

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



3rd Sunday in
Advent
Year B -
13 Dec 2020

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

Masses at St Christopher's will be offered with a maximum of 260 people present until further notice

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) Emergency Phone for Priests: 0491 072 304
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—Friday, 8am-4pm

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

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

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am,
11.00am (livestreamed),
5.30pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,
Yarralumla ACT

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 9.30am
2.00-3.00pm Adoration
& Confessions

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 7.30am &
12.15pm

Saturday: 9.00am & 12.15pm

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-12.00noon

Thursday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 11.00am - 12noon

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 5.15 - 5.45pm

Adoration

St Christopher's

Tuesday to Friday: 5.00-6.00pm

Baptisms

Sundays: 12.30pm

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday

1.30pm & 3.00pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near"
(Philippians 4:4).

Dear parishioners and visitors,

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete Sunday*, from the Latin, "rejoice", taken from the entrance antiphon from Philippians. *Gaudete Sunday* comes halfway through our advent journey and reminds us of the true joy which permeates this season; a joy that could risk becoming somewhat hidden after the year we have had. The Incarnation, we are heartened, is our greatest (nay, our only) reason to truly Rejoice!

This truth for Saint Paul resounded in the heart the 20th Century theologian and priest, Hans Urs von Balthasar in a particularly soberingly, inspiring and human way- as reflected in one of his own advent homilies.

On that holy night, the shepherds are visited by the angel, who radiates the "blinding glory of God... though they are very much afraid" And how can they not tremble, overcome with such a tremendous, un-earthly radiance? But after the Glory of God is announced, the angels depart and silence takes its place.

Challengingly, yet sensitively von Balthasar observes how, having heard the angels' words, "...they set off, heaven behind them, and the earthly sign before them."

"But, Lord, what a sign! ...a child... [and] not a child radiating a light of glory, as the religious painters depicted, but on the contrary: a child that looks as inglorious as possible. Wrapped in swaddling clothes. So that it cannot move. It lies there, imprisoned, as it were, in the clothes in which it has been wrapped through the solicitude of others."

He continues: "There is nothing elevating about the manger in which he lies either, nothing even remotely corresponding to the heavenly glory of the singing angels. There is practically nothing even half worth seeing; the destination of the shepherds' nightly journey is the most ordinary scene. Indeed, its poverty is decidedly disappointing. It is something entirely human and ordinary, something quite profane, in no way distinguished—except for the fact that this is the promised sign, and it fits."

No wonder so many miss the sign, he concludes. The 'glory' now vanished, one must have eyes to see - for now left behind was only the true 'human glow of Joy, Jesus, [and] in the shepherds souls, a light of joyous expectation, reinforcing the heavenward-pointing angel's word..."

The heavenly epiphany, we are powerfully reminded again in 2020, was *merely a starting point*, "an initial spark, a stimulus leading to what was really intended". The Word made flesh, and now in the darkness, *our* darkness, living among us! Now begins "the tiny seed of the word" says von Balthasar, "that has been implanted in [our] hearts and that now starts to grow in the form of expectation, curiosity and hope". God is among His people, not by mere symbol or ephemeral word, but by *the* Word Incarnate; and He will come again!

The shepherds see the Word that has "happened", the Word that has taken place, the Word that is no more a mere announcement, but dwelling among us!

Dear friends, this is our hope - let us *rejoice* this day in the promise which has 'happened', the promise Who is ours.

Father Trenton van Reesch
Cathedral Administrator

REMINDER: CHRISTMAS MASSES 2020

This year, parishioners attending Christmas Masses in the Cathedral parish are **asked to register online through one of our Trybooking links**. Unfortunately, only limited numbers can gather in the Cathedral and Saint Peter Chanel's for each Mass, however outdoor space will accommodate overflow. *An additional Mass will be offered if necessary.

Thankyou for your understanding and constant patience during this unsettling year.

St Peter Chanel's Christmas Masses - 4 Masses at Yarralumla - [http:// www.trybooking.com/BNJVH](http://www.trybooking.com/BNJVH)

Saint Christopher's Cathedral Masses - 7 Masses Manuka - [http:// www.trybooking.com/BNJYD](http://www.trybooking.com/BNJYD)

PARISH NEWS

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE OR REPOSITION
'SIT HERE' SIGNS ON THE PEWS.**

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music

Jaki Kane

RCIA

Thursday Evenings 6pm. Contact office to register your interest. Next Session 3 Dec.

School of Religion

Watch this space for 2021 Sacramental program dates.

Youth Minister

Chiara Catanzariti

Email: chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 14 Dec St John of the Cross, priest
doctor

Tue 15 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Wed 16 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Thu 17 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Fri 18 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Sat 19 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Sun 20 Dec 4th Sunday of Advent

Legion of Mary

(In Recess at the moment)

Contact: 0431 060 556

St Vincent de Paul

Assisting people in need and
combatting social injustice in our
community

Adventurers Youth Group

(primary school age)

Sundays, 8.45am SPC

Good Shepherd Prayer Group

Wednesday at 7pm SPC

Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation

Saturday at 5pm SPC

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.

Entry to the Cathedral disruptions and parking: Scaffolding around the bell tower will remain for some weeks to come. The large ramp at the front/side of the Cathedral is temporarily removed due to weddings and will be reinstalled mid Dec. This is required due to significant roof foundation repairs to the bell tower roof. Pedestrian access and disabled parking has also been moved during this time. Please follow the signs for entry to the Cathedral. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Advent Holy Hour - Wed 16 Dec, Cathedral. "Para cor Tuum" (prepare your heart) In the week before Christmas, come renew your spirit in drawing nearer to our Lord in anticipation for His coming to our hearts this advent. Talk, adoration, sacrament of reconciliation and sung chant. 6:30 - Talk from Fr Josh Scott on advent/preparing your heart for the coming of Christ. 6:40 - Exposition of the blessed Sacrament (Sacrament of Reconciliation available with Fr Trenton) sung Chant. 7:25 - Benediction, Divine Praises, repose of the Blessed Sacrament

Download the CHECK IN CBR App: To assist with COVID-19 compliance and data collection requirements, we have introduced the "Check In Cbr" App. The App is free, download onto your smartphone and register, then simply scan the QR code located in the church entrance each time you enter. All data is secure, it saves time and you don't have to touch the pen! Please note on WEEKEND MASSES you must still MANUAL SIGNING IN as well, to ensure numbers are not exceeded.

RECONCILIATION TIMES IN ADVENT: In preparation for Christmas, Confession times have been extended (please note: these are in addition to regular times). Tuesday-Friday from the 8th to the 18th of December during adoration from 5pm-6pm.

No Parish Mass at St Peter Chanel's at 10am on Christmas Eve.

Request for Covid Marshalls for weekend Masses— Thank you to those who have offered assistance. The parish office is seeking volunteers who can ensure the correct sign-in procedure is followed at Masses. This would require arriving 30 minutes early and inspecting each sign in. If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office with your details either by phoning 6239 9846 or email cathedral@cg.org.au.

CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY— Thank you to all who attended the Parish Christmas function. A very special thank you to Chi for catering for all and to everyone who bought a plate to share.

Volunteers needed - The Garden group are about to begin the next exciting new phase on the Saint Peter Chanel's' garden project and are calling for volunteers. Contact: Mick Roche (0400 066 408).

New Year's Eve Adoration and Mass— 31 Dec, St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla, 9pm Adoration and Mass at 11.45pm.

Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis: *Patris Corde* - Joseph is a man who goes "unnoticed", who welcomes the mystery and puts himself at its service, never putting himself at the centre, but who resolves things that are impossible. In *Patris corde*, the Pope describes St Joseph's qualities as a true husband and father, in whom "Jesus saw the tender love of God". http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

New ways of Giving

- Direct Debit
- Qkr app
- Tap & Go
- Collection Point

More information:
www.cg.org.au/cathedral
or contact Parish office
6239 9846.

Christmas Mass Timetable 24-25 December

An online booking system has been set up for Christmas Masses as Covid restrictions still apply. Bookings essential through **Trybooking**—see links below:

- St Peter Chanel's Christmas Masses - 4 Masses at Yarralumla - <http://www.trybooking.com/BNJVH>
- Saint Christopher's Cathedral Masses - 7 Masses Manuka - <http://www.trybooking.com/BNJYD>

TICKETS MUST BE PRINTED OFF AND PRESENT ON ENTRY TO THE CHURCH. Signing in on entry is also still required.

St Christopher's Cathedral

- 6.00pm Vigil Mass
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass
- 12 Midnight
- 8.00am
- 10.00am
- 11.00am
- 5.00pm

St Peter Chanel's

- 5.30pm Vigil Mass
- 9.00pm Vigil Mass
- 9.00am
- 10.30am



OTHER NEWS

Mass live streamed from the St Christopher's Cathedral. Sunday at 11:00am. The congregation will be filmed during the livestreaming. <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

Parish Collections: Like many in our community our parish has felt the Covid financial pinch. The finance council strongly encourage you to please consider recommencing your weekly financial contributions. While much has been put to a sudden halt, parish cost have continued to rise. Please consider direct debt and electronic forms of contribution to parish planned giving. Thank you for your generosity and support of your parish.

PRESENT PROTOCOLS - Please be familiar with current guidelines

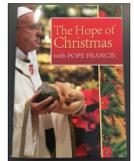
- In accordance with government restrictions, only 260 people are permitted in the Cathedral at any one time. Entry to Mass will be through one door.
- ALL PARISHIONERS & VISITORS MUST sign in upon entry. Records are securely stored and destroyed after 28 days.
- All attendees (including children) must complete the Mass Register prior to entry.
- Communion is received in the hand only & not under the species of the Precious Blood.
- Physical distancing rules still apply—respecting the 2sqm p/p rule.
- Please sit where there is a 'Please sit here' marker. Every 2nd pew is closed. *NB:* Families can sit together.
- Please use hand sanitiser upon entry and clean your pew/space with the wipes provided.
- There will be no physical contact at the sign of peace.
- No collection plates are in use, but money/envelopes can be deposited at collection points.
- Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, but keep or dispose of appropriately. **Please maintain social distancing 1.5m, at all times, including in the single line formed to receive Holy Communion.** Blue squares and yellow markers on the tiles indicate these distances. Thank you for your commitment in keeping everyone safe.

Weston Creek Men's Shed—The Men's Shed will be accepting donations for the farmers (tools etc) at the 37 Bangalay Cres, Rivett. Contact Allen on 0414 525 778. Open Tues & Fri 9.30am-1pm & Thur 9.30am-3pm.

New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil—31 Dec, 8pm, St Brigid's Church, 2 Bancroft St, Dickson. The Marian Movement of Priests invites you to the 14th annual Canberra New Year's Eve Vigil. 1st Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm (Joyful Mysteries); 2nd Cenacle at 9.00pm (Luminous Mysteries); 3rd Cenacle at 10.00pm (Sorrowful Mysteries); 4th Cenacle at 11.00pm (Glorious Mysteries). Exposition from 8.00pm until Midnight Mass. Benediction will take place before Midnight Mass. Enquiries: Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202

St Vinnies request for Christmas Holiday volunteers—Are you looking for an opportunity to help people in need? Vinnies shops need short-term volunteers to help us during our busiest time of year. Min. 4 hours/day; volunteer period 21 Dec-2 Feb. If you are interested, please call 0407 905 217, email volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au or drop into your local Vinnies. You can find your nearest Vinnies shop by visiting www.vinnies.org.au/shops

Catholic Book Shop—for all you Advent and Christmas needs: located behind the Cathedral and open Mon-Fri 9:30am -5pm, Sat 9am-1pm & Sun 9 am-1pm until Christmas. As well as books, we offer a wide range of piety goods, from icons to candles to sacramental gifts, and now beautiful Christmas Season gifts, Christmas cards and Nativity scenes – we hope you will come and visit us, we are so much more than a bookshop.



Engaged Encounter Retreat—20-21 Feb 2021. How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. For further information visit: www.engagedencounter.org.au.

Gifts of Faith—A Gift of Faith is a Christmas present given in place of a material gift. One can arrange multiple Gifts of Faith for children, grandchildren, god-children, siblings, cousins, co-workers, friends and parishioners. Find out more: www.thatcatholicshop.com/giftsoffait

ST CHRISTOPHER STATUE APPEAL 2020/2021 - Canberra was always destined to be a gathering place, and so our parish, which was to become our Cathedral, was named "St Christopher's"; Patron Saint of travellers and the 'Christ-bearer'. Please consider giving to this appeal, either online @ www.cgatholic.org.au/giving, by calling 02 6239 9801, or through the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!



The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal is now available within your Parish Qkr! App.
Please help us make a difference, both locally and globally, by donating to the appeal.



A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Dear Lord, I believe in the presence of Your Body and Blood in the Eucharistic celebration of the Last Supper. Since I cannot receive You Sacramentally, I embrace You Spiritually into my heart. Never permit me to be separated from you. My Lord and my God. Amen.

We pray for...

Those to be baptised: Sophia Winters; Siena & Mila Godkin; Leonidas McCrea

Those to be married: Sarah Ciuffetilli and Francois Rensburg; Lidia Nardi & Joe Madaffari

Those who are ill: Katarina Imsinovic, Clarrie Pickard, Colliss Parrett, Arianna Vignale, Lucy Duncan, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, David Kibbey, Frank Boyle, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum

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, Anne Merner

Recently Deceased: Rudy & Maria Rajic, Alexis Saaghy, Curtis Holland (USA), Lino Farronato, Gerald Byrnes, EPrain Barbery, Muriel Morgan, Dominic McKeown, Leena Lemley, Lou Westende, Shirley Cummings (nee Deane), Brian F Savage, Joan Ophel, John Kovacic, Geraldine Lawler, Barbara Develin,

Readings of the Day – 3rd Sunday of Advent —Year B



Cathedral QR code

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

First Reading

Is 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Second Reading

1 Thes 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Reading

Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER				
Lectors			Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist	
Mass	12/13 Dec	19/20 Dec		
5.00pm (SCC)	Leeann Galloway Ceciley Matthews	Becky Langworthy Eleanor Noorli	n/a	n/a
6.00pm (SPC)	Frances Bulbrook Felicity de Fombelle	Geraldene Ford Wanda Kaucz	n/a	n/a
8.00am (SCC)	Phillip Pocock Liza Quinn	Louise Zavone Joe Zavone	n/a	n/a
9.30am (SPC)	Ruth Meadows Jaye Longland	Gloria Osborne Liz Porra	n/a	n/a
11.00am (SCC)	Ranee George Cecilia Flores	Edwina Hyman Lynn Chan	n/a	n/a
5.30pm (SCC)	Becky Langworthy Liz Porra	Peter Carrigy-Ryan Gabrielle Wright	n/a	n/a

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish encompasses the areas of Barton, Causeway, Deakin, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Kingston, Manuka, Parkes, Red Hill, Yarralumla