

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54; Response: Isaiah 61:10)

ANTIPHON: My soul rejoices in my God.

RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

LECTOR: 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. **R.**

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

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

GOSEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

NEXT WEEK (4th Sunday Advent, Year B) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 88; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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Loving the
unborn child

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. The Lord is near." These words introduce the Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday (gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin). On this Sunday, we rejoice in knowing that at Christmas God comes near to us in Jesus.

St John the Baptist announces the meaning of this arrival. Last of the great prophets, he prepares the way for Jesus with his baptism of water, a sign that God will soon reconcile the world. He calls in the voice of one crying out in the wilderness and makes his prayer and fasting in testimony to the light on the horizon. In Jesus, we find the great joy of our heart's deepest desire, and in St John we discover genuine humility and faithfulness.

The Church has long honoured the importance of St John the Baptist. In fact, we commemorate his death as well as his birth with feast days. But we miss St John's significance for us if we focus only on his relationship with Jesus and not ours with him as well. He models for us the beauty of seeing and witnessing to the light. His humility does not depend on his status or relationship with others; it stems from his steady awareness of God.

Sometimes we need reminders of God's transformative reality in our lives and the encouragement to prepare ourselves well for recognising God's presence. Such reminders

often happen naturally when we prepare for the birth of a child. A pregnancy can bring great joy as well as deep longing and expectation. The parents fall in love with the child well before the day of arrival.

Their lives change because of their love. They make space for someone new in their home; they start to plan differently for the future; they celebrate the advent of a new horizon in the wider circles of their families and friends. The birth brings profound meaning to the lives of many people well before it happens.

When I told my mother-in-law that I could hardly believe how much I loved the child in my wife's pregnant body, she told me that I could now understand how much my parents loved me. Most of us are loved by someone in this unbelievably powerful way. Advent allows us to see one another in this way of being loved. The passers-by on the street, the neighbours next door, the colleagues at work – they are all children of God and powerfully loved. And when we see them in this way, we recognise a deep reality of who they truly are.

St John the Baptist calls us to rejoice for what God does for us in Jesus. He calls us to prepare ourselves for recognising God's presence and for living in a world of people who are unfathomably loved.

Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer
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13 December 2020 3rd Sunday Advent Year B





Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

Sunday Masses	Saturday 8.00 pm Vigil	3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT
Weekday Masses	Sunday 7.30 am & 9.00am	13/12/2020: B
	Monday 9.00 am	St. John of the Cross
	Tuesday 9.00am	Week 3 of Advent
	Wednesday 7.30pm then Rosary.	9 th Day before Christmas
	Thursday 9.00 am	8 th Day before Christmas
	Friday 9.00 am	7 th Day before Christmas
	Saturday 9.00 am	6 th Day before Christmas. Expos'n?
Confessions	Saturday 10.30 am,	12.00-1.00pm , 5.00pm-5.30pm
Parish Priest	Father C. Ashton	(Confessions after Mass: see Fr.)
Presbytery/Church	9 Ropes Creek Rd, Old Mt. Druitt	Ph: 9625-8847
Baptisms	By arrangement - Godparents must be Catholics.	
Weddings	Six Months Notice - Marriage Preparation Course	

Exposition of the BI Sacrament for Vocations 1/2hr. after 9.00am Mass Sat^{dy} if enough

1st Reading: Isaiah speaks as a messenger of God, saying He is to enter their world, free them from captivity & bring them home. Isaiah presents a vision of a great future !

2nd Reading: Paul wants them to be always joyful because they know God has lifted them up to Himself thru Christ, and will take them to Himself if they remain faithful !

	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
December 20	L. VILLAPANA	V. NAGARAJA	A. WONG
4 th Sunday of Advent	W. FARQUHARSON	N. McKENZIE	M. ZORE
CHRISTMAS	E. GEMZON	A. WIGGINS	H. CRUZ
DAY (25th Dec)	H. VILLARICA	J. MENDES	M. WONG

PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady will be at the home of the Plan family 10 Charmer Cres 96752236 this week. You are welcome for the Rosary for the Parish each night at 7.30pm

The BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL envelopes are on the seats. If you can help, put in the envelope what you wish and drop it in one of the boxes at the Church doors. We can extract them and send them on. **Also the "Caritas" envelopes** are there as well, if you want to help, drop those in one of the boxes and we will send them off for you !

GIVE LORD ETERNAL REST to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Nico SANDAGA who died last week, Igmidio GEMZON, George & Whitemena LAVIS, Colin FITZGERALD, Maryrose GUILLAUMIER, Sjeapan GALIC, Thora CSOKE, Anton & Cathrine LEGRAND, Edward & Izzydor WOJASINSKI, Basil & Annie REBELLO, Malcomb FARQUHARSON, Anna LACEK, Ignac & Matej KOZUMPLIK, Fr. Josef VALERIAN, Nikola MIKOSIC, Mate DZAJA, Cyril EAKIN, Jelka KOSTA, Henry FARES, Lucy DIAS, Leo KELLY, Bartholomew & Felicidad MENDES, Piedad & Florine MONTEIRO, Mavis GOPALAN, Marian & Sevrin LEWIS, Jose LLAVE, Maria CARRIZALES, Felisa Oser, Scott COLEMAN, Manuel DAMOTA, John MONAHAN, Marian HRYCAK, Naomi SOLOMON, Augustin & Joanna PEREIRO, Gerry & Francis MONTEIRO, Rosa BELASANO, Agnes PUGH, Alahan SMITH, Sabah & Sana SHABO. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory

Saint LUCY, Virgin and Martyr

St. Lucy is another of those saints of the early centuries of the Church about whom we know not much more than she did exist. But we also know she was held in very high regard in those first few centuries. You don't get a mention in the First Eucharistic Prayer as she does if you aren't. She was born in Syracuse on the Island of Sicily, sometime close to the end of the 200sAD.. The story of her martyrdom is unclear, but the legend goes that she was denounced as a Christian by a suitor to whom she had been promised in marriage by her family during the time of the last of the great persecutions begun by the Emperor Docletian, about 304AD. It is possible this is partly true since she may have rejected the suitor because he was a pagan and out of revenge he may have reported her as a Christian. She was killed by a sword thrust to the throat. However that may be, she is now invoked in the Roman Canon (as the 1st Eucharistic Prayer is called) and her bravery and sacrifice will be forever remembered as long as that is part of our Liturgy which we expect it will be till the Last Day. We are remembering her today because this is her Feast Day, the 13th of December !

ADVENT IS COMING TO A CLOSE

We are approaching the end of Advent which reminds how close we are to the reason for this period. Advent is meant to focus our attention on the coming of Christ symbolically on Christmas Day. Most of the world will be partying about something they mostly call "Christmas", but for the true followers of Christ, whom they believe to be God who became a human being to save us from an eternal death, it is a day to thank God for everything we have and to remember He is the only thing that matters. We busy ourselves about so many material things in life, and that is necessary to some extent because we are material beings too, but Christmas reminds us these are all temporary things which are only to sustain us in this life, and the reason for Christmas is what counts, namely, that God has set in motion a process that was to get us past this life to the next one that is eternal. As Our Lord said in the Gospel: Stay awake because you don't know when the Master of the house will come !

That is what really matters ultimately !

The Masses on Christmas Day are:

CHRISTMAS EVE: 8.00pm
CHRISTMAS DAY: 7.30am & 9.00am

NOVENA DAWN MASSES from 16 December will be celebrated at **St. Aidans, Rooty Hill** at 4.30am. The Masses will be celebrated till Christmas Eve. Maybe you have to book. Ring the Church office if you want too check: 96258404

NEXT SUNDAY we are going to have an **auktion after the 9.00am Mass**. Some one has given us a sack of sweet things for Christmas, they are: Three 750 mls bottles of wines. They are: Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz, and a Rose; Also: A box of Walkers Chocolates, Salted Pretzels, Sesame BBQ Peanuts, Premium Fruit & Nut Mix, Milk Chocolate Raspberry Bites, a Small Christmas Pudding, English Breakfast tea, Shortbread Cookies, Soya Crisps, and Lollies.

CHRISTMAS MASS & CONFESSION TIMES across the Diocese can be found on the Diocese website: www.parracatholic.org