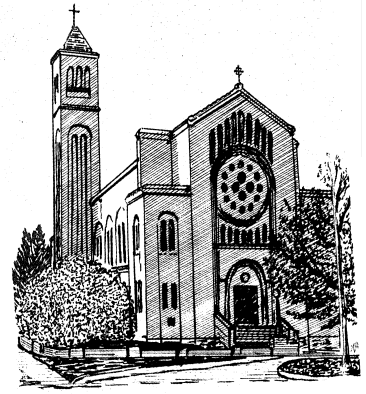


St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



3rd Sunday of Advent

— Year A

14/15 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,

The German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), in a work called *God is in the Manger*, famously observed: "God travels wonderful ways with human beings, but he does not comply with the views and opinions of people. God does not go the way that people want to prescribe for him; rather, his way is beyond all comprehension.... Where reason is indignant, where our nature rebels, where our piety anxiously keeps us away: that is precisely where God loves to be, *that* is where he wants to be, and no one can keep him from it..."

He continued:

"Only the *humble* believe him and *rejoice* that God is so free and so marvellous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvellous. ... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. [He] marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken."

We are well into preparations for *that moment* which marks the greatest moment of joy, hope and celebration not only for the Christian, but for every human person; and yet almost paradoxically, in these days and years the world seems more than ever... a mess. And not only the world... the Church, and perhaps your own families, your own lives can in many way too look a mess.

This Sunday is known as *Gaudete Sunday*, from the Latin meaning *rejoice!* But the honest question, the real question (and we must deal with facts!), is... can we really, rejoice...always? (Philippians 4:4). And furthermore, what does such joy look like? Every life contains sadness and hurt. More than one person reading this is asking: "what Reason do I have for Joy?" And yet what we are told in these day is that our joy is far more than the externals. It pierces far deeper. If we have eyes to *see*, we are able to see the Magnificence at the Heart of the Mess... and how Magnificent it is!

God is no more far off and distant... but comes to us! The human person can not now say therefore 'God doesn't understand. He doesn't know how I feel, how I suffer'. In this moment He does, and He promises to be with us in this journey; and that is surely a reason to rejoice!

Christ, *Yesterday, Today, Forever* – Behind us, Beside us, Before us... that is the hidden joy we bear and that we witness in the manger! God coming to us, God with us. We do not see Him with our eyes but we see that wherever Jesus is, people change, we change... There is a greater capacity for peace, reconciliation, hope and love; and often, when so many of the externals stay the same. And that is most certainly a reason to rejoice! For as Card. Joseph Ratzinger (Pope emeritus Benedict XVI) once wrote "Daring to talk to God out of the trials of our darkness is as Job did, is a part of our Christian life..." For this is where God is found.

Thank you to all who attended Christmas Carols with the Archbishop in the Cathedral on Thursday night. What an uplifting and hopefully evening it was. A chance to rejoice! Thank you to our wonderful choir director Jaki Kane, our talented organist Ben Chesworth and to our magnificent choir. We as so very blessed to have the talents and dedication of these men and women, who each week help raise our minds and hearts to God. We are so very grateful.

May the journey of Advent continue to draw our hearts to the hope, joy, life and Magnificent who is born in the manger; for this is our *only reason* to rejoice, and it is the reason Who gives meaning, life and hope to all we do.

Please always know of your priests' prayer 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 16 Dec 3rd week of Advent
Tue 17 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Wed 18 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Thu 19 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Fri 20 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Sat 21 Dec 3rd week of Advent

Sun 22 Dec 4th 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.**

Thanks to all who made a donation at Friar Alessandro's Christmas Concert, we raised over \$2,536.50. This is a fantastic result and will make a huge difference to people in need in our community in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you so much for your support, and thank you to of conference members. If you would like to join the Saint Christopher's or Saint Peter Chanel's Vinnies conference, please contact the Parish Office.

CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY—Thank you to all who contributed to the Parish Christmas party on Friday night. If you are a volunteer within the Cathedral Parish and was unable to attend this function, please drop into the Cathedral office to collect your thank you gift for volunteering with our Parish.

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

REQUEST FOR MORE READERS AT 5.30PM MASS—If you are interested at reading at the 5.30pm Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

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 Adoration, 8pm-midnight at St Peter Chanel's

New Year's Midnight Mass at St Peter Chanel's

Thank you to all who attend our last session on Tuesday night. There was a palpable unity in diversity, a wonderful moment in our Plenary journey. If you were unable to make the session but would still like to contribute to the Plenary preparations for 2020 please visit <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/> to review the themes and have your voice heard. These parish sessions are not the 'only chance' you have to contribute. You are able to make contribution on the official website at any time. It is humbling and exciting to say that after only 2 sessions we have already seen fruits of our listening and discernment together in our parish community. Let us continue to make this journey together, as we prepare for a big 2020.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT SESSIONS—Theme: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Prayer and Eucharistic. 6.30-9pm: 21 January 2020, Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, 55 Franklin St, Forrest.



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

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.

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

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS —31 Dec. Everyone is invited to the 13th 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

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 us 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

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.

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 who are ill: 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 Fener, Anna Italiano, Judy Foschia, Bruna Romano, Mary Pini,

Recently Deceased: Vittoria Goffre, Patricia Smith, Brian Kelly, Allan Lawless, David Cusack, Anica Soldo, John Gallagher, David Askew, Andrew Italiano, Stanley Maris, 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 – Third Sunday of Advent —Year A

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Lord, come and save us.*

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 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Second Reading

Jas 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER				
Lectors			Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist	
<i>Mass</i>	<i>14/15 Dec</i>	<i>21/22 Dec</i>	<i>14/15 Dec</i>	<i>21/22 Dec</i>
6.00pm (SPC)	Marcelle Disanayake Damien Balachandran	Wanda Kaucz Felicity de Fombelle	Frances Bulbrook	Pieter van Gent
8.00am (SCC)	Liza Quinn Mineke Peerboom	Philip Pocock Assigned	Mimma Memmolo Tony Pelle	Mimma Memmolo Tony Pelle
9.30am (SPC)	Clarice Poh Dominic Chin	Melissa Kent Colliss Parrett	Any available EMHC	Colliss Parrett
11.00am (SCC)	Ceciley Matthews Edwina Hyman	Mark Hyman Liz Porra	Edwina Hyman Mark Hyman	Liz Porra Leeann Galloway
5.30pm (SCC)	Liz Porra Jacob Madden	Kristian Faigl Jacob Madden	Elizabeth Young Lionel D'Cruze	Tony Croke Lionel D'Cruze

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