

21 December 2025 St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

4th Sunday of Advent, Year A

Violet is the colour of repentance



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR..



Contact Us

Parish Priest
Fr David Cartwright
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29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042
Parish Office
Charles Meneze, Secretary
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm

Pray With Us

Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass
Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4.30pm
First Friday 9am, or any time on request
Please call Fr David on 9337 9994

Rosary

Recited at 9am before weekday Mass

Benediction

First Friday after 9.30am Mass

Baptisms

1st Sunday of the month 11.45am, please contact the office. Or by arrangement.

House Blessings/ Anointing of the Sick
Please contact the presbytery

Support Us

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish: physically, spiritually and financially. If you are not a regular contributor, we invite your support- please contact the Parish Office.

Tap and Go machines are available at the weekend Mass in the narthex.
Direct Credits can also be made:

Presbytery Account (1st collection, for clergy and presbytery support)
- BSB:083 -347 Acc No.: 6616 52479

Parish Account (2nd collection, for parish expenses) BSB:083 - 347 AccNo.: 6568 74974

The parish relies solely on your support. We receive no funding from external sources or the Archdiocese. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue the work of the Gospel.

"God loves a cheerful giver!"

Parish News

Social Media

Don't forget to 'Like' and Follow us on Facebook:

St John Bosco's Catholic Church Niddrie and **St John Bosco Young Adults**
New to the Faith? Want to Know More?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, seeking baptism & reception in the Church? Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr David.

Participating in the Mass

The daily Mass readings and responses can be accessed with this QR Code. The Sunday readings and Mass responses are on the other side of the bulletin.



Advent Timetable

Tuesdays of Advent (23 Dec)

- 6.30pm - 6.50pm: Adoration & Confessions
- 7pm: Mass each Tuesday of Advent

Saturdays of Advent (20 Dec)

- 10am - 10.30am: Confessions

Sundays of Advent (21 Dec)

- 10am - 10.20am: Confessions (before 10.30am Mass)

Christmas Eve (24 December) confessions at 10am

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve- Wednesday 24 December
- 9.30am Mass of 24 December, followed by confessions at 10am
- 5.00pm- Christmas Family Mass
- 9.00pm- Christmas Solemn Vigil Mass

Christmas Day- Thursday 25 December

- 9.30am- Christmas Day Mass

Boxing Day Friday 26 December

- no Mass

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th December 2025:

- 5pm Saturday 27 December Mass
- 10.30am Sunday 28 December Mass

New Year's Day- Thursday 1 January 2026:

- 10.00am- New Year's Day Mass

Friday 2 January 2026:

- Normal Mass schedule resumes

60th Anniversary of the Opening of our parish church.

Next year, 2026, marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of St John Bosco's current church. It will be an occasion for us to celebrate and give thanks to God. If anyone has any suggestions about how we should celebrate this as a parish, please see Fr David.

Stewardship

The first collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, for retired and sick priests, parishes in need and the Archbishop.

The second collection is for parish expenses like wages, utilities, insurance etc.

Last week:

1st collection: \$767

2nd collection: \$1,618

You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code:



We recall in Prayer

Those who are sick

We pray for all the sick in our parish community

Recently Deceased

All the recently deceased in our community

Anniversaries and Remembrances

Joan Landry; Anna Danese

Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday: for the Jewish community

Thursday: for peace in our nation

Friday: for the souls in purgatory

Saturday: for the sick

Sunday: *Pro populo* (for the people of the parish)

Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Robert Southwell: "Jesus, possess my mind with your presence and ravish it with your love, that my delight may be to be embraced in the arms of your protection."

Our Liturgical Life

What is a Catholic Mass?

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Those who are able to receive 'Holy Communion' then process up to receive, either in one kind (just the host, the Body) or in two kinds (from the cup as well). Those unable to receive Holy Communion, either because they are not Catholics, or because as Catholics they have disobeyed a serious law of the Church and have not been reconciled to the Church, are invited to come forward and receive a blessing, which can be called a spiritual communion.

From www.queenofangels.org

Our Spiritual Life

Expressions of Prayer

Vocal Prayer

Catholics often pray in groups. When two or more people gather together to raise their minds and hearts to God in prayer, their prayer is called communal prayer. Examples of communal prayer are the Rosary, devotional prayers including novenas and litanies, classroom prayers, and, most importantly, the Mass. Standing together at Mass reciting the Creed ("I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth . . .") is a powerful experience that both expresses and shapes our faith.

From www.loyolapress.com

Profession of Faith

During the Advent and Christmas seasons we will use the Apostle's Creed at Mass in place of the Nicene Creed

The parish office will be closed on Thursday 25 December 2025 & will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church and can be placed in either collection at Mass. These provide necessary help for the support of the priests of the parish, as well as the sick and retired priests in Melbourne. Thank you for your generosity.

Ministry at our weekend Masses

We are blessed to have a good number of volunteers who assist at our Masses with reading, collecting etc.

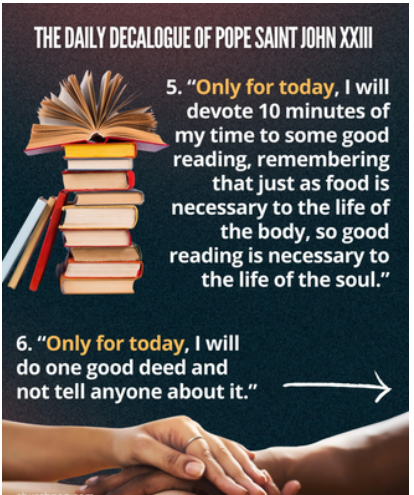
We would like to expand our ministries in the area of music and altar serving. Currently we have a fledgling music ministry at both Masses, which we are very keen to expand. If you would like to join with singing or playing an instrument, please see one of our musicians after Mass or speak to Fr David. Your don't need to be an expert, just willing to learn.

If you would like to assist with Altar Serving on Sundays, please see Fr David.

St John Bosco Young Adults Group will meet for pizza lunch this Sunday at 12 in Niddrie. Please join us !

Thought for the Week

Whenever I try I fail; whenever I trust **He** succeeds!



Dear friends, as a nation and a world, and especially as people of faith, we are in shock and sadness at the tragedy that took place last week in Bondi. The senseless targeting and killing of people based upon faith is not acceptable. Let us pray for those who are suffering at this time, and let us again commit ourselves to peace and harmony.

A Statement from the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP

We all share in profound grief and righteous anger following last night's terrorist attack on Bondi Beach. The brazen and callous disregard for human life, and the hatred of some people toward all Jews, is an unspeakable evil that must be repudiated by every Australian.

Any attack on individual Jews is an attack on the whole Jewish community; and any attack on the Jewish community is an affront to our way of life as Australians. It must be condemned unequivocally and justice for the victims delivered swiftly.

Jesus was a Jew, born of a Jewish mother, born a subject of the Jewish Law. Mary and Joseph were Jews. So too our father Abraham and all the prophets, as well as all 12 of the apostles. Christians are children of the Jews. And so, an attack on the Jews is an attack on all of us.

On behalf of Sydney's Catholic community, I extend the deepest condolences to our Jewish brothers and sisters. Please be assured of our prayers and closeness during this time for all the victims of this attack, their families, and the entire community. We love our Jewish neighbours and friends, and we must do all we can to keep them safe. Hanukkah and Christmas occur around the same time as festivals of faith and family, of gifts and especially of light. We pray that the God of light will grant wisdom to our leaders and pour healing and hope upon our community at this time.



Pope Leo XIV on Monday condemned a deadly attack on the Jewish community in Sydney and entrusted the victims to God in prayer. "Today I wish to entrust to the Lord the victims of the terrorist attack carried out yesterday in Sydney against the Jewish community," The Holy Father expressed his spiritual closeness to those affected by the violence, which occurred as more than 1,000 people had gathered to mark the start of Hanukkah, also known as the Feast of Lights — one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish calendar.



Plenary Indulgence for New Years Eve. Jubilee Year of Hope

The Church offers a Plenary Indulgence on New Years Eve for those who fulfil the usual conditions (Confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father's intentions) to those who recite the Te Deum (Solemn Prayer of Thanksgiving) publicly in church. We will do this after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 31 December.

The Parish of St John Bosco and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and the vulnerable in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is our responsibility.

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 Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY
PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

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, / 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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
P. May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE II OF ADVENT
After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
P. The mystery of faith.
All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE
P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...
R. Amen.
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD
All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Isa 7:14
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son’s Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD
GOD WITH US
With Christmas only days away, today’s Gospel announces Jesus’ birth. Unlike the perhaps more familiar story from Luke’s Gospel, with the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, Matthew’s focus is on Joseph, a heroic character for the Gospel’s Jewish audience, reminiscent of the Old Testament patriarch, Joseph. Matthew’s story is different from Luke’s. In Matthew’s Jewish world marriage occurred in two stages. The first was engagement; the second, cohabitation. Mary and Joseph are married according to Jewish law, though not living together. We must remember, too, that the Gospel in general and this story in particular is a *theological* narrative. Matthew is not concerned with gynaecology, but *theology*. It is about God and the Holy Spirit. Mary’s pregnancy is the fruit of God’s action. As this becomes known to Joseph, he wants to step out of the scene and divorce her quietly without bringing her shame—an option open to him from Jewish law.

Through an angel in a dream—reminiscent again of the Old Testament patriarch, ‘the dreamer’— Joseph comes to a profound theological truth. Mary’s conception is the work of God’s Spirit. This is God’s act. Joseph is then instructed to name the child, an important Israelite convention that incorporates the one to be born into Joseph’s kinship group. Matthew concludes the scene with a second naming, now provided by the prophet Isaiah. The child will be ‘Emmanuel’, ‘God with us’, a theme that will continue throughout Matthew even to the Gospel’s concluding scene on Easter day. We celebrate and affirm God ‘being-with-us’ this Christmas. We want this God to ‘be with us’ for the year ahead.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR
A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

21 DECEMBER 2025

A MAN OF HONOUR. Today’s Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God’s plan of salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God’s word to him. He is an example for us all.

INTRODUCTORY RITES
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 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.
GREETING
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT
P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.
The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT
P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
FIRST READING Isa 7:10–14
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The virgin will conceive.
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 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 Emmanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10
R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.
1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 1:1–7
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.
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.
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 1:23
Alleluia, alleluia!
The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 1:18–24
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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