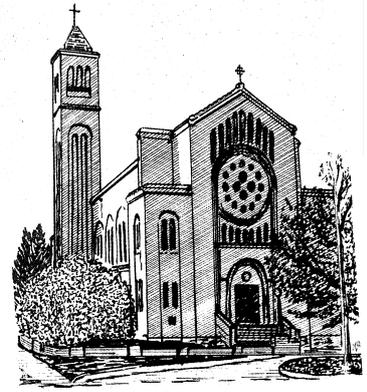


St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



1st Sunday of Advent

— Year A

30 Nov/1 Dec 2019

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Vicar General: Fr Tony Percy VG
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

Cnr Canberra Ave & Furneaux Street, Forrest (Manuka) ACT

Sunday: 8.00am,
11.00am (sung) & cuppa
5.30pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets, Yarralumla ACT

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday: 9.30am

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Saturday: 12.15pm
Tuesday to Friday: 7.30am

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 5.30pm
Thursday: 10.00am (9.30am Adoration): Anointing Mass first Thursday of the month.

Reconciliation

St Christopher's

Wednesday: 11.30am—12.00pm
Thursday: 6.00 - 6.30pm
Saturday: 11.00am - 12noon

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 6.00 - 6.30pm
Saturday: 5.15 - 5.45pm

Adoration & Benediction

St Christopher's:

Friday weekly 5-6pm.
Adoration: First Friday of the month 12.45-2pm.
Holy Hour & Benediction for discernment of Priestly vocations: 1st Thurs of the month 7-8pm

Baptisms

St Christopher's: 2nd & 4th Sundays, 12.30pm

St Peter Chanel's: 3rd Sun, 10.30am

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday 1.30pm, 3.00pm and 4.30pm

St Peter Chanel's:
By arrangement

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603

(02) 6239 9846 (bh)

cathedral@cg.org.au / www.cg.org.au/cathedral

Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>

Parish Secretary: Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm

Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—Wednesday

Dear Parishioners and Visitors to Saint Christopher's Cathedral Parish,

Today a new year in the Church begins with the season of Advent, and with it, renewed hope as we *prepare the way of the Lord*.

On the eve of Christmas 1944, in a solitary confinement cell in a Berlin prison, a young Jesuit sat praying. The Allies final assault on Nazi Germany was about to begin, and this young priest sat in his cell preparing a homily... a homily he would never preach. Father Alfred Delp had bravely denounced the Nazi regime; tortured and interrogated by the Gestapo he later wrote, I was left little more than a "bleeding whimper." And yet, in the midst of this reign of darkness Delp held a persistent hope, a longing, an Advent for the Truth which always pierces the night. Indeed for Father Delp "...all of life is Advent".

In his last meditation, on Christmas Eve, a month before his execution, Delp asked, "How many today could honestly appear at the manger? Most have absolutely no desire to do so... [for] the small, scanty door does not let anyone riding a high horse get through."

For Fr. Delp Advent was an "Advent of the heart". More than just preparing us for Christmas, it was a "spiritual way", a way of life. A way where our personal, social and historical situations, even our own deep suffering, offer us entry into the true Advent, that is, the journey toward a meeting and dialogue with God. But our hearts must seek the Child first. Delp's own life and sufferings, witnessed the true Advent he wrote about. Advent is the time for *being deeply shaken* he echoed—the time not only to remember the birth of Jesus, but to *participate* in this present unfolding and ultimate revelation of God that began in the Holy Night. Our God has come so close, he dwells in the midst of the life we live... now! A God born into our broken, chaotic history... a history that this Child now reorders.

"We run the risk of concealing Christmas behind bourgeois customs and sentimentality... What this celebration is about is the founding of a final order for the world, a new centre of meaning for all existence. [We are celebrating] the fact that *God has spoken His ultimate Word to the world*. Christ is the ultimate Word of God to the world."

And so what does this mean for us? John the Baptist had confessed "I am not he" to those who hoped he was the Saviour of Israel (Acts 13:25), and so too must we, Father Delp wrote; with vulnerability and honesty. He described this as "the Advent of the heart." The Advent which shapes us into being more human. This is the first step to becoming who we truly are; to admit and accept that we are not, nor do not have the answer, but that this Child born to us IS and does.

The Incarnation of our God is not once-upon-a-time, but here and now – we are preparing for a new world order... the true Advent. Delp described this as a "density of life": life brimming with a joy that opens us to encounter the life of God. A joy that no earthly darkness can destroy.

God meets us where we are, He comes in the Child we now await in joyful hope. And this changes everything! In this way, our whole life is an Advent, a preparation. My hope for you in this beautiful season, is that you encounter Christ in a way you never have before. That you see your life as God does and as Delp described – that the last word in the midst of an often confusing and dark world, belongs to the Child who lies in the manger... and you belong to Him. Let us not be distracted by the passing world and its worries, but comforted and strengthened by the One who comes to us in that same world. For the tinsel of Christmas is never enough for the human heart... but this humble Child is.

A Bless Advent to all, and know always of your priests' prayers for you.

Fr Trenton

PARISH NEWS

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music: Jaki Kane

RCIA—Fr Trenton van Reesch
Weekly on Thursdays, 6pm

School of Religion

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 2 Dec	1st week of Advent, Yr A
Tue 3 Dec	St Francis Xavier, priest
Wed 4 Dec	1st week of Advent
Thu 5 Dec	1st week of Advent
Fri 6 Dec	1st week of Advent
Sat 7 Dec	St Ambrose, bishop, doctor
Sun 8 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent

Legion of Mary
Wednesday at 6.15pm
Haydon Hall

St Vincent de Paul
Assisting people in need and
combatting social injustice in our
community

Young Adults
Animating parish and Archdiocesan
life through prayer and event
participation
Thursday 6.30pm Rosary/Bible
Sharing/Fellowship SCC
Geetanjali Rogers - 0438 585 177

Good Shepherd Prayer Group
Wednesday at 7pm SPC
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation
Saturday at 5pm SPC
"Be still and know that I am
God" (Psalm 46:10)

Other Communities

Spanish Community
First Sunday of the month at
11.30am SPC

African Community
Second Sunday of the month at
11.45am SPC

Filipino Community
First Sunday bi-monthly at
5.00pm SPC

For details of any of the
above, contact the Parish
Office.

HOLY HOUR 7 BENEDICTION FOR DISCERNMENT OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS—Thurs 5 Dec, 7-8pm

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION— 6 December at 12.45 — 2pm at the Cathedral.

FRIAR ALESSANDRO CONCERT: Mon 9 Dec, 6pm, Cathedral: You are invited to an evening of Christmas music with internationally acclaimed Franciscan singer Friar Alessandro. Friar is on his first tour to Australia and will be accompanied by Vivian Choi (Piano) and the Artes Christi Choir & Orchestra. **ENTRY FREE or By Donation** with all donations supporting the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** via www.voicefrommassisi.org.au There is also a Parish sign-up sheet in the Church.

CAROL SERVICE Thursday 12 Dec, 7.30pm, St Christopher's Cathedral. Featuring the Cathedral Choir and the St Thomas More's Children's Choir, brass and organ. All welcome to join in this Christmas celebration.

CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY—13 Dec, 6-8pm, Haydon Hall. Drinks provided. Please bring either a savoury, salad or sweet plate to share. Sign up Food Sheets will be in the churches so you can indicate what you would like to bring to share. RSVP to Parish office numbers attending and what food you can share—62399846.

FOR SALE—The Way—Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2019 - \$5.00 per copy. Inspired by our Blessed Mother and John the Baptist who pointed the Way to Jesus, this year's reflection book, *The Way*, provides a wonderful opportunity for us to take a quiet daily walk with our Lord and listen to him guide us on the Way to holiness through his Son.

The Way is an 84-page pocket-size book containing short, spiritually rich daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (1 December 2019) through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 January 2020) primarily for personal use, but also appropriate for group use such as parish, Church agency, religious community and school staff/class prayer. Please place your \$5.00 payment per booklet in the poor box in the Franklin Street entrance.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION—The Archdiocese has produced a short guide to be used for prayer in our parishes and communities, especially in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. The guide can be accessed electronically at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/religious-resources/>. Download the pdf to your device. Printed copies will also be made available soon.

JOB VACANCY—YOUTH MINISTER—At the heart of our Church is a call to belong, believe and become. To invite young people to answer this call, and draw them into the life and mission of the Church, schools and Parishes across the Archdiocese have employed established Youth Minister positions. If you are a young adult and want to be employed on a year of formation and mission, we invite you to become a Youth Minister in 2020 in the Cathedral Parish community. For more information, visit cgyouthministry.org.au/ youthministers or email youth@cg.org.au

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL—GIVING TREE. Boxes are in the Cathedral and St Peter Chanel's for parishioner's to contribute hamper items (non-perishable foods) and gifts—refer to posters for ideas for St Vinnies to distribute to families in need. All contributions are required by 9 December. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Cathedral

6pm Vigil
Midnight Mass (Carols at 11.15pm)
8am Mass
11am Mass

St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla

9pm Vigil Mass (Carols at 8.15pm)
9.30am Mass

2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 6pm Thursday 19 Dec at the Cathedral

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT SESSIONS—Theme: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Inclusive, participatory & synodal. 6.30-9pm: 10 Dec 2019, St Peter Chanel's Parish Room, Loch St, Yarralumla.



Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen. **Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.**

OTHER NEWS

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL: Perth, 8-10 Dec 2019. ACYF is the biggest national gathering of Catholic young people in Australia. Experience live bands and international speakers, engaging workshops, powerful prayer experiences and more. Explore the diversity and beauty of the Catholic Church with over 5,000 other youth and young adults from around Australia. The Archdiocese will be taking a small group (18 & over). Costs: appr. \$1,550 pp. Info: Huw.Warmenhoven@cg.org.au.

ADVENT REFLECTION & CAROLS, St Monica's, Evatt, 7 Dec. 'Come Let Us Adore Him'. This is a Christmas program with a difference! Please join us for

ST CAECILIA'S CHOIR CAROL SERVICE Sunday, 8 Dec. 7.30pm, Chapel of St John the Evangelist, ANU. All welcome. Contact: Maria Henry on mrhnr@gmail.com.

A PROFOUNDLY REWARDING MISSION —Working in Education, Health and Trades? Assist to reduce poverty in overseas communities by sharing your skills. Mutual development assured! There are five places left on Palms Australia's January 4th – 12th Orientation Course. You must apply now for a position beginning any time in 2020. Call or text 0422 4PALMS (M-F). palms.org.au

NORTH CANBERRA ECUMENICAL NATIVITY FESTIVAL —11-15 Dec. Exhibition of 200 Nativity scenes from 40 countries showing diverse cultures that embrace the Christian story: from the Palestinian Territories to Vietnam, from India to the Inuits of the Canadian Arctic. (Ph: 0412-376-324). 11-13 Dec, 2:30pm–4:00pm – Kids & Families. 14–15 Dec, 9:00am–7:00pm – Public Exhibition. St Margaret's Hall, Cnr. Antill St. & Phillip Ave, Hackett. Contact: Keith at linard.keith@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT—LOOKING GLASS PERCUSSION: 14 Dec, 7pm, Holy Cross Anglican Church, Antill St. Hackett. Canberra Symphony Orchestra free Christmas Concert. Contact: Anna at linard.anna@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT — 15 Dec, St Margaret's & Holy Cross Church, Hackett. From 6.00pm with free Community BBQ / Sausage Sizzle (& Nativities viewing) followed by Carols by Candlelight at 7.00pm. An initiative of Holy Rosary Catholic, Holy Cross Anglican & St Margaret's Uniting Churches. Contact: Anna at linard.anna@gmail.com

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GLOBAL GIFTS—This Christmas you can 'be an angel' by giving a Caritas Global Gift. For friends and family who, like you, know they don't need more 'things', your gift can help provide clean water, food or sustainable livelihoods – things we so often take for granted here in Australia. In return for your donation toward your chosen gift, you receive a beautiful card or e-card to give to your loved one showing you have made a contribution on their behalf. Purchase online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts or phone 1800 024 413.

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR DROUGHT - The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. Access resources and find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/drought

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER AT VINNIES DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS?

Vinnies shops need short-term volunteers to help us during our busiest time of year! There are a variety of roles available – retail assistants, general hands (lifting and carrying!), and sorting donations. By volunteering you get to meet some wonderful people and form some great friendships whilst gaining new skills and also helping people in need within your local community. During this Christmas Holiday, your energy, compassion and skills can make a real difference to those doing it tough. It will be a gift that keeps on giving. If you are interested, please call 02 6234 7348, email volunteer@svdp-cg.org.au or drop into your local Vinnies. You can find your nearest Vinnies shop by visiting www.vinnies.org.au/shops

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! VINNIES GIFT WRAPPERS at Gungahlin Marketplace, 9–24 Dec. To help raise funds for the 2019 Vinnies Christmas Appeal, we will be running a gift wrapping stall. If you're looking for a fun and festive volunteering opportunity, and take pride in wrapping presents, this is for you! There are 2 - 2 ½ hour shifts available. Email volunteer@svdp-cg.org.au to register!

SAVE OUR CHAPLAINS CAMPAIGN — This campaign is now entering week number 4 – the most critical stage. This is when we can win or lose! We need your help NOW more than ever before. In the time we have left, we need to make sure the government hears and listens to the voice of the people. At this point they have not acted but we are gaining traction and the government needs to know how important this is to the people of the ACT. To make this happen the ACT church community must own this campaign. It's success depends on YOUR voice and YOUR actions. So while we ask you to pray, we also urge you to support the campaign this week by: Sharing our website www.saveourchaplains.org across your social media platforms and in any other way you can; Providing comments of support at the bottom of the home page, which will be passed on to the ACT Government; Facebook – Please like and follow the page and share posts.; Twitter – Please follow and retweet posts; Instagram – Please follow and engage with posts. The success of this campaign is in the numbers – likes, follows, and shares – and we need to keep growing the numbers every day.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL - Journey with St. Paul as you relive the Acts of the Apostles and the famous letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Greek islands in this 10N pilgrimage led by Catholic Priests that features Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Crete, Santorini, Hosios Loukas, Delphi, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Kavala for an all-inclusive Land Package price of \$4490 + Tips. The fare includes Entrances & Sites as per itinerary + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + 3N Cruise with Lunch + All Breakfast & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. 2020 Departures Available: 12th May 2020 and 20th Oct 2020. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300721561 or email usinfo@magiholidays.com.au

Prayer for the Blessing of Rain

Lord God, Bless Australia – our Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.



Grant, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies, so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new. May we receive the blessing of abundant rain so that the "desert blooms with the life that lies in wait." We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



Tap & Go PayWave Machine to contribute to the Church collections without the necessity of carrying cash. Please PayWave your card at the pre-set Tap N Go machine located in the Church Foyer when you exit the church. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

We pray for...

Those to be baptised: Samuel Castaneda Loaiza; Liana Bartone

Those who are ill: John Beckhouse, Lucy Duncan, Peter Sutherland, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Bruce Kennedy, Betty O'Neill, Anthony, Lisette D'Cruze, David Kibbey, Jacqueline Khin, Scott Pobihun

Anniversaries of death: Constantino Salza, Nola Palisi, Domenico Marando, Madeleine Marsh Wright, Domenico Virgara, Nuala Kelly, John McLennan Duffy, Giuseppe Bonfini, Philomena Burke, Fr Thomas Wright, Raymond Noonan, Eva Kotthoff, Kathleen Moriarty, Olga Knight, Margaret Wilson, Federick Howley, Edith Dorn, Ellen Fenner, Anna Italiano, Judy Foschia, Bruna Romano, Mary Pini,

Recently Deceased: David Cusack, Anica Soldo, John Gallagher, David Askew, Andrew Italiano, Stanley Marris, Patricia Brennan (Mother of Fr Frank Brennan) Desmind Maquire, Patrick Maher, Florence Taylor, Pasquale Caggiano, Rosalie Novak, Betty O'Brien, Norman Stevenson, John Arganese, Antonio Russo,

Readings of the Day – First Sunday of Advent —Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *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.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

First Reading

Is 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Second Reading

Rom 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading

Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER				
Lectors			Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist	
<i>Mass</i>	<i>30 Nov/1 Dec</i>	<i>7/8 Dec</i>	<i>30 Nov/1 Dec</i>	<i>7/8 Dec</i>
6.00pm (SPC)	Felicity de Fombelle Wanda Kaucz	Sheila van Gent Frances Bulbrook	Mary Debus Sue Buckingham	Any available EMHC
8.00am (SCC)	Assigned Liza Quinn	Philip Pocock Kristina Faigl	Mineke Peerboom	Phil Pocock Liza Quinn
9.30am (SPC)	Clarice Poh Dominic Chin	Cecilia Flores Jaye Longland	Colliss Parrett	Wilfred & Margaret Lawrence
11.00am (SCC)	Leeann Galloway Edwina Hyman	Ceciley Matthews Jacqueline Hipwell	Jacqueline Hipwell Bronwen Grey	Ceciley Matthews Kathryn Ruston
5.30pm (SCC)	Peter Carrigy-Ryan Kristina Faigl	Youth Mass	Elizabeth Young Lionel D'Cruze	Elizabeth Young Lionel D'Cruze

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish encompasses the areas of Barton, Causeway, Deakin, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Kingston,