



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Year B, 23-24 December, 2023

Message from
Archbishop Peter Comensoli

Dear friends, we hear these words from the ancient prophet Isaiah (52:7):
*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace, who brings good news,
who announces salvation ...*

These are beautiful words—old words, first spoken in old days, yet so sorely needed in our day!

Amid this time of conflict, suffering and exile, Isaiah speaks to us words of peace and the good news about the Prince of Peace.

Our hearts ache for reconciliation of peoples; respect for our shared humanity; care for our crying planet. Our world and its people seem to be groaning and railing against pathways to true peace.

Yet we experience the hope of God through simple words of joy, mercy and peace.

The shepherds experienced this. So did the Magi. Mary and Joseph knew it intimately. God knew we needed his Son to come amongst us, to show us the way ahead.

As we come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this year, might we be attentive to the broken people across the world who are held captive by the tragedy of war and old hatreds.

Might we also remember those exiled in other ways—bereft of knowing God; lost and searching for identity and purpose.

We too can be the messengers whose footfalls bring light into the world, announcing mercy, bringing joy, offering Good News.

God has come among us, simply, humbly and hopefully in a little child, his Son, our Brother. May the peace that comes through this child, the Prince of Peace, be with you this Christmas.

And with every footstep, may you take His message, and life, out into the world.
Happy Christmas to you all!

Masses

Monday
special Christmas Mass time

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm
(for Christmas Eve, pls see special leaflet)

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/Wg3ZP83Y-Jg?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Advent and Christmas at St Paul Apostle Catholic

Dec 23rd, Saturday
6pm (Mass of 4th Sunday of ADVENT)

Dec 24th, Sunday
9am & 11am (Mass of 4th Sunday of ADVENT)

Christmas Eve Masses are:

6pm Children's Mass

9pm Family Mass

11.30pm Carols followed by MIDNIGHT Mass

Dec 25th, Monday
Christmas Day Masses are 9am & 11am
(NO evening Mass on this day)

Dec 26th, Tuesday
Boxing Day—Mass at 9am

January 1st, Monday
New Year's Day Mass at 9am

**** Normal Mass time between Boxing day and New Year's Day ****



Priests:
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community
Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

**St Paul Apostle North
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

**St Paul Apostle South
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

**St John's
Regional College**
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for Next Week

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday

First Reading ***Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14***

A reading from the book of Sirach

The Lord honors a father above his children,
and he confirms a mother's right over her children.
Whoever honors their father atone for sins,
and gains preservations from them; when they pray,
they will be heard

Whoever respects their mother is like one
who lay up treasure.

The person who honors their father
will have joy in their own children,
and when they pray they will be heard.
Whoever respects their father will have long life,
and whoever honors their mother obeys the Lord;

My child, help your father in his old age,
and do not grieve him as long as he lives;
Even if his mind fails, be patient with him;
because you have all your faculties
do not despise him. For kindness to a father
will not be forgotten,
and will be credited to you against your sins;
a house raised in justice for you

Psalm 128: 1-2, 3-5

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Second Reading ***Colossians 3: 12-21***

Brothers and Sisters,
As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,

meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

Gospel ***Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23***

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there.

And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled,

"He will be called a Nazorean."

Reflection on the readings

Q. What evidence is in the text to portray Jesus as the redeemer for both Jews and pagans?

Q. What is the significance of Anna's role in this episode?

Q. What are the pressures on a modern family that may not have been so obvious in the past?

Q. Which elements of the Holy Family's story should be emphasised for a modern audience?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

This year we were very blessed with good weather on the day of our parish Christmas carols. Over the last few years, due to various reasons, we have had no choice but to hold them indoors. This year we had the luxury of conducting our parish carols in an 'outdoor' setting.

We thank all parish choirs who have taken part in leading the caroling. We also thank Fr Chris Monaghan and his journeymen who made the trip from Holy Cross to assist in making the night memorable and a lot of fun. We also extend our thanks to Meno and his family who have generously donated of their time and loaned their sound system equipment to ensure our carols were much more 'professional'.

Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has helped in so many ways, be it cooking the sausages, setting up chairs, etc.

Most importantly, our gratitude extends to all who joined us during the evening, as without your attendance, the night could not have proceeded



HAMPERS

All recipients / families whom have received their hamper from our parish, through St Vincent de Paul, Andrew Centre, Wellspring for Women and JPC deaf society have expressed their deepest gratitude and thanks for the generosity of our parish families who have put so much effort into making the hampers for them. The hampers mean so much to them during this festive time.

Thank you to all who gave so generously and those who helped organizing the hampers on Sunday night and on Monday morning carrying them to the cars which were making the deliveries.



Readings:

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Year B

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

Romans 16: 25-27 ;

Luke 1:26-38

Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14;

Colossians 3: 12-21 ;

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Selena Leroux, Annette Evans, Meti Pereira-VanEijk, Danny Sugunasekera, Imelda Lynch, Agnes Fernandez, Shirley C. Esteban, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Michael D' Silva, Lina Jom, Giorgia Vella, Lucia Lay, Bernardo Cabrera, Anne Ghatt, June Enright, Leang Diep, Roger Gray, Anthona Henderson, Nimal Pandithakoralage, Cecil Harper, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Stefania, Donald MacLeod, Anne-Marie Grizelle, Brian Dwyer, Serge De Mezieres, Aurora Mesa -Manzanilla Vda de Jover, Marcia Harter, Natividad Inductivo Chua, Sonia Singh, Matthew Brady, Francisco Bernardes, Russell Sugunasekera, Asanjana, Eda Noyan, Claude Noyan, Renea Jolicoeur, Jacque Jolicoeur, Ally Eggie, Joyce Eggie, Ian Robbie, Philomena Wenceslaus, Pasqualina Raccosta, Iven Sydnay Fernando, George Drotra **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

Christmas Masses Roster

Reader/ Commentator

Mass Name		Ministry	Name
Christmas EVE	6pm	Commentator	William Roncon
		Nativity Play (no reader or commentator)	
	9pm	Commentator	Mars Sota
		Reader	Mary Pegram
	Midnight	Commentator	Lakni Wickramaratne
		Reader	Rinku Arora
Christmas DAY	9am	Commentator	Rosa Mitchell
		Reader	Grace Sudjono
	11am	Commentator	Diane Allegany
		Reader	Diane Allegany

Communion Ministers

Mass Name		Name
Christmas EVE	6pm	1. Stephen H
		2. Mima A
		3. Sharon N
		4. Jenni C
		5. Marg K
	9pm	1. Charlene N
		2. Vonny
	Midnight	1. Aloma P
		2. Vianney
		3. Anne K
		4. Carmeline
Christmas DAY	9am	1. Rosa M (if no one)
		2. Rohan
		3. Naomi
	11am	2 Volunteers