



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son SVD

Assistant Priest : Fr. Gideon Awudi SVD

Parish Secretary: Veena Miranda

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Acknowledgement of Country : We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders and communities and the spirit that binds us in our dreams and aspirations on Dharawal country. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

3rd Sunday of Advent - YEAR - B

16th & 17th December 2023

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

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

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(61:1-2.10-11)
(I exult for joy in the Lord).

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Lk 1: 46-50)

All: My soul rejoices in my God.

Reader: My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness;

henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

All: My soul rejoices in my God.

Reader: The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

All: My soul rejoices in my God.

Reader: He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

All: My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians
(5:16-24)

(May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ).

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.

The word of the Lord.

Parish News and Happenings

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John (1:6-8, 19-28)

(There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me).

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

READINGS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Year B : 23rd & 24th December
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16; Rom 16: 25-27;
Lk 1:26-38

BAPTISMS are open. For Baptism Preparation please contact **Maria D'souza** through email : maria197114@gmail.com or **Contact the parish office.**

BAPTISMS on 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 11:30am

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 6:00 pm. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 8:00 am & 10:00 am.

Weekday Masses :

Mon- Fridays at 9:00 am

Saturday : 8.30am

Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,
6:30pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

Bible Study :Fortnightly on Sundays at 2.00pm in the Logos Centre.

Sunday School : Fortnightly on Sundays during 10am Mass in the Logos Centre. (during the School Term)

The WORD in other words - Bible Diary 2024

This book contains daily scripture readings and reflections written by the priests, brothers and sisters of the congregations founded by St. Arnold Janssen (the SVD and SSpS) is now available for sale. **The cost is \$25.00 /each.**

For enquiries : please contact Tina Pineda on 0408 785 626 or Lina De Santis on 0418 264 696

Novena Dawn Masses

The traditional Dawn Masses in our Parish will commence on December 16th till the 24th December daily at 5am. Mass will be offered by different guest priests. If you wish to sponsor a mass with your intentions please contact tina Pineda on 0408 785 626.

Shared breakfast will be served on the 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th only. A plate will be much appreciated.

Notice: There will be **No adoration** after the mass on Friday 22nd December.

Second rite of Reconciliation

On Tuesday, December 19, at 6:00pm in the Church. There will be 4 priests to hear the confession on that day. Please try your best to come along and renew your commitments to the Lord this Christmas.
Thank you!

News from our Diocese:

CatholicCare are currently looking for Community Support Workers

Becoming a CatholicCare Community Support Worker will give you a career that you love, whilst providing a valuable connection to people living with a disability or the aged in our Diocese. If you want to find out more about becoming a Community Support Worker go to catholic-care.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/ or call 4227 1122.

CCD Administration and Support Officer – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for this position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential. Applications close on Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>
For enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Parish News and Happenings

New Parish Pastoral Council 2023 - 2025

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the following 7 committed parishioners [5] elected by the parish and two [2] appointed by Fr. Bosco) to serve as Parish Pastoral Council members for the next two years:

1	Edyleen Santos
2	Filomena Luamanuvae
3	Jennifer Kreltshheim
4	Jessica Malama Parsons
5	Mario Kreltshheim
6	Matilda-Tamasese Faasoa
7	Thomas Gunawan

20th January 2024 Saturday : 10am - 2pm
Parish Council Formation session

21st January 2024 10am Mass :Commissioning Mass for new Parish Pastoral Council

Dates for your Diary

December 19: Tuesday - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at 6:00pm

December 16-24 : Dawn Masses at 5:00am daily

December 24 : Sunday - Christmas Family Mass at 7:00pm

December 24: Midnight mass at 11:30pm

December 25: Monday- Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am

December 31: Sunday- End of year Thanksgiving with Adoration at 6:30pm followed by mass

January 1 2024: Monday- New Year's mass at 9:00am

Note : Weekend masses on the 23rd December (6pm) & 24th December (8am & 10am) are as usual.

Reflection:

Witnesses for the Light

John the Baptist had a central role to play in the coming of the Saviour. His role, as today's Gospel puts it, was to be a witness to speak for the light.' The light in question was Jesus.

John proved to be a courageous and effective witness. He was strong personality and a man of

principle. He didn't go in for a life of comfort. He lived not in a palace but in the desert. His lifestyle, as well as his personal integrity, lent credence to his words. He was a living example of what he preached. And when his task was done, he moved aside to make way for Jesus.

Jesus still needs witnesses. Fortunately there still are people who witness faithfully and at no little personal cost.

A priest tells how a few years ago he made a visit to China. While there he met an elderly couple who were both doctors. They had studied together at medical school, fallen in love and married. She was a catholic, he was not. She wanted to convince him that he should join the Church, but he did not wish to be baptized. A short time later she had a child.

During one of China's political movements, the husband, along with several other intellectuals, was arrested and sent to a labour camp. The separation was very difficult for the wife, who had to work long hours at the hospital during the day and care for her son at night. In addition to her loneliness, she was under pressure from the government to divorce her husband and to renounce her religion, so that she could gain political advantages. But she refused. Every night after she returned home, she and her son knelt down to pray and ask strength from God to endure the difficulties.

At the end of the 1970s, she heard that her husband and other intellectuals were to be allowed to come home. When the day came, she and her son went to the railway station, where they were the only family members on the platform to welcome the men. Unable to endure the long separation, all the other women had divorced and remarried. Deeply moved, her husband took instruction and was later baptized.

That woman bore witness to the light just as John the Baptist did. Now it's our turn. For many people in the world today Christ has become a very dim and distant figure. The words of today's Gospel are literally true: 'There stands one among you whom you know not.' Christ still needs witnesses, people who can effectively make him present to other people. We can't be a witness for the light if we are living in darkness. We have to be living in the light. A good life is a strong and effective witness, and in itself is a proclamation of the Gospel.

Without the witness of Christians the face of Christ, already blurred, will continue to fade from our world. He will continue to stand among us, unknown and unrecognized. And hearts will remain broken, and people will remain imprisoned in darkness, and the good news will not be preached to the poor.

Parish News and Happenings

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Lilibeth Carlos /

Thanksgiving :

Special Intentions : Konrad & Margaret / Arthur John

This week masses have been offered for the Sick and Special needs of :



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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Dr Lydia de Jesus | * Eva Silang |
| * Dr Joycelyn de Jesus | * Carole Dimayuga |
| * Leslie Reich | * Selda Dimayuga |
| * Noli Leyesa | * Nancie |
| * Jaypee Masangkay | * Jun & Charo Doctors |
| * Aida Dayao | * Fr. David Catterall |
| * Victor Padura | * TJ del Rio |
| * Nelia Ambat | * Alan Raisbeck |
| * Vivian Martin | * Catherine Nguyen |
| * Anthony Lee Mariano | * Nathan Biag |
| * Jane Peralta | * Monique |
| * Steve Ducas & family | * Brigitte & Lysiane |
| * Alphonsus Lieu Bui | * Danny Titmarsh |
| * Christine Dennis | |

THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF benefactors of:



- ✠ Marie-Claude Aliphon
- ✠ Ysabel Carluen
- ✠ Alfred and Noel Yongching
- ✠ Brian Carroll
- ✠ Jean Dupavillon
- ✠ George Hogan
- ✠ Regis Yongching
- ✠ Ivan Soldo
- ✠ Paul
- ✠ Caridad Samonte Salalima
- ✠ Ethel Vance
- ✠ Mate Bicanic
- ✠ Porferia Escuadro
- ✠ Venancio Ibarra
- ✠ All souls in Purgatory



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SVD Prayer : *"May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen"* **Saint Arnold Janssen**

An Advent Prayer

*God of light and hope,
look upon us in love,
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus
that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.
Protect us during this week
and keep us watchful in prayer
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who is the light of the world,
and who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*



The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow)
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell; on the third day he rose
again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic
Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of
sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.*