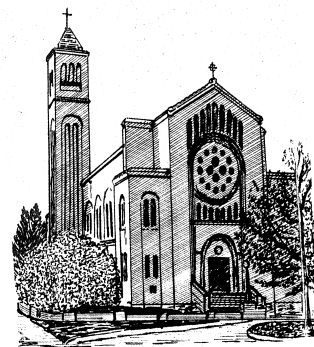


# St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

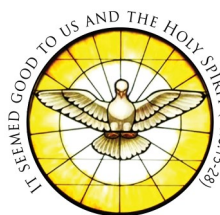


4th Sunday of Advent,  
Year B  
24 December 2023

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/sccc  
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 (livestreamed),  
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

## 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

### St Christopher's:

2nd & 4th Sundays: 12.30pm

### St Peter Chanel's:

3rd Sunday: 10:30am

## Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday

1.30pm & 3.00pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Our lives are filled with journeys. Both literal and figurative.

Yet it's not just us. The Christmas story too speaks of a universal journey for the world, and the many other journeys of which it is made.

There's the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem for the census. The journey of the shepherds to see the child. The journey of the wise men, and of the angels to worship and adore.

But of course the greatest journey of all is the baby's own, from the womb into the light... from heaven to earth.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent we hear of another journey, that of Mary to visit her cousin Elisabeth. Imagine the sense of joy, yet confusion too, whirling within this young woman's trusting heart. Mary goes "in haste", to greet her cousin Elisabeth, but this is no mere catch-up! Rather this meeting of the two expectant mothers has far deeper significance! It is the Old Testament pointing to the New – the Old Covenant, being fulfilled by the New, Eternal Covenant!

The Evangelist Luke is revealing something extraordinary. Several details, while subtle, are identical to 2 Samuel 6, which narrates the story of King David before the Ark of the Covenant. In those days Mary arose and set out 'in haste' to the Hill country of Judah, precisely what King David did generations earlier! "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Elizabeth exclaims, while David in 2 Samuel 6:9 says, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" The ark of the living God now greets Elizabeth, and so too us! Finally, the unborn John we hear "leaps for joy!" King David too "leapt and danced before the Lord". This encounter tells of the magnificent and final Covenant between Creator and creature; existing now, not in a written commandment alone, but in the living flesh of God!

Within the living Ark of Mary now comes the true Covenant, Jesus, law and mercy enfleshed; the living Bread from Heaven. Many of us will journey this Christmas, yet the Greatest journey will be the one our heart makes to conceive of the fact that God has now come to us in Person! And when Christ comes to us, we cannot be left unchanged!

Pope Francis reminds us of the oldest Advent prayer, which invites God to draw close. "Advent" he says, "is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst." "Let us make the traditional Advent prayer our own: 'Come, Lord Jesus.' ... say it at the beginning of each day and repeat it often, before our meetings, our studies and our work, before making decisions, in every important or difficult moment of our lives: 'Come, Lord Jesus.'"

Advent is both a time of "God's closeness and our watchfulness". "It is important to remain watchful, because one great mistake in life is to get absorbed in a thousand things and not to notice God. Saint Augustine said: 'Timeo lesum transeuntem' (I fear that Jesus will pass by me unnoticed). Drawn by our own interests ... and distracted by so many vain things, we risk losing sight of what is essential."

"Advent is an incessant call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate end, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ," Pope Francis says.

"May Mary Most Holy, the woman of the expectation, accompany our steps at the beginning of this new liturgical year, and help us to fulfil the task of Jesus' disciples, indicated by the Apostle Peter. And what is that task? To render an account for the hope that is in us."



# 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 25 CHRISTMAS DAY  
Tues Dec 26 St Stephen, the 1st Martyr  
Wed Dec 27 St John the Apostle  
Thu. Dec 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
Fri. Dec 29 5th day in the Octave of  
the Nativity of the Lord  
Sat. Dec 30 6th day in the Octave of  
the Nativity of the Lord  
Sun Dec 31 The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary & Joseph

## 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)  
8am Mass  
11am Mass  
5pm

### St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla

9.00pm Vigil (8:30pm Carols)

9:30am Mass



**CAROLS**— Carols at St Peter Chanel's will commence at 8:30pm before the 9pm Christmas Vigil and at 11:15pm before the midnight Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR** – please note, the Parish Office will be closed from December 22 to January 7. Normal office hours will resume Monday 8 of January, 2024.

**PLEASE NOTE**—There will be NO 5:30pm evening Mass Tuesday **2 January** at SPC and Confessions on Saturday **6 January** will start at 11:30am at the Cathedral.

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

**The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2023**- Help life saving assistance to refugees fleeing violence; *including evacuation, food, shelter* as well as *student assistance in Europe, the Middle East and Asia*. Communities in India, Africa and the Solomon Islands are also assisted. Donations can be sent to:

**Archbishop's Christmas Appeal**  
Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell  
GPO Box 3089 Canberra ACT 2601

## ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I would like my donation to be:

| \$20 | \$50 | \$100 | \$150 | Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block letters please)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my | Cheque | Money Order

I prefer to use my | Bankcard | Visa | Mastercard

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please send to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal**  
**Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell**  
**GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601**

# 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/](http://cgatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/)

**Thank you for your generosity**

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

**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.

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

**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](http://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.



## 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 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 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:** Geraldine Conlan, Neville Reece, Zander Balmaceda, 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



## 4th Sunday of Advent —Year B — 23/24 December



Cathedral QR code

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rains down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour

**Responsorial:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

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

### First Reading

**2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

### Second Reading

**Romans 16:25-27**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel

**Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

### READERS ROSTER DECEMBER

		Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers	
Mass	23/24 Dec	30/31 Dec	23/24 Dec	30/31 Dec	
5.00pm (SCC)	Mark Hyman Edwina Hyman	Samantha Hazlett Les Buszynski			
6.00pm (SPC)	Felicity de Fombelle	Fiona Wheeler			
8.00am (SCC)	Becky Langworthy Zvon Seslja	Stewart Unwin Phil Pocock			
9.30am (SPC)	Raphael Molu Wanda Kaucz	Irene Maranan Wanda Kaucz			
11.00am (SCC)	Jacqui Ramesh Les Buszynski	Mark Hyman Edwina Hyman	Volunteer		Volunteer
5.00pm (SCC)	Jacqueline Hipwell Kevin Woods	Kevin Woods Solange Pereira			

© 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.

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