

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 3  
15th 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 &  
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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

## Third 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>	Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.
<b>READINGS</b>	Isaiah 35:1-6. 10      James 5:7-10 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

## GOSPEL SUMMARY

John the Baptist had disciples of his own and while in prison he sent some of them to Jesus. At John's request, the disciples asked Jesus if he was the Messiah or were they to wait for another. Jesus did not answer them directly, but pointed to the miracles he had performed in the name of God's love. If John himself did not wonder, it was likely that his followers did. Jesus did not fit the image of Messiah, and so it was possible that people began to doubt their original perception. Today is the day we light the third candle, Pink represents joy, and our families should come to know that it is with joy we await the return of Jesus.

Proclaiming Faith

## PSALM: 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

## 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.

## LITURGICAL ROSTER 2020

The Liturgical Roster for the new year January to June 2020 are now on the table in the foyer. Your name is on your roster. Please do not forget to pick up your copy on the way out.

## CHRISTMAS ROSTER 2020

The Christmas Liturgical Roster is in the foyer for parishioners who would like volunteer during these special liturgies. The Christmas Mass Schedule is available. Please make sure you take one home.

## END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS

Rosary School will be holding their Graduation/End of Year Mass on Tuesday 17 December at 10am.  
Car parking in the Church Carpark will be reserved.  
All welcome to attend.

## TRANSPORT

Due to bus timetable changes two parishioners who live in the Ainslie area are unable to attend the 10am Mass. If you can help with transport please contact the office.

## 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 on **Saturday 21st and Monday 23rd December at 10am**. We would love to see lots of angels and shepherds looking after Mary, Joseph and the three wise men and there are many reading parts for older children. Please put your name on the form in the foyer if you would like to be part of the Mass.

## WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

'From his prison cell, John seeks a word of assurance, asking, 'are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?' The gospels do not tell us what more John the Baptist expected to see in Jesus as it often goes unstated in the secret of our hearts what more we expect from our God.

'I have never had much time for those who claim that God is only a projection of our minds. An invented god would always be less than, not greater than, we could imagine. No one would invent a God in the arms of a virgin mother, in a roughly hewn cave, in an obscure part of Palestine! Despite all the domesticated depictions of the nativity, the full scandal of the Incarnation remains the way it confounds our -anybody's - expectations. The Almighty has for us become one with us in Christ!

'Archbishop Fulton Sheen used to say, 'Divinity comes where you least expect to find it'. They never find it, never see it, who cannot look beyond the limits of their limited expectations.' God is always greater than our imagination. Or were you expecting something or someone less this Advent?'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Mark Edney OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS

The third Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete* (or rejoicing) Sunday. As NSW and Queensland continue to burn, families face economic uncertainty as fires and drought bite, and our country sets new benchmarks in cruelty to refugees and asylum seekers, perhaps we feel there is little to rejoice over.

The second reading on Sunday (James 5:7-10) is apt in this case then as it asks us to be patient and not lose heart 'because the Lord's coming will be soon'. Isaiah in the first reading (35:1-6, 10) also talks about the coming of God and exhorts us to have courage and not be afraid.

Joy is not necessarily constant laughter and good times, nor does it require everlasting sunlight. Sometimes joy is a small light in the darkness, a green shoot growing in a crack in the pavement, a child's smile through the tears. Joy is preparing for the birth of Jesus even knowing that he will be betrayed to a cruel death. This week may you find joy in your tasks.

## SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Will be celebrated in the **St Brigid's Church**, Dickson at 7pm on **Thursday 19th December**. All are welcome to attend as a special renewal and preparation for Christmas.



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 Bankovskyy, Bernard Slammon,
Our deceased	Patricia Smith, Mary Boyle, Joan Lever, John Coggan, Maria Cuc Dong
In Memory	Fernande Michel

## BAPTISM

### Angus Williams

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.



## GOSPEL SUMMARY

When he wants to assure John the Baptist that he truly is the Messiah, Jesus quotes passages from the book of Isaiah. These passages picture the time of the Messiah as marked by the same kind of works that Jesus is doing. Jesus heals the blind, the lame, the deaf, and the lepers. He raises the dead and proclaims the good news to the poor. These loving deeds are proof of his identity. Because John has opened people's hearts to the Savior's coming, Jesus says that John is the greatest of the prophets. We, too, can be like John, and as Jesus said, even greater than John, when we share Jesus' mission of making God's kingdom come.

## PARISH SPIRITUALITY

'The parish is not principally a structure, a territory, a building. The parish is first of all a community of the faithful. That, in fact, is how it is defined by the new Code of Canon Law. That is the task of the parish today: to be a community, to rediscover itself as community. One is not Christian by oneself. To be a Christian means to believe and to live one's faith together with others, to be Church, to be community.'

*Statement by Pope John Paul II, Rome, 1986*

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available from the containers next to the Holy Water fonts and in the foyer.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Mary and Samuel with their sponsors. They were received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church at the 10am Mass at last weekend.



## EDGY JOY

*Third Sunday of Advent  
(Gaudete Sunday).*

*Fr David Rocks OP encourages us not to lose hope during this time of waiting, but to rejoice in the coming of the Saviour.*

Rejoice! This is the instruction we are given at the beginning of Mass today. We are well and truly into the Advent mood now and this instruction comes to put our Advent preparations into context. But what do we have to rejoice about?

The Gospel presents us with the rather odd figure of John the Baptist. The Lord proclaims that no greater man than he has been born. It's clear that John the Baptist has much to rejoice about. What entitles him to this great honour?

John the Baptist was on the edge. His diet and his dress sense were weird, his living environment less than desirable. These things matter little to John. He was quite clear about his mission, and that was his sole focus. He was tasked with preparing the hearts of the people to receive the great joy of the Messiah. He preached to them a clear message of repentance, that they must turn away from sin so that they can recognise him when he comes. He gave them a baptism of repentance, a symbol of their liberation from the slavery of sin, which made them ready to greet their Redeemer. People flocked to him to listen and to be baptised. He fulfilled his task with great zeal and passion.

In today's gospel, he is making contact with the Lord from prison, for he has heard the of Lord's actions. The authorities have locked him away, for the message he preaches terrifies them. Yet John is someone who cannot be imprisoned because it is impossible. Yes, you can lock him up. But you cannot imprison someone who has truly repented with a full heart. Even though John cannot see the Lord face to face, he is able to recognise him through the thick walls of a prison. The words conveyed to him by the Lord most certainly would make John rejoice.

Repentance is a huge problem for us because it demands we examine every aspect of our lives. There are lots of areas where we are simply not ready for repenting. It's painful for us to break free from patterns of sin that seem to give us comfort and make us happy. We think we will miss them and suffer without them. There are lots of things in our lives that we don't want to admit are sinful, and sometimes when we look at the extent of our sinfulness we can become disheartened, and think that repentance is pointless. It is, however, necessary if we desire to receive our Saviour.

Reflecting on all these things over the last few weeks of Advent, we might be getting a little bogged down in it all. That's why the Church tells us to rejoice. There's no doubt that the gospel is demanding, but we have the great joy of God's grace and the fellowship of each other spurring us on to true repentance. We have the great comfort of God's mercy which means we don't need to languish in slavery to sin. We're right on the threshold of our complete happiness. We're on the very edge of true joy. This Sunday reminds us that, like John the Baptist, we're on the edge. We need to edge our way closer to true repentance because that's where we find our joy. Our salvation is a work in progress. Let's continue through Advent to encourage each other in prayer both to repent and rejoice.

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

## COMMUNITY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

All Welcome on this **Sunday from 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.



Discern the way. Try to be true to Jesus' words and example.  
Helping people, listening better, understanding,  
being a better person and wanting to help.

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

### TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of this marriage within the Catholic Church. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or by email [tribunal@cg.org.au](mailto:tribunal@cg.org.au). All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.



## ROSTER 21 / 22 December

Saturday 5pm	
Acolyte / Server	R. Paul
Readers	A. Blakey <span style="float: right;">M. Cox</span>
Presentation of Gifts	Blakey Family
EMOE	T. O'Neill
Sunday 8am	
Acolyte / Server	J. Smith
Readers	T. Klekner <span style="float: right;">C. Widdowson</span>
Presentation of Gifts	E. Falk
EMOE	M. Falk
Sunday 10am	
Acolyte / Server	Q. Vu
Readers	A. Hopkins <span style="float: right;">C. Barbaro</span>
Presentation of Gifts	Vu Family
EMOE	B. Affas <span style="float: right;">S. Tanzer</span>
Sunday 5pm	
Acolyte / Server	D. Gomez
Readers	M. Tuckwell <span style="float: right;">T. Malone</span>
Presentation of Gifts	K. Turrise
EMOE	D. de Luca <span style="float: right;">T. de Luca</span>
COUNTERS	G. Gleeson <span style="float: right;">I. Buckley</span>

# EVENTS

### 21 DECEMBER - ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Vinnies Conference needs assistance to hold its Nativity Crib fund-raiser at the Dickson Shops this coming Christmas. If you have a ute or station wagon with a large tray and can assist with morning and afternoon pick up of the crib on one or more days from Saturday 21 December, please contact Tony Malone on 0431 542 531.

### 31 DECEMBER - NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

AMICUS New Year's Eve Celebration on Tuesday 31.12.19 meet at the Austrian Club Mawson for dinner & dance to DJ Joe Pelle for those who are available on this night. (more details closer Tba) contact: Patricia 0412 351 548

### 31 - December "The Marian Movement of Priests"

Everyone is invited to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Canberra New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil at St Brigid's Church, 2 Bancroft Street, Dickson commencing at 8.00pm.  
 First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm (Joyful Mysteries)  
 Second Cenacle at 9.00pm (Luminous Mysteries)  
 Third Cenacle at 10.00pm (Sorrowful Mysteries)  
 Fourth Cenacle at 11.00pm (Glorious Mysteries)  
 Exposition from 8.00pm until 11.45pm concluding with Benediction.  
 For further inquiries phone Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202

Happiness consists in giving, and in serving others.