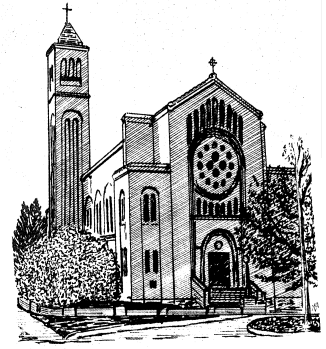


St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



3rd Sunday of Advent,
Year B
17 December 2023

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Alexander Osborne

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (ph)
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral
Online Payments Link: www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp
Parish Secretary: Anita Piper — 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Thursday. Office Closed Friday-Sunday
Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—8am-4pm Friday



YEAR OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT
August 2023– 2024

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

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

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am,
11.00am
5.00pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,
Yarralumla ACT

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 9.30am

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 7.30am &
12.15pm

Saturday (& Public Holidays):
9.00am & 12.15pm

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 5.30pm

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

Monday to Friday: 5.00-6.00pm

Rosary at the Cathedral

Mon–Fri 8am, Sat 11:40am, Sun
4:45pm

Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sundays: 12.30pm

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday
1.30pm & 3.00pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As condemned prisoner, Alfred Delp sat in solitary confinement on Christmas Eve 1944, praying.

The Jesuit priest wrote of his struggle, but too of his hidden, Christian joy. Delp had long denounced the Nazi regime, and unbeknownst to him, the Allies final assault was about to begin. Tortured and interrogated he wrote: I was left little more than a "bleeding whimper", and yet, in the darkness, there was a hidden hope, a longing, an Advent which pierced the night then and there. Indeed, "...all of life is Advent".

In his meditation, 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 a daily "spiritual way". A way where our personal, social and historical situations, even our own suffering, offers us entry into the true Advent; a journey towards a relationship with the Living God. Yet our heart must first be humble and vulnerable enough to seek the Child, who often goes unnoticed.

Delp's own suffering witnessed to the Advent he wrote of. Advent is for being 'deeply shaken'—it is not just to remember Jesus' birth, but to participate in the unfolding revelation of the en-fleshed God. A God born into our broken, chaotic history. A history that this Child is now reordering (Rev 21:5).

"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."

So what does this mean for us? John the Baptist confessed "I am not he". And so too must we, Delp says. He described this as "the Advent of the heart." The Advent which makes us more human. To accept that we are not, nor do not have the answer, but that this Child born to us is and does. The Incarnation of God is here and now. He is now making all things new. Believe that.

Delp described this as life brimming with a joy that opens us to encounter the life of God no matter where we find ourselves. A joy that no earthly darkness can destroy.

Friends, see your lives as God does, and as Delp described – that the last word in the midst of confusion and darkness, may belong to the Child who lies in the manger. Let us not be distracted by what is passing, but strengthen by the One who comes to us in that same world, in that same messy stable.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin, *Rejoice!* In this Season which marks the greatest moment of joy and hope, not only for the Christian, but for all creation – the world remains more than ever, a mess. And not just the world, our own lives and families too. Yet while every life contains sadness and hurt, if we have eyes to see, we are able to see *Magnificence* at the Heart of that Mess... and how Magnificent it is! God is not far off. This is the hidden joy we bear. God is with us, God is with you! Allow that to genuinely sink in. Wherever Jesus is (when welcomed through desire in the human heart) people change, we change... There is a greater capacity for peace, reconciliation, hope, patience and love; and often, all this, when still so many of the difficult externals stay the same.

Friends, may Advent draw our hearts to the Magnificence born in the manger! This is our one constant. This is Christian Hope. This is our reason to rejoice!

NOTICES

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music
Ms Jaki Kane

RCIA
Miss Becky Langworthy
Contact Office

School of Religion
Miss Chiara Catanzariti

Youth Ministers
Mr Andre Le
youth.cathedral@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon Dec 18 3rd Week of Advent
Tues Dec 19 3rd Week of Advent
Wed Dec 20 3rd Week of Advent
Thu. Dec 21 3rd Week of Advent
Fri. Dec 22 3rd Week of Advent
Sat. Dec 23 3rd Week of Advent
Sun Dec 24 4th Sunday of Advent Yr. B

PARISH GROUPS

St Vincent de Paul

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

Christian Meditation
Saturday at 4:30pm 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 begins Feb.

Filipino Community
First Sunday bi-monthly at
5.00pm SPC

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Cathedral

5pm Vigil
Midnight Mass (Carols at 11.15pm) 9:30am Mass
8am Mass
11am Mass
5pm

St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla

9.00pm Vigil (8:30pm Carols)



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY— Thank you to all who contributed to the Parish Christmas party on Friday night. All volunteers within the Parish, unable to join us on Friday, please drop into the office to collect a small thank you gift.

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL—GIVING TREE. Thank you to all that have generously donated to the Vinnies Christmas appeal to help support families struggling this Christmas.

Baptist Care - Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist—Seeking volunteers to bring communion to Catholic residents at BaptistCare Carey Gardens Aged Care Home, Red Hill. You will be required to undertake training which will be provided and hold a WWVP card. Contact the Cathedral office for more info.

2024 Columban Calendars \$10 each available in the Catholic Bookshop.



Tribunal of the Catholic Church— Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Canberra Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Canberra Office of the Tribunal Office on **6239 9813** or email tribunal@cg.org.au

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS—Invites you to the 17th Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil **Sat 31 Dec, 8pm** at St Brigid's Church, Dickson. With Exposition from 8pm until Benediction before Midnight. For more information, visit: mmp-oceania.net

Vigil Mass – Saint Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, 6pm Mass— Friends, in recent years the number of parishioners and visitors attending the 6pm Vigil Mass at SPC has slowly declined, while numbers at the five other Masses in the parish have increased. For this reason we have decided that the 6pm Vigil Mass will cease to be offered at the end of December 2023. The Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass will continue to be offered at the Cathedral. I understand that this inevitable decision will come as a disappointment to many who have attended Mass at this time for some years. Of course, the 930am Mass on Sundays will remain.
I thank you most graciously for your understanding.

NOTICES

Giving and Receiving— Direct debit and QKR options are available, as well as TapnGo machines Thank you sincerely for your generosity. If you are able, perhaps consider donating to 1st and 2nd collection via direct debit .
The First collection: contributes to clergy of the Archdiocese. If you make an offering through direct debit, please include that you are a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish.

BSB: 062-786 Account Name: CATHEDRAL
Bank Account: 000029248 Reference: FORREST & SURNAME

The Second collection: contributes to parish mission and maintenance. If you would like to give and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

BSB: 062786 Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral
Bank Account: 000015080 Reference: Planned Giving # and Surname (only current Planned Givers);
or Donation (parishioners not registered Planned Givers).

For more information or to set up monthly payments via direct debit, please contact the Parish Office. For step by step Qkr! instructions, visit cgatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/

Thank you for your generosity

Plenary Council: Letter to the people of God — Released a statement reflecting on the fifth Plenary Council of Australia. 26 November 2023 | Solemnity of Christ the King. The document can be found on the Cathedral website.

CARETAXI: SAFE CHURCH TRANSPORT— Mass, Medical/GP appointments, shopping trips, recreational trips, and more; qualified and caring drivers. Visit caretaxi.com.au, or 0451 734 334.

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal— The sudden escalation of hostilities in Israel and Gaza has seen unimaginable impacts for the people affected by this conflict. Around 1.5 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. With your compassionate generosity, we can provide emergency support to people displaced and affected by the hostilities to meet basic needs and cope with trauma. **Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.** You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

Loreto Ex Students' Reunion— in Canberra Saturday, **16 March 2024** For further details: loreto.canberra@gmail.com

MARYMEAD CATHOLICCARE CANBERRA & GOULBURN—Since opening its doors in June 2020, MacKillop House has given accommodation to 125 single women aged between 18-80 in the 'big house' and 20 Mothers with some 34 accompanying children in the 6 Villas. The generosity of many has enabled the refurbishment of 25 bedrooms to continue and carpet to be replaced. The need is great! We welcome donations to help make a difference! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Visit our website <https://mccg.org.au> and go to the 'donate' box at top right of page, or by direct transfer: BSB: 062-786; Account Number 00010602; Account Name: CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn. Please indicate that the donation is for 'MacKillop House' and email advice to Noelene.quinane@mccg.org.au



Year of the Holy Spirit

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light
Of the Holy Spirit,
Did instruct the hearts
Of the faithful,
Grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may be
truly wise and ever rejoice in His
consolations.
Through the same
Christ our Lord

Amen.

AUGUST 2023— AUGUST 2024

We pray for...

Those to be baptised: Raffael Mammoliti, Paul Buizen

Those to be married : Maryanne Klajner & Christopher Kucharski

Those who are ill: Sonja Vocisano, Margaret "Peggy" Byrnes, Archie Ferris, Tony Dickins, Marilena Damiano Fr Greg Beath, Sophy Jacob, Alla Skorokhodova, Tony Kelly, Susie Menadue, Geraldene Ford, Kevin & Geraldine Conlon, Maja Marija Olip, McKenzie Killian, Fr Bill, Leung Man Kon, Beryl Johnson, Florencio Fariña, Alejandra Martinez, Colliss Parrett, Arianna Vignale, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum, Nicholas Dyne.

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, Bruest Family, Sweeten Family, Mahony Family, Filomena Zulli, Rosario Morgante, Alan & Hazel Hobday, Denis Gilmour

Recently Deceased: Kevin Wellspring (Father or Fr Julian Wellspring), Cathy Cleary, Jeanette Marie Evans, Frank Fulop, Tim Davies, Jerina Junakovic, Sr M Barbara Fogarty, rsj, Don Debus, Raymond Anthony, Kevin Bray, Colin Dwyer, Anita Ong-Siong Sy, Mgr Rob Egar, Rosa Mustapic, Pamela Rotmwell, Norma May,

3rd Sunday of Advent —Year B — 16/17 December



Cathedral QR code

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial: 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

Isaiah 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 Thessalonians 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

Mark 1:1-8

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.

READERS ROSTER DECEMBER

		Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers	
Mass	16/17 Dec	23/24 Dec	16/17 Dec	23/24 Dec	
5.00pm (SCC)	Stewart Unwin Ruth Meadows	Mark Hyman Edwina Hyman			
6.00pm (SPC)	Tarinya Hannedege Fiona Wheeler	Felicity de Fombelle			
8.00am (SCC)	Louise Zavone Joe Zavone	Becky Langworthy Zvon Soslja			
9.30am (SPC)	Damien Balachandran Raphael Molu	Raphael Molu Wanda Kaucz			
11.00am (SCC)	Jacqueline Hipwell Samantha Hazlett	Jacqui Ramesh Les Buszynski	Edwina Hyman Leeann Galloway		Volunteer
5.00pm (SCC)	Rebekah O'Meagher Solange Pereira	Jacqueline Hipwell Kevin Woods			

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