



Canberra Inner North Catholic Community

Under the Care of Congregation of the Blessed
Sacrament (SSS)

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PO Box 900, Dickson ACT 2602

Parish Offices Closed until 4 February

Phone and email enquiries available: Tuesday to Friday from Tuesday 7 January

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Year C | 22 December 2024

In the recounting of the visitation of Elizabeth by Mary, both John (who is still within Elizabeth's womb) and Elizabeth herself greet the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is then in the early stages of pregnancy with Jesus. Both respond with exultant joy to her arrival. And Elizabeth declares Mary to be blessed, because she 'believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled'. In identifying this belief as Mary's source of blessing, a great truth is revealed to us. Faith does not consist merely in accepting a set of propositions contained in the creed or the catechism. Rather it is the embracing of a mystery which is beyond us with trust and love, and yearning hopefully for the fulfilment of a promise which surpasses all our desires and imaginings.

From God's Word, Daily Reflections, 2024

Parish Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parishes are committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action. This approach is to follow Jesus' command in Matthew 18:1-3. Enquiries or concerns please contact: Fr Anthony Riosa SSS—anthony.riosa@cg.org.au - Maria Hicks (Manager) - Phone **02 6239 9806** - Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) ipss@cg.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Blackfriars Parish, Watson: Nicole watson.safeguarding@cg.org.au

Canberra Central, Dickson & Braddon: Barbara & Catherine: CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Joseph's O'Connor: Oconnor.safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Thomas More, Campbell: Shannon: Campbell.safeguarding@cg.org.au



BLACKFRIARS PARISH

Cnr Phillip Avenue & Antill
Street,
Watson ACT
2602

Fr Renoir Oliver Jr SSS

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson



CANBERRA CENTRAL incl:

ST BRIGID'S 2 Bancroft St
Dickson ACT 2602
ST PATRICK'S 1 Donaldson St
Braddon ACT 2612

Fr Sebastian Luistro SSS



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

58 Boronia Drive,
O'Connor ACT 2602
Fr Anthony Riosa SSS

Facebook :

www.facebook.com/stjosephsoconnor



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

30 White Crescent
Campbell ACT 2612
Fr Anthony Riosa SSS

Facebook:

facebook.com/st.thomasmore.campbell

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, as Traditional Owners of the land where we gather today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Entrance Antiphon - Is 45: 8

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.

First Reading - Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this:
But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his
power to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm - 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading Hebrews 10: 5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in
holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'
Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law
lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the

sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and
then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.*
He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the
second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the
offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus
Christ.

Gospel Acclamation - Luke 1:38

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

Gospel - Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a
town in the hill country of Judah. She went into
Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon
as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in
her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are
the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother
of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is
she who believed that the promise made her by the
Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communion Antiphon Is 7:14

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

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INNER NORTH

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, we are drawn
once again to the wonder of that silent night in
Bethlehem, where God entered our world in the
simplicity of a manger. The birth of Jesus, the Light of
the World and the Prince of Peace, reminds us of the
profound gift of God's love - the Word made flesh. Our
Saviour, Emmanuel - God with us - reveals the truth that
we are deeply loved and never alone. He came to
dwell among us, to share in our joys and struggles, and
to lead us to the fullness of life.

In this sacred season, let us open our hearts to the
transforming power of God's love. May we share that
love with one another through acts of kindness,
reconciliation, and care for those in need. Together, as
a community of faith, let us become bearers of Christ's
light in our homes, neighbourhoods, and beyond.

As a faith community in the Inner North of Canberra, we
are blessed to journey together, growing in our love for
God and one another. This Christmas, may we
recommit to being signs of Christ's presence,
proclaiming His peace and hope in all we do.

May the Child of Bethlehem fill your hearts and homes
with His boundless love, lasting peace, and unshakable
joy. Thank you for the blessing of your presence in our
community. May God continue to guide and
strengthen us as we journey together in faith...

Wishing you and your loved ones a holy and joyful Christmas!

In Christ, our Eucharistic Saviour,
Fr. Anthony "Thonn" C. Riosa, SSS, CINCC Moderator, Fr Sebastian Luistro, SSS and Fr Renoir Oliver Jr, SSS.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Valencia and Santino Lustru who will be baptized at Blackfriars Holy Rosary in Watson this weekend and also Thomas Rattenbury at Blackfriars Holy Rosary on the weekend of the 28th. May their lives be filled with God's peace and their hearts with God's love, on their Baptismal day and all days to come



RCIA

The RCIA classes will have had its last meeting for 2024 on 17th December. Classes will resume January 21 2025 at 6.30pm in St Brigid's Parish Hall, Dickson.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers

please remember our homeless and those who are less fortunate, and contribute to the hampers
Please leave your donations in the box provided in the church.

CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

Christmas Singing - 24/25 December

Do you like Christmas carols? Are you interested in joining the choir singing on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Please contact Ling at lingwlyau@yahoo.com.hk for details. The more the merrier, this will be at 6.30pm.

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

Christmas is Coming!

A Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm will be held at Holy Rosary Church. If you would like to participate you are very welcome and would love to hear from you. Please contact the office or speak with Fr Renoir after Mass. There will be a practice at 4pm before the 5pm Mass. If you would like to read at this Mass please let us know beforehand. If all children attending the Mass would like to dress up in costume, please feel very welcome to do so.

Christmas Carols - Christmas Eve

Please come along and enjoy the Christmas Carols at 8.30pm on Christmas Eve, before the 9pm Mass.

The Rosary

The Luminous Mysteries will be recited on Sunday 29/12/24 for Blessings to be bestowed on our families in 2025.

There is still time for a parishioner to lead this recitation at 9-30 am using the microphone by the piano. Help is available. Just write your name on the roster sheet in the church porch with contact details if you wish. Father Renoir would be happy for the Rosary to be continued into the New year but we need more parishioners to step forward to lead...

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord:

Margaret Cahill, Steve Sedgwick, Harold (Phil) Harris, Sr Paulinus Croker, Janina Hebda, Henry Gurney, Margaret Collett, James Tran, Una Ford, Peter Tormey, Patrick O'Hagen, Nola Gundry.

IN LOVING MEMORY

John Anthony Anderson, Gabriel Savas, Paula Savas, Ivan Klaric, Maria Cuc, Edward Pook, Helen Zobec, Elizabeth (Lil) Tisdell

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Harry Buckland (age 4), Colleen Lewis, Aderito Kearney, Scott Allberry, Sue King, Robin Lees, Maggie McKeon, Noel Tanzer, Wendy Altamore.

*Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for four weeks.
You are welcome to email the parish office if you would like to renew your prayer request.*

A few Rosary pamphlets are still available after the 10 am mass or Parish Office at a low cost of \$2

ST JOSEPH'S O'CONNOR

Cancellations - Tuesday 24 December

8.15 am Adoration and 9.15am Mass are cancelled.

Flower Ministry - 23 December

We would welcome women and men who could spare an hour or two on Monday 23 December to help collect, unload, strip and condition flowers. This would greatly reduce the load which currently rests on one person. Anyone with even a little expertise in floral decorating using (eco-)foam or vases would also be most welcome to help with the final phase of arranging flowers and decorating the Sanctuary. Please contact Danielle at the office.

St Joseph Christmas- Morning Tea.

Everyone is welcome to come to morning tea following the **9am** Christmas Day Mass. Please bring a plate to share, if you can. St Joseph's Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils wish you a very happy and safe festive season.

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

STM Outdoor Christmas Eve Mass - help needed

The PPC is inviting musicians and singers to help out with the music for our Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass at 6:30pm. Also needed are volunteers to help set up from 4pm on Christmas Eve. We can promise lots of Christmas cheer and good will, and maybe a glass of sparkling or two after Mass as a reward. Contact Joanne joannegale28@gmail.com if you are able to help.

Friday Masses in January

There will be no Friday Masses during January. They will resume Friday 7th February 2025.

ARCHDIOCESE

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS - 31 December

Invites you and your friends to
THE 18th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL
 Where: Mary Help of Christians Parish
 Address: 115 Hodgson Crescent PEARCE, South Woden
 Date: Tuesday 31st December 2024
 Time: 8.00pm
 First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm (Joyful Mysteries)
 Second Cenacle is prayed at 9.00pm (Luminous Mysteries)
 Third Cenacle is prayed at 10.00pm (Sorrowful Mysteries)
 Fourth Cenacle is prayed at 11.00pm (Glorious Mysteries)
 Exposition from 8.00pm until Benediction just before Midnight.
 For more information - visit the website: mmp-oceania.net

Christmas Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, on this sacred day, we gather with hearts full of gratitude for the gift of your Son... Jesus Christ. Thank you for the love that brought Him to us and for the hope that His birth brings to the world. As we celebrate this Christmas, may our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the ultimate gift of salvation. Amen.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLERGY & PARISH

Contribute to the First Collection:

Account Name: Central Presbytery Fund
 BSB: 062-786 - Bank Account: 00029248
 Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g. Campbell Smith 1st collect)

Contribute to your parish:

Canberra Central : A/C Name Canberra Central Parish
 BSB: 062786 A/C: 00013150 Ref: Name & Giving Number

Blackfriars: A/C Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson
 BSB: 062786 A/C: 00013341 Ref: Name & Giving Number or via Qkr! mobile app.
Joseph's: A/C Name: St Joseph's Parish
 BSB: 062 786 A/C: 00012798 Ref: Name & Giving Number or via Qkr! mobile app

St Thomas More: A/C Name: St Thomas More Parish BSB: 062786 A/C: 00014869 Ref: Name & Giving Number or via Qkr! mobile app.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TIMETABLE

	Blackfriars, Watson	St Brigid's, Dickson	St Joseph's, O'Connor	St Patricks, Braddon	St Thomas More, Campbell
Mass					
Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 Dec	5pm Vigil 8.30pm Carols 9pm Vigil Mass	9am 6.30pm Carols 7pm Vigil Mass	5pm Vigil 8.30pm Carols 9pm Vigil Mass	12.30pm	6.30pm Vigil
Christmas Day Wednesday 25 Dec	10am	9.15am Carols 9.30am	9am	8am	-
Thurs 26 & Fri 27 Dec	9am	9am	9am	-	-
Saturday 28 Dec	5pm (vigil)	9am 6pm	9am 6pm (vigil)	-	-
Sunday 29 Dec	10am 5pm	9.30am	8.30am	8am	10am
Tuesday 31 Dec	9am	9am 7pm	9am	-	-
Wednesday 1 Jan	9am	9.30am	8.30am	-	10am
Thurs 2 & Fri 3 Jan	9am	9am	9am	-	-
Saturday 4 Jan	5pm (vigil)	9am 6pm (vigil)	9am 6pm (vigil)	-	-
Reconciliation - weekday times cancelled					
Saturday 28 Dec & Saturday 4 Jan	4.00 - 4.30pm	9.30 - 10.00am 5.30 - 5.50pm	5.15 - 5.45pm	-	-

NORMAL TIMETABLE RESUMES SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025