

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 2
9 December 2018
Year C

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

Email: watson@cg.org.au
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

Second Sunday of Advent



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	Baruch 5:1-9 Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11 Gospel: Luke 3:1- 6

THANK YOU

Thank you to Ian Buckley for the wonderful stand for our Advent Wreath. Thank you for the lovely piece you have created.

Thank you to the lovely Ladies - Ruth Bourke, Heather Pook, Patricia Burbidge, Maureen Dawes, Elizabeth Marburg, Kath Coyle, Bernadette Khoo Margaret Lawrence, who each week create the flower arrangements that decorate the church.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 125

**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

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.

THANK YOU

Thank You to Joe, Ian, Debbie, Isabelle and Rino for their help & creativity setting-up our crib.



MAKE STRAIGHT THE PATHS OF JOY

Next Sunday is *Gaudete* Sunday, 'Rejoice' Sunday, but this year the Lectionary gives us a head start on rejoicing in Advent. That is as it should be. Our joy as Christians cannot be contained. It must not be restrained. The penitential always gives way to the salvific. That's the only point of our penance: to make our path straight for rejoicing, to liberate us from the sadness. Sadly, I think the penance, the preparation Advent most demands of us Christians these days is to learn anew to be joyful and to learn again to share our joy with others. Please! Christians! Your joy is what's demanded of you -- instead of all that plaintive sermonising against the commercialisation and materialism of the secular Christmas or all that anxious news commentary on how stressful a time Christmas is for people. Christians cannot oppose the world's misdirected 'spirit of Christmas' with some kind of sober sadness or any kind of preaching guilt-trip. They must oppose it with their joy.

What is the source of our joy? Exactly the good news being celebrated, sung, spread and proclaimed in our readings: God has come to be with us. And God shall come again so that we may be with him forever. And not only us, for 'all shall see the salvation of God'. This is no mere clap-trap, no happy-clappy God delusion. It's not any 'spirit' of Christmas, it is Christmas. We Christians are not unaware of or untouched by the sadness, the suffering and the pain in human lives. Sorrow and distress are not absent from our wardrobes. We don't so much hide it away as we put all that in its proper place. And it is not that our faith does not motivate us to make our world a better place. We can ask, as anyone might, why, despite the best efforts of men and women of good will, there is still war, hunger, sickness, loneliness and all manner of sorrow in our world, but we cannot say, as others might, that God does not know or that God does not care. In Christ Jesus God has manifested the depth of his care for us. God is with us and God want us to be with him forever. For some that's not enough. Perhaps they want Father Christmas to bring them other gifts. Don't begrudge or be a scrooge to those who have a different wish list this Advent and Christmas. Respect those who don't see the Father's gift of his Son as the greatest of all gifts. But since we Christians believe that it is, we must show it. We must show ourselves to be the very opposite of a sad people. We must make St. Paul's words our own: 'Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy...'

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

SAFE TRAVELS

To Debbie and Paul we thank you for all you have contributed to our Parish. Debbie: Saturday nights will be very quiet without the wonderful hymns you play and the Family Masses will not be the same. Paul: thank you for your support on the data projectors and we know you can turn a good sausage for the Family Mass. We hope your time in China runs smoothly and that we see you back here in three years.

Our prayers are with you on your journey.



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

Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Mary Martin
Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi,
Maureen Blood, Ken Rolls, Anne Corver,
Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany,
Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris,
Sharon O'rourke, Beth Delos Santos,
Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Neddrie, Helen Miller,
Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster,
Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi,
Zelma McManus, Catherine Feehan

Our deceased

Shane Madden, David Langbridge,
Emmanuel Javelosa

In Memory

Vin Murphy, Fernande Michel

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS



The Children's Mass will be celebrated on Monday 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 22nd December and Monday 24th 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 22nd and 24th 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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A big **THANK YOU** to **Anne, Kay, Cathy, Kath, Liz, Jim, Una, Carmel, Michael** and all the other elves who contributed to our wonderful Christmas Party...GOOD FOOD & FUN was had by all who joined in the festivities.



SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE

Second Sunday of Advent.

Fr Richard Conrad OP preaches on

St Paul's hope and love for his fellow Christians.

'I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the Day of Jesus Christ.' With these words, St. Paul expresses his *hope* for his friends at Philippi.

St. Thomas Aquinas recognised a drive called 'hope' in animals, a drive that energises you to tackle something important, but difficult, yet possible. The kind of drive aroused when the bull is chasing you, and it's not beyond you to make it to the fence and scramble over. This drive can be brash, and subject to miscalculation, hence it is strong in young men and drunkards.

The hope St. Paul expressed is a much higher - a *divine* - drive, a 'theological virtue', a God-given strength energising the most important project of all, the journey into God's own bliss. This hope cannot be brash; it does not presume on God's friendship as something due to us, for friend-ship must be received as a *gift*.

The journey would be quite beyond us, were not Jesus the Way, were not the Holy Spirit our Paraclete, our Friend for the campaign. For a creature cannot seize know-ledge of the God who alone possesses being, and is out of all proportion to us who receive being.

So is our hope a miscalculation? True, we are drunk on the Spirit; true, in the *Anima Christi* we ask Christ's blood to intoxicate us. But St. Paul says hope does not disappoint us, St. Thomas says it is marked by a certainty. God has begun a good work in us. We were created in the image of the Holy Trinity, needing the Holy Trinity - and Father, Son and Spirit have shown us their eagerness to meet the need they gave us.

In due time, Jesus dwelt among us revealing the Father who sent him. Throughout history he has come to birth in the minds of God's friends, purifying our vision with a share in the wisdom that he is. So we *can* hope that the Father will once again send his Son to our souls, after death, for him to 'blow our minds' and make us able to *know* his Father! We *can* hope that the Father will once again send his Son, on the Last Day, to complete his work of bringing us into the divine Glory.

As the result of Jesus's sacrifice, the Father sent the Spirit to energise the Church. Throughout history he has been sent to God's friends, to 'enlarge our hearts' with a share in the love that he is. So we *can* hope that after death, and on the Last Day, the Spirit will complete his work of enabling us to embrace the Father, and enfolding us in the divine Glory that he is.

St. Paul can see that the Philippians have the mind of Christ and are attuned to the Spirit. So, while he urges them to grow further in Christ's perspective and in love, he hopes with a divine certainty that their grace will grow into glory. For the hope God has given me, energises *me* - but Paul is so much one with his friends in Christ, so much animated with the same Spirit, that their growth is his, and his is theirs.

Common prayer expresses this common hope: Paul prays for his friends, and asks for their prayers. We do not pray for each other as if doubting God's power and purpose to save. Rather, we express our solidarity with God's purpose, we share his thirst for all his children to share his bliss. By inspiring our prayer, God makes us his fellow-workers, ministers for the completion of the work he has begun.

We admit that we can lose Christ's perspective, offend against love. Even in times of sin we must hope - and therefore pray - for God to restore wisdom and charity. But Paul can see the Philippians held secure in that love, that loyalty, that casts out fear of separation from God. So he prays, and urges them to pray, with joy, without anxiety.

There is, St. Thomas says, a fear of the Lord that goes with hope. This reverence and awe before the God on whom we depend for our very being will remain on the Day of Jesus Christ. For then we shall see how wondrous is the work of creation, how more wondrous the work of grace, and with what divine genius the Holy Trinity has brought this work to completion.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Catechists are still needed to help with the classes. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. Now in recess until February 2019.

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 the **third Thursday** of each month Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, 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 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 information - Letty 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 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

CATHOLIC VOICE WEBISTE - The Archdiocese has launched a brand new **CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE** for current news in the archdiocese this link is <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/>

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER DONATIONS

A box is now in the back of the church for your hamper donations. Hamper List: Biscuits (tins for seniors are very popular), shortbreads & savoury biscuits also. Puddings this includes plum puddings, jellies, fruit or pudding mixes. Jams, Pickles, Tomato Sauce, Vegemite, Pasta, Rice. Some tinned Food eg. beetroot, peas, beans, corn, baked beans, spaghetti, salmon & ham. Cake mixes eg. cup cakes, muffins pancakes etc. Tea & Coffee, Packets of Cereal, Lollies. Gift vouchers for teenagers would be appreciated. Small gifts for older persons. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

We are no longer permitted to include nuts or nut products. For health and safety reasons we CANNOT accept food stuffs that are out of date.

Life is a succession of lessons
which must be lived to be understood.

EVENTS

7 December - PRAISE, WORSHIP & HEALING

Conducted by Jagath Nanayakkara & organised by the Community of the Risen Lord Canberra, Friday 7th December at St Brigid's Church, Dickson. From 7pm. All welcome - free entrance.

13 December - ROSARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING

To be held on Thursday 13 December at 5.30pm an evening where we can come together as a community to celebrate the festive season. Some funds raised will go to Love your Sister charity, in memory of Rachel Lo Pilato.

13 December - CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Carols at the Cathedral 7.30pm featuring St Christopher's Cathedral Choir, brass, organ, the St Thomas More's children's choir, and the African Choir. All are welcome to attend this service of prayer and Christmas music.

15 December - O Virgo Splendens

6.30pm, Saturday 15 December, Holy Rosary Church, Watson Lady's Mantle sings Marian music from medieval chants to settings from the great classical composers, including music from the Libra Vermell de Montserrat and composers Brahms, Mozart, Poulenc, Saint-Saëns and Arcadelt. Lady's Mantle is a Canberra-based women's vocal ensemble of experienced singers under the direction of Maia Harrison. Entry by donation.

18 December - THE LIVE NATIVITY

St Joseph's Parish O'Connor will be holding 'The Live Nativity' on Tuesday 18th December at 8.30pm, Carols from 8pm. Live camels and other animals in the Parish Grounds. All welcome

31 December - NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL

The Marian Movement of Priests invites parishioners and their friends to the 12th Annual Prayer vigil at St Michael's Church, 2 Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen at 8.30pm. The First Cenacle will be prayed at 8.45pm (Joyful Mysteries), the Second Cenacle at 9.45pm (Luminous Mysteries), the Third Cenacle at 10.45pm (Glorious Mysteries) with Exposition from 8.30pm until 11.45pm followed by Midnight Mass. For further inquiries phone Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202

7-18 June - TEN DAY RENEWAL IN THE YEAR OF LUKE

Join Dr Elizabeth Dowling RSM, an Australian biblical scholar, as she leads participants in an exploration of mercy, compassion and release in the Gospel of Luke at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. Bookings: 02 6380 5222 or info@stclement.com.au

St Vincent de Paul - Urgent Call for Summer Holiday Volunteers.

Vinnies Centres need volunteers able to work about 5, 4 hour shifts between the 22 Dec and 1st of Feb. Most Centres are open Monday - Saturday, public holidays excepted. If you know someone who would be interested or if you are interested, please contact us by phoning 6234 7348 or by emailing volunteer@svdp-cg.org.au.

ROSTERS 15 / 16 December 2018

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Tran	
Readers	A. Blakey	M. Cox
Presentation of Gifts	Blakey Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	K. Linnard	
Readers	C. Widdowson	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	Flynn Family	
EMOE	N. Clarke	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	H. Beasley	
Readers	C. Rheinberger	E. Hall
Presentation of Gifts	Lestone Family	
EMOE	B. Affas	S. Tanzer

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	T. Ryan	V. Van der Sanden
Presentation of Gifts	B. Dobrowolska	
EMOE	J. Curnow	K. Sneddon
Counters	R. Walpole	J. Smith