

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Issue 4
23rd December 2018
Year C

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



Fourth 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

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



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	Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.
READINGS	Micah 5:1-4 Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

PARISH SPIRITUALITY

'At the heart of all religious traditions is the conviction that peace itself is a gift from God, yet it cannot be achieved without human endeavour. Lasting peace flows from the recognition that the world is ultimately not our own, but rather the horizon within which we are invited to participate in God's love and cooperate in guiding the world and history under his inspiration. We cannot do whatever we please with the world; rather, we are called to conform our choices to the subtle yet nonetheless perceptible laws inscribed by the Creator upon the universe and pattern our actions after the divine goodness that pervades the created realm.'

Pope Benedict

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

**Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

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.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from noon on Friday 21st December until Monday 7th January.
Fr Kieran can be contacted on 6248 8253.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

Children rehearsing for the Children's Christmas Eve Mass will have a last practice Monday at 10am – Mass at 6pm.



PLENARY COUNCIL

Recently the Parish Bulletin advertised 2 information sessions about Plenary 2020 (one on 12 November 2018 and the other on 8 December 2018). These sessions summarised the process and discussion about the Parish may wish to proceed took place. A number of the parish community attended the sessions and a summary of those discussions follows.

- Both groups and individuals are encouraged to register submission online.
- One broad discussion identified that people need to see the Church lived, through each of us and submissions may need to actively encourage the ecumenical dimension.
- There was a broad discussions on what other countries were doing with an emphasis that Plenary 2020 for Australia was focussed on submissions nationally.
- The methodology of how to make submissions was discussed and will be included in future Parish Bulletins.
- The topic of how we measure success was raised and the group agreed that feedback from the Plenary Council on what was determined for inclusion and what is not should be forthcoming.
- One group discussed the matter of what is critical for the future of the Church and particularly our Parish.
- This group agreed an area of focus for the parish is adult faith formation encouraging a renewal of faith by tapping into young families as well as youth/teenagers (examples of how we might do that was also discussed).

There was general agreement that we need to invest in music at the diocesan level.

If you are interested in having further discussions or would like to find out how to put in a submission keep an eye on the Parish Bulletin on the options available to you, or alternatively, contact Jacquie in the Parish Office.

THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

Luke describes the dawn of salvation. Presenting the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, he invites us to recognise how much is involved in the drama that is beginning. It realises the designs of the eternal Father, whose "promise made to Mary is fulfilled"; the Old Testament and its time of waiting is coming to an end, as its final and greatest spokesman recognises the coming of the Son of God; it is through Mary – "most blessed of all women" – that this dawn of salvation takes place; and it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that Mary has conceived, and Elizabeth with her child are able to enter into the joy that faith in this coming, or advent, brings to the world.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr John Thornhill SM

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

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	Emmanuel Javelosa, Philip Robinson
In Memory	Dominic Musolino

BAPTISM

Sebastian Brian Amsteins

who will be baptised this weekend.
May his life filled with God's peace,
and his heart with God's love...
on this Baptism day and always.



THE ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Appeal will be conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

- Our support will continue for **the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal** and its work in **bringing hope and opportunity** to those in need in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Syria and Pakistan.
- Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan** projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and Broome Diocese.
- **Helping** helping the rural parish of St Joseph's, Battambang in Cambodia provide improved and extended education opportunities to students beyond their infant years to primary, secondary and tertiary levels whilst also seeking to improve the self-sufficiency of the parish and their community is envisaged, projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India, and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

'In his moving musical composition *Like Winter Waiting*, John Foley, SJ, has Joseph sing about Mary, "Who is this woman?" For many people (and, of course, maybe for Joseph too) the question is really, "Who is this woman *to me*?" These two questions are very different in character.

Consider the first one. The traditional answer to it is that Mary is the Mother of God. You might think, how much care and commitment should I have for Mary? This answer can be hard to understand. All Christians agree that God is without beginning. It seems that a God without beginning *can't* be born. And so it seems that God can't have a mother either. *But* Jesus is fully human *and* fully divine. As man, God *can* be born. And so, after all, God can have and did have a human mother. The woman who was that mother is Mary. And that is why, if it is taken theologically, the answer to the question Joseph sings in John Foley's music, "Who is this woman?" is this: Mary is the Mother of God. But the more pressing question remains: "Who is this woman *to me*?" The answer to this question depends on the life and love of each person who answers it, doesn't it? Think about it this way. John Foley is the Jesuit priest who is the composer of powerful and influential liturgical music. But the answer to the question, "Who is John Foley *to me*?" depends on the person answering the question. But, you might think, how much care and commitment *should* I have for Mary? Isn't that a backwards way to think about relationship with any person, Mary included? What a person is *to you* depends on you, on your own care for her and commitment to her. We will discover our right relationship to Mary if we ask ourselves the question Elizabeth asked: "Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

HERE AND NOW

Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Fr Vivian Boland OP

preaches about the bodiliness of our salvation.

Catholicism is a physical at least as much as it is a spiritual religion. It is about things that happened, and things that happen, in and through particular human bodies, in particular places such as Bethlehem or Blackfriars, Oxford, and at particular times such as the days of King Herod of Judea. Our faith is about the Word becoming flesh. It is centred on one born of a woman, born under the Jewish law, to save us not through the promise of future incarnations of our 'spirits', but through the offering of his body once and for all.

The ministry of Jesus is to poor human bodies. He opens eyes so that they see, ears so that they hear, and he loosens tongues so that they speak. The visitation of Elizabeth by Mary is about bodies: pregnant bodies, a kicking foetus, sounds reaching ears, and mouths speaking. Elizabeth hears and believes and proclaims. Our attention is drawn to her hearing and her speaking. 'When the sound of your greeting reached my ears' - why doesn't she just say 'when I heard you'? 'She proclaimed with a loud voice' - why doesn't it just say 'she said'?

These elaborate expressions draw our attention to her hearing and speaking, and show that it is a hearing and a proclamation of the Gospel. Faith is established in Elizabeth through physical events: her meeting with Mary, their conversation, John the Baptist leaping in her womb, with the Spirit working through these things.

Elizabeth then praises Mary. Her canticle, Luke 1:42-45, has not received anything like the same attention as the other canticles in the first chapter of Luke's gospel, except that some of it has become part of our 'Hail Mary'. Later in the gospel another woman shouts out words of praise for Mary, saying to Jesus 'blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts you sucked'. To which Jesus replies, echoing the words of Elizabeth, 'blessed rather those who hear the Word of God and keep it'. He does not say 'please be a little bit less explicit in front of the children': he says happy are those who hear and who practise the gospel. How is the Word to be not only received and believed, but also practised? It can only be in the life we have here, and now, in the relationships and experiences and commitments that are ours here, and now. We do not need to look for a future incarnation of ourselves where we might do a better job of living a human life: we do it here, and we do it now, or we do not do it at all.

So in the second reading from Hebrews we are told that Jesus, on coming into the world, is given a body. This is so that he can do the Father's will as it is written in the roll of the book, so that the word can become flesh in other words. The Word of God does not return empty, it achieves its fulfilment, but can do that only by becoming embodied. This is why our faith is physical and it is why Mary (who gave Jesus his body) stands at the centre of our faith. No longer need we take animals and plants to represent our sacrifice: it is done in the body of Jesus Christ offered once, and for all, and continues in the offering of ourselves, our bodies, in union with Him.

Ours then is a physical religion. At its heart is the woman who said 'let what you have said be done to me', and the man who says 'behold I have come to do your will in the body you have prepared for me'.

Fr Vivian Boland OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

THE PAIN OF CHRISTMAS

'For most of us, Christmas is a happy occasion, involving spending time with loved ones, both family and friends. However, for some, Christmas can heighten the most difficult issues they have been faced with during the year.' The article goes on to focus in particular on the pain of fathers who have been separated, some of whom will not see their children at Christmas. It's an urgent reminder! How can we in our parishes provide places of welcome for those who will be hurting at Christmas?'

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/>

COME, LORD JESUS

'Lord, let us see your face. We have come so close to the coming of Christ; it is as though we can stand the waiting no longer. We want to see God's face. And what is that face like when it comes? It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God taking flesh in the womb of a virgin, that most disparaged of creatures in Jewish culture. It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God being born in an obscure village, Bethlehem, "too small to be among the clans of Judah." It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God present in the meeting of two insignificant women, far from the worldly centers of power. Christmas happens. Christ comes, but in strange ways and surprising circumstances. Many of us miss the coming of Christ because we expect him where and when he is not coming. God has to "make us turn in a different direction" so that we can find Christ in poverty (Bethlehem) and in the poor and outcast (Mary and Elizabeth). Christ, our Savior, not only loved the poor, but rather 'being rich he became poor,' he lived in poverty. His mission centred on advising the poor of their liberation and he founded his Church as the sign of that poverty among men. Gerald Darring

EVENTS

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

31 December — NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION

New Year's Eve adoration vigil at St Peter Chancels, Weston St, Yarralumla with Holy Mass at midnight. Come and adore Jesus in the Blessed sacrament from 8pm until 2am. Mass starts at midnight. For more information call Susanna on 0419 902 293."

6-13 January 2019 - SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION

A week long retreat into the powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, opening up possibilities for deepening faith, peace, healing, joy, freedom and passion for the Gospel of Jesus.

An outreach of the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community.

St Stanislaus College, Bathurst and other locations around Australia.

Email bathurst@summerschool.org.au or Visit <https://summerschool.org.au> for more information.

17 - January "Change The Heart Prayer Service"

Attend the prayer service at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture from 6pm regarding the 26th of January. Light refreshments provided. Contact: Rev Kathrine Rainer, k_rainger@hotmail.com Hazel Davies, hazeldavies@gmail.com, Rev Tracey Matthews, traceyann.matthews@gmail.com. During the service an offering will be taken up to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian ministry through the Grasstree Gathering www.grasstreegathering.org.au.

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

MARY

'Luke describes the dawn of salvation. Presenting the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, he invites us to recognise how much is involved in the drama that is beginning. It realises the designs of the eternal Father, whose "promise made to Mary is fulfilled"; the Old Testament and its time of waiting is coming to an end, as its final and greatest spokesman recognises the coming of the Son of God; it is through Mary - "most blessed of all women" - that this dawn of salvation takes place; and it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that Mary has conceived, and Elizabeth with her child are able to enter into the joy that faith in this coming, or advent, brings to the world.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr John Thornhill SM

ROSTERS 29 / 31 December 2018

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	P. English	T. Dennis
Presentation of Gifts	N. Higgins	
EMOE	Volunteer	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	K. Linard	
Readers	T. Klekner	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	Family	
EMOE	J. Smith	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer	
Readers	M. Fitzgerald	K. McCluskey
Presentation of Gifts	Musolino Family	
EMOE	R. Zochling	J. Munro

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	Malone Family	
EMOE	V. Van der Sanden	C. Mackay
Counters	I. Buckley	J. Smith