

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



4th Sunday of Advent

— Year A

21/22 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

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

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

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

We've all made a journey to be here today; some from across the city, others from around the corner. In the Cathedral parish each week, many come from across the border, while others from around the world. And how fitting it is during this season of Advent, for it's not just us. Christmas and indeed the entire Christian narrative *is* itself a journey, while being filled with many journeys. The journey of the angel Gabriel to a young Mary of Nazareth. The journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The journey of the shepherds as they followed the star, and later that of the Magi to see the new born Child. And of course we have the baby's own journey from His throne in heaven to the world below.

The image of *journeying* characterises the relationship between God and us; between Creator and creature. We see this in our story which unfolds in the scriptures. God never simply allows us to remain stagnant—for while meeting us where we are—He never allows us to remain there, but rather, He calls us to leave the familiar and embark on a journey that often takes us into what is foreign. This takes courage, and often an enormous amount of it! Such a truth is the same one echoed to Joseph this weekend in the Gospel: "Joseph son of David, *do not be afraid...*"—"do not be afraid to take the next step, to follow the path I am leading you down."

A journey by definition, means moving from one place to another. Literally then it's a *dis*-location, which often implies a pulling or painful wrenching. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of King David is a "dislocating" God who commands: "Go from your country... to the land that I will show you" (Gen 21:1). The command to Abraham was the same to Mary and indeed Joseph; and it's the same invitation that comes to us at Christmas, prepared for during Advent.

Mary characterises these days, because like Abraham before her, she received a promise which seemed impossible. Mary is told '*do not be afraid*' (Luke 1:30), and is lead to another place; a place which claims all of her, soul, mind, heart, and even her very body—as genuine love always does! The Mother of Jesus says *yes* to the plan of God. And yet through the following years, moments emerge when the plan seems to have gone awry, forgotten by God and engulfed by darkness. Mary must *keep saying yes...*even when that yes leads her to the cross; where that skin she once caressed and kissed with her own lips, is now bruised and red with her Son's own blood.

God's presence and coming to us always causes us to be dislocated, there is no doubt. Because yes, many of us journeyed to be here today, but the real ongoing journey is the one our hearts make to conceive of the fact that God is coming to us in person, and we cannot be left unchanged. A heart that moves away from the prejudice of doing things my way, and open to the journey that God makes with us.

In these days of focusing, of waiting, let us *allow ourselves* to experience another dis-location, not necessarily a painful one, but a lasting one. That we may experience the Incarnation in a way we have not before. That we may be taken to another place and in so doing genuinely grow. And as we do this, let us hear those same words spoken to our family for centuries, "*Do not be afraid, for I am with you!*" (Isaiah 41:10).

In Advent we journey like those before and pre-eminently with Mary and Joseph, saying as we go, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). And with confidence we approach the day, the day of God's birth into the world, and with joy we welcome Him, that whatever location we are drawn into whatever challenges, pain or hurdles lie ahead, *God is with us* and He will fulfil in His own way all the promises He has made.

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 23 Dec St John of Kenty
Tue 24 Dec 4th week of Advent
Wed 25 Dec The Nativity of the Lord
Thu 26 Dec St Stephen, the 1st martyr
Fri 27 Dec St John, apostle & evangelist
Sat 28 Dec The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Sun 29 Dec The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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.**

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



New Year's Eve Adoration, 8pm-midnight at St Peter Chanel's
New Year's Midnight Mass at St Peter Chanel's

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN—The Parish office will be closed from Tuesday 24 December and reopen on Monday 6 January 2020. May God bless you and your families this Christmas and throughout 2020.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: Thank you to all who contributed with donations this year to St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. We have had one of our most successful years, and your generosity has changed the lives of many in need in our Canberra-Goulburn community this Christmas. Thank you from the Cathedral and St Peter Chanel SVdP—God bless you and your families this Christmas and may 2020 be a year of peace and blessings for us all.

Columban Calendars & Christmas Cards are available for purchase at the Catholic bookshop. 2020 will be a big year for Cathedral Youth.

Congratulations to all our students as they wrap up another wonderful year. May the staff, students and families of all our Archdiocesan schools have a Holy and Joyous Christmas.

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2019 - will take place at all Christmas Masses. This year the appeal will support the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal; local diocesan projects within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese; the rebuilding of houses in flood affected communities in Thamarassery Diocese, India; as well as student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. A large focus will also be the assistance given to bush fire affected Dioceses of NSW.

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.



ATTENTION: Call for Diocesan Delegates for the Plenary Council.

Have you been a part of the Plenary Council process of listening, prayer, dialogue and discernment? Do you feel called to be a delegate from our Archdiocese? Submit your Expression of Interest by speaking with Fr Trenton or Father Norvin. Expressions of Interest are due by noon, **25th January 2020**.

Any person expressing an interest **must** be available for **one** of the Preparation and formation days in: **Melbourne:** (Thursday 5.00pm 18 June 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm 20 June 2020). **Brisbane:** (Thursday 5.00pm 25 June 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm 27 June 2020). **Sydney:** (Thursday 5.00pm 16 July 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm 18 July 2020). **Perth:** (Thursday 5.00pm 23 July 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm 25 July 2020).

The **Plenary Council General Assembly 1** will be held on Sunday 2.00pm 4 October 2020 – Sunday 12.00pm 11 October 2020. And the **Plenary Council General Assembly 2**, on Monday 12.00pm 28 June 2021 – Saturday 12.00pm 3 July 2021.

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

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.

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

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 & 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: Frank Hendy; Ezra Julius; Imogen Lynch;

Those who are ill: Lucy Duncan, 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, Frederick Howley, Edith Dorn, Ellen Fener, Anna Italiano, Judy Foschia, Bruna Romano, Mary Pini, Anne Merner

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 – Fourth Sunday of Advent —Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

First Reading

Is 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Reading

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER						
Lectors				Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist		
Mass	21/22 Dec	24/25 Dec	28/29 Dec	21/22 Dec	24/25 Dec	28/29 Dec
6.00pm (SPC)	W Kaucz F de Fombelle	N/A	S van Gent G Ford	P van Gent	N/A	Any available EMHC
6.00pm (SCC)	N/A	F Bulbrook J Hipwell	N/A	N/A	Any available EMHC	N/A
9.00pm (SPC)	N/A	J Longland M Nash	N/A	N/A	Any available EMHC	N/A
Midnight (SCC)	N/A	C Matthews K Faigl	N/A	N/A	Any available EMHC	N/A
8.00am (SCC)	P Pocock Assigned	G Wright P Pocock	M Peerboom K Faigl	M Memmolo T Pelle	Any available EMHC	Any available EMHC
9.30am (SPC)	M Kent C Parrett	S van Gent L Porra	G Osborne C Parrett	C Parrett	Any available EMHC	Any available EMHC
11.00am (SCC)	M Hyman L Porra	L Galloway B Grey	B Grey G Wright	L Porra L Galloway	Any available EMHC	Any available EMHC
5.30pm (SCC)	K Faigl J Madden	N/A	L Galloway L Porra	T Croke L D'Cruze	N/A	Any available EMHC