

# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Issue 1  
1st December 2019  
Year A

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

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PO Box 900, Dickson

Ph. 6248 5925

Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)  
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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**  
Thursday—12.30 pm

# First 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.

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.
<b>READINGS</b>	Isaiah 2:1-5    Romans 13:11-14 Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

The Children's Mass Eve Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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. The children must first have permission from their parent/s and an assurance that they will be attending this Mass. Children will be required to attend two practices. We would love to see lots of angels and shepherds looking after Mary, Joseph and the three wise men and many reading parts as well. Please put your name on the form in the foyer if you would like to be part of the Mass.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel's law it is,  
there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!'

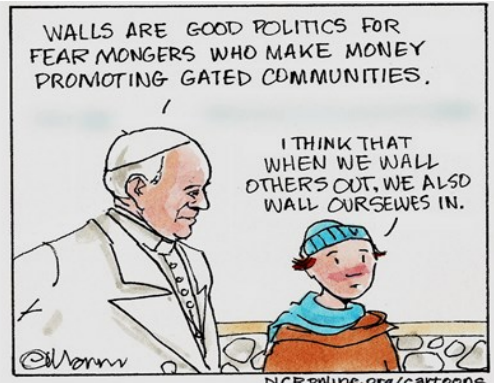
For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: 'Peace upon you!'  
For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

## ADVENT SEASON

As we begin this Advent season, we focus on the universal spiritual practice of being awake—deeply aware. It's not that we're sleeping, but that it's so easy to become distracted by the ordinary demands of life—especially in this holiday season. It is so easy to overlook what is truly most important, but staying alert is hard. God is always present to us; Jesus comes in many guises, many ways. If we're not alert, we miss it all. What will it take to keep us focused?

### Francis



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS

The four weeks of Advent begin on Sunday. Preparation for Christmas will most likely include special prayers, reflections and readings; our churches and perhaps our homes will display an advent wreath. The wreath symbolises a number of things – the circle of evergreen represents everlasting life, while the four candles (one for each Sunday of Advent) symbolise our hope and expectation of Our Saviour's birth. There are three purple candles, lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent, while the one pink candle is lit on *Gaudete* or rejoicing Sunday the third Sunday in Advent. Our prayers of the people and scripture reflection both exhort us to 'Walk in the light of the Lord', while reminds us that Advent is a time for preparation and pondering new possibilities. We congratulate Ashleigh Green from Broken Bay who will represent young Australian Catholics on the Church's new International Youth Advisory Board, which the Holy See has just established. Miss Green, who has written for Jesuit Media's *Australian Catholics* and *Madonna* publications, was the Australian delegate at preparatory meetings for the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Miss Green said the appointment wasn't about her but about the young people of Australia and she intended to share the journey with as many people as possible. Blessings to you as we begin our Advent journey.

Michele Frankeni - *Australian Catholics* assistant editor

## BREAK OPEN THE WORD & DAILY MASS BOOKS

Readers on the roster for Jan—Dec 2020 your **BREAK OPEN THE WORD** can be collect their copy of 'Break Open the Word' from the Sacristy before you leave after Mass. **DAILY MASS BOOKS** for the new liturgical year are now in the Church for use during Mass. We ask that you **PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THEM FROM THE CHURCH** as they are there for all parishioners.

## DOMINICAN FATHER'S

Dominican Fathers Sickness & Retirement Fund: the most recent count puts our Parish total at \$4,435.00. Thank you to all who contributed.

## RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Mary Alexandra and Samuel Li will be received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church at the 10am Mass on Sunday 8th December. Please join us in welcoming them to our faith community.



In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill, Una Bell, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mary Martin, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Maureen Blood, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris, June Pollard, Paul Neddrie, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Frank Zobec, Mimma Giampietro, Zelma McManus, Catherine Feehan, Pamela Sandy, Margaret Sullivan, Fr Joe McGeehan, Charlotte Woolner, Angela Fleming, Alphonsa Bankovsky, Bernard Slammon,
Our deceased	Mary Boyle, Eric Marson, Ugo Stellati, Sandra Wilson, Isaac Alvero Moran, Joan Lever, John Coggan
In Memory	Raymond Ramsay

## BAPTISM

### *Benjamin Henry Ernz Bravo*

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.



## LITURGICAL ROSTER

The Liturgical Roster for the new year January to June 2020 will be prepared shortly. Please consider volunteering. Volunteer sheets are available on the exit tables and a box is in the foyer for the completed sheets. It would be appreciated if all current volunteers could return a sheet. Thank you.

## PREPARING FOR CHRIST

"The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect (Mt 24:44)." That is a frightening prospect.

- What if Jesus comes when there are still nearly two and a half billion people living in countries where the annual per capita income is \$400 or less?
- When there are still about 40,000 people dying every day from hunger?
- When a billion people, one fifth of the human race, still do not have decent housing?
- When there are still 20 million Latin American children sleeping in the street?

- When there are still hundreds of millions of people without basic medical care?
- When one out of every four human beings still has no access to safe drinking water?

- When we are still burning down rain forests, depleting the ozone layer that protects us from the sun, depositing black crude oil along the delicate shoreline of the world, sending noxious gasses into the atmosphere so they return to earth as acid rain and pollute lakes and streams, playing games with radioactive materials that will be around to torture us for centuries?

"It is now the hour for us to wake from sleep (Rom 13:11)." The challenge to "beat our swords into plowshares" (Is 2:4) has been around for centuries, as have other biblical challenges to "cast off deeds of darkness (Rom 13:12)." The season of Advent is a time for us to wake ourselves up and begin preparing better for the coming of Christ. Hope in the coming kingdom is already beginning to take root in the hearts of men. The radical transformation of the world in the paschal mystery of the Lord gives full meaning to the efforts of men, and in particular of the young, to lessen injustice, violence and hatred and to advance all together in justice, freedom, brotherhood and love.

Gerald Darring <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

## STAY AWAKE

Few realise that these are Jesus' words at Gethsemane: 'Stay awake and pray that you enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Noah labours to build an ark, a means of salvation, but the others are too caught up in their own pleasures to attend to the clouds overhead. They suspect nothing, and prefer it that way. Whatever their better judgement, they are simply swept along by the round of daily life until the waters of the Flood sweep them away.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Richard Finn OP

## THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

### *First Sunday of Advent*

*Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP shows us how the coming of the Son of Man is both an event in the future, and a reality in our present.*

Sometimes people say that the Old Testament God is a God of fear, judgement and punishment, while the New Testament God is a God of love, forgiveness and welcome. Today's Scripture readings show just how mistaken this is. The Old Testament reading from the Prophet Isaiah is a message of hope and fulfilment, of peace and light. In the second reading St Paul is being stern and firm and just a little bit grim. And in the Gospel reading, Jesus' message is positively doom-laden and threatening. In fact, the way God is pictured in Scripture is much the same throughout the whole of both Old and New Testaments. Scripture is the story of God's dealings with us, his rebellious people; and if there are differences in Scripture, they are differences of our reaction to God, our growing understanding of Him at different times of our history, not differences in God Himself.

Isaiah is writing as he does because he is taking a very long view. He is looking forward to 'the days to come', to the future when God will finally establish his Kingdom, which he calls 'Mount Zion', that is, Jerusalem. All the nations of the world will stream to it, to worship God in His Temple, to know His ways and to walk in His paths. It will be a time of justice and peace, a time of total fulfilment for all. No swords, only ploughshares. In saying this, Isaiah is using images from his own time, to describe what God will bring to pass in the ultimate future, in the beatific vision, though it is partially fulfilled at times in the history of the Church. Sometimes people have flocked to the Church, sometimes they have persecuted it, and sometimes they have just ignored it. Paul and Jesus on the other hand are taking a much shorter view. They are concentrating on how we should live now, in the present. Paul says 'the time has come', that is, the time of Jesus, when God's final salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus is offered to us; but we can still either accept it or reject it. So he urges us to live determinedly in the light and life of Christ, for only in that way will we find fulfilment and happiness. Likewise, in the Gospel reading, Jesus warns us to be ready for what he calls 'the coming of the Son of Man'. This means not just an event in the future, but also his continual presence with us, even now, though we often fail to recognise him. So he is urging us to be aware. In the days of Noah, he says, people went about their ordinary business unaware of the judgement hanging over them. They were quite unprepared for the flood, which came and swept them all away. In a similar way, the coming of the Son of Man is a crisis hanging over us, but a far more important one. Some will be ready for it, some will not. Two men will be working in the fields as they usually do; and two women grinding corn, part of their regular work. In each case, one will be ready, the other not. That's the heart of it: being ready, prepared. You never know when the burglar will break in. If you are not prepared, you will suffer the consequences.

So Jesus is talking about our own awareness and decisions, our own acceptance or rejection of God. Each one of us can be either prepared or unprepared for this coming of the Son of Man, and that is the most serious decision of our entire lives. If we are prepared, if we accept Him, then he will welcome us into beatitude, which is the gift of God. If, on the other hand, we are unprepared, if we reject, then we reap the consequences: frustration, misery, hate. Jesus had told parables about the threat that hung over the Jewish people if they failed to welcome him as Messiah. He warned them that the consequence would be the destruction of Jerusalem; and that is exactly what happened 40 years later. So his words of threat and warning were referring in the first place to that Jerusalem crisis. They remembered what he said, and you can imagine people saying afterwards: 'He was right; He could see it coming'. But His words apply just as much to the 'coming of the Son of Man', not as a future event, but as His continual presence with us now. All the time the Son of Man is coming to us. He is present with us, and all the time we are being challenged to accept or reject Him. Advent is the time when we think about this especially, when we try to open our lives to his coming, to the inflowing of His love and forgiveness. It is a time when we strive to accept the good and reject the bad, so that we become more and more like the Son of Man and share His life.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

When we are willing to help others,  
God will also give us the resources to make it possible.

## IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email, phone or in writing if you would like to a Mass Intention, Memorial Mass, Baptism, or use of the Parish Centre a **minimum two weeks** notice for Wedding bookings **six months** notice is required.

**If you DO NOT book through the Office we cannot guarantee your request.**

If you would like a loved one in the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday 9am** of that week.

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS** - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. In recess until next year.

**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](http://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 at Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our friends & welcome newcomers.

**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. Contact the Office.

**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

**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.

**PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE** for notices is **NOON**

**TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office

Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

## COMMUNITY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

All Welcome on Sunday 15th December 6pm - Community Carols by candlelight with a Free Community BBQ / Sausage Sizzle (& Nativities Viewing) followed by Carols by Candlelight at 7pm. St Margaret's & Holy Cross Church Grounds, Hackett. Initiative of Holy Rosary Catholic, Holy Cross Anglican & St Margaret's Uniting Churches. Contact: Anna at [linard.anna@gmail.com](mailto:linard.anna@gmail.com)



## NORTH CANBERRA ECUMENICAL NATIVITY FESTIVAL

St Margaret's Hall, Cnr. Antill St. & Phillip Ave., Hackett Wed 11th to Sun 15th December **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED** As its contribution to the Christmas Nativity Festival, Rosary Parish is organising & running the display of some 200 Nativities.

**Volunteers are required for Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th** (To protect displays from "little fingers" and to explain or chat as occasion requires) Please fill in Day & Time availability & contact details on the form at the Exits

## ROSTER

7 / 8 December

Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	M. Tran	
Readers	P. English	T. Dennis
Presentation of Gifts	U. Ford	
EMOE	C. Lewis	
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle
Presentation of Gifts	Bandle Family	
EMOE	E. Smith	
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer	
Readers	I. Ciaccia	R. Ciaccia
Presentation of Gifts	Ciaccia Family	
EMOE	E. Musolino	M. Musolino
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	P. Tran	
Readers	V. Van der Sanden	K. Watson
Presentation of Gifts	Malone Family	
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca
COUNTERS	G. Gleeson	I. Buckley

# EVENTS

### 8 DECEMBER - CAROL SERVICE

St Caecilia's Choir will hold its annual Carol Service on Sunday, 8 December at 7.30 PM at the Chapel of St John the Evangelist, ANU. All welcome. Contact: Maria Henry on [mrhnr@gmail.com](mailto:mrhnr@gmail.com)

**9 DECEMBER** - An evening of **Christmas music & readings** on Monday 9 December, 6pm at St Christopher's Cathedral. Friar Alessandro is an internationally Franciscan singer Friar, accompanied by Vivian Choi, and the Artes Christi Choir & Orchestra. Entry by donation - with donations supporting Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Bookings essential via [www.voicefrommassisi.org.au](http://www.voicefrommassisi.org.au) or sign-up sheet in the foyer.

### 14 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Looking Glass Percussion: Join musicians of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra for a free concert. Saturday 14th December 7pm Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett at 7pm. More details on noticeboard.

**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 CHRISTMAS 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 pan-cakes etc. Tea & Coffee, Packets of Cereal, Lollies. Gift vouchers for teenagers would be appreciated. Small gifts for older persons. **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.** Your donations are greatly appreciated.

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Vinnies will holds its annual Christmas Appeal 7-8 December as a leaving collection after masses. If you require a receipt, pls go directly to volunteers in the foyer. Electronic transfers will be available. Please give generously.