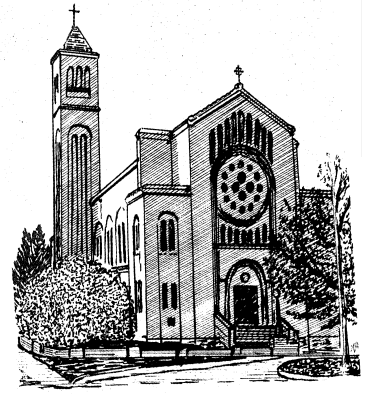


St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



2nd Sunday of Advent

— Year A

7/8 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/sccc>

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,

*"A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight!"*

In this second week of Advent, we encounter the *Voice crying in the Wilderness*: John the Baptist! All four Gospels compel us to approach Jesus through this mysterious figure, indicating that John provides the indispensable, interpretative key to understanding *Who* Jesus is and what his Birth and Death actually mean, as the *God who comes to us!*

John the Baptist comes preaching a baptism of repentance... of turning back to God, time is up he seems to say! And yet, what often puzzles us, is that Jesus then not only accepts but is baptised by John. This is not because He is sinful, but in order that He might make clear to us, how truly united with us He is, and thus the nature of His Mission. Jesus agrees with the Baptist's message, he endorses it. In being baptised He also reveals that He has taken the burden and consequences of our woundedness and sin upon Himself... as if He were the one who had offended. But then what happens?

After Jesus' baptism by John, in the very next verse we hear that he goes into the desert and thus *distances* Himself from John. He agrees with John, there is a need for change, for repentance, for turning our faces back to God, but that's where the message then differs.... all is not over yet...there is more to be said!

Something more to be said by a God who reveals Himself anew, as far more mysterious than we first suspect! Something more to be said by a God who is far more *merciful* than we could ever believe. Something more to be said by a God who is far more *patience* than the world has ever known. Something more to be said by a God who has entered space and time, in order that He might seek *us* out and come to us – in the vulnerability of a Child... that He might save His people!

Let us relish in these days of reflection, prayer and joyful expectation. Whereas John announced that the time was up... Jesus professed, it is not yet the end, but the *beginning* of a great flood of mercy! An advent. A God who descends and dwells with us... a God who searches for and comes to find *us*...

Christmas Carols will again take place this year on Thursday 12th December at 7:30pm in Saint Christopher's Cathedral. All are most welcome to this joyous occasion! We welcome too Franciscan Friar, Alessandro for a Christmas Concert on Monday evening, the 9th December at 6pm. More details in the bulletin. Finally, note that our second *Listening & Discernment* session in preparation for Plenary 2020, will take place at Saint Peter Chanel's this Tuesday, 6:30pm. Our theme: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is: Inclusive, participatory, and synodal.* 'Snapshot Reports' of this theme emergent from the first phase of preparation, are available from the back our churches.

A blessed Advent to all, and know always of your priest's prayers for you.

Fr Trenton

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.

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 9 Dec The Immaculate conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue 10 Dec 2nd week of Advent
Wed 11 Dec 2nd week of Advent
Thu 12 Dec 2nd week of Advent
Fri 13 Dec St Lucy
Sat 14 Dec St John of the Cross
Sun 15 Dec 3rd 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.**

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. Please place your \$5.00 payment per booklet in the poor box.

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
New Year's Eve Midnight Mass 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

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.

LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION—15 Dec, 3.30pm, St Joseph's Church Parish Centre, Boronia St, O'Connor.

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

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!

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.

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. All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

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. During this Christmas Holiday,

your energy, compassion and skills can make a real difference to those doing it tough. 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

SAVE OUR CHAPLAINS CAMPAIGN — This campaign is now entering week number 5. 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. It's success depends on YOUR voice and YOUR actions. We urge you to support the campaign 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 – follow and retweet posts; Instagram – 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 info@magiholidays.com.au

SISTERHOOD CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE—20-22 – March 2020—weekend long event for women of all ages and stages of life at Stanwell Tops Sydney. Through keynote talks and workshops, mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, reconciliation & quality sisterhood, women are given the opportunity to deepen in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ & develop community with other women. The conference seeks to provide keynote inputs, which are both spiritually enriching but also practical to the lives of women of all ages and stages of life. Early Bird Registration Ticket - \$239 including meals & accommodation. This special price is available only until December 17 2019. Tickets can be purchased via www.sisterhood.org.au.

KARINYA HOUSE: supporting women and babies in crises pregnancies. Please consider financially supporting by becoming a 'Friend of Karinya' today. www.karinyahouse.asn.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: Wilhelmina Toole

Those who are ill: Brian Kelly, 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) Desmond Maquire, Patrick Maher, Florence Taylor, Pasquale Caggiano, Rosalie Novak, Betty O'Brien, Norman Stevenson, John Arganese, Antonio Russo,

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *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.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

First Reading

Is 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Reading

Mt 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER				
Lectors			Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist	
<i>Mass</i>	<i>7/8 Dec</i>	<i>14/15 Dec</i>	<i>7/8 Dec</i>	<i>14/15 Dec</i>
6.00pm (SPC)	Sheila van Gent Frances Bulbrook	Marcelle Disanayake Damien Balachandran	Any available EMHC	Frances Bulbrook
8.00am (SCC)	Philip Pocock Mineke Peerboom	Liza Quinn Mineke Peerboom	Phil Pocock Liza Quinn	Mimma Memmolo Tony Pelle
9.30am (SPC)	Cecilia Flores Jaye Longland	Clarice Poh Dominic Chin	Wilfred & Margaret Lawrence	Any available EMHC
11.00am (SCC)	Ceciley Matthews Jacqueline Hipwell	Ceciley Matthews Edwina Hyman	Ceciley Matthews Kathryn Ruston	Edwina Hyman Mark Hyman
5.30pm (SCC)	Youth Mass	Liz Porra Jacob Madden	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,