H. Zobec	R. Marson

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	R. Walpole	
EMOE	K. Kralikas	C. Mackay
Counters	I. Buckley	