

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 84)

ANTIPHON: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

RESPONSE: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

LECTOR: I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

LECTOR: Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

NEXT WEEK (3rd Sunday Advent, Year B) Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

Majellan Christmas Closure

Thank you to all our loyal customers for your support this year. Majellan Publications will be closed from Tuesday December 22 and won't reopen until Monday January 11, 2021. Please stay safe during the Christmas/New Year period and we look forward to your continued support in 2021.

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*A world weary
of suffering*

"Here is your God!" These words of the first reading, attributed to a prophet called the second (or Deutero-)Isaiah, are words of hope for a disheartened people. The Israelites, although freed from slavery under the Egyptians, now find themselves exiles in what is called the "Babylonian captivity." The Babylonians had destroyed the temple in Jerusalem and exiled most of the Hebrews who were beginning to despair of ever returning to their homeland. The prophet is a scribe for Israel's God communicating words of comfort and hope.

A popular idea at the time was to attribute hardship and misfortune as punishment for sin. While the prophet does not directly challenge a connection between sin and suffering, he presents the people with a far more profound message of the assurance of God's victory over evil as well as the offer of divine mercy and forgiveness. Such a God is not only "coming with power" but also "like a shepherd feeding his flock, holding the lambs in his arms."

What is also clear in these verses is that God does not act alone nor impose the divine will without respect for human freedom. Rather, messengers will be sent, signs will be given, so that all people are invited to see that Israel's God is not simply the God of the Hebrews, but the God of all the earth and every people. The most powerful of God's messengers is John the Baptist, calling people to repent their sins

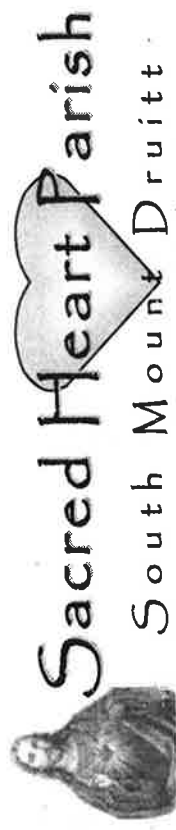
6 December 2020 2nd Sunday Advent Year B

and open their hearts to see in Jesus Christ the Messiah. We may almost call 2020 our own "Year of Captivity" in wake of the physical, mental, economic and spiritual challenges through such confronting experiences as bushfires and the coronavirus. There is always the temptation to despair forgetting that, despite human ineptitude, stupidity and sinfulness, creation is still God's world and we are still God's people. Our task is not to "give in" but to "act out" a new way of living focusing on the infinite mercy of God, the dignity of every human person, and the sacredness of the earth.

If bushfires and the pandemic have anything to teach us, it is surely that our human plans are often confronted by new and unexpected life challenges. Pope Francis' powerful encyclical *Laudato Si'* [On Care for Our Common Home] reiterates this understanding that "everything is interconnected." We need to take seriously human responsibility for global warming and environmental destruction—and to change our ways. And we also need to place our faith and trust in God.

Advent is a time of both prophecy and promise. The prophet—whether Deutero-Isaiah or John the Baptist—calls us to change our ways. The promise—"Here is your God"—calms our fears and answers our deepest hopes for a world wearied of suffering.

Gerard Hall SM
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Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

Sunday Masses	Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil	2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT
Weekday Masses	Sunday 7:30 am & 9.00am	6/12/2020: B
	Monday 9:00 am	St. Ambrose, Bp. Milan +397AD
	Tuesday 9:00 am & 7:30pm	Immacul. Concept.BVM
	Wednesday 7:30pm	then Rosary. Week 2 of Advent
	Thursday 9:00 am	Week 2 of Advent
	Friday 9:00 am	Week 2 of Advent
	Saturday 9:00 am	Week 2 of Advent
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.	

1st Reading: From the 2nd Book of Isaiah: God speaks first: the Jews will soon be freed from Babylon. Isaiah says: God will give them a royal Highway across the desert home.

2nd Reading: The only Reading from II Peter: He is trying to explain why the Lord is delaying in returning. He is speaking of the "End Times". Could be 1000yrs yet. Be ready

Readers	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
December 13	H. VILLARICA	A. WIGGINS	M. WONG
3 rd Sunday of Advent	W. FARQUHARSON	J. MENDES	F. ANTOWN
December 20	L. VILLAPANA	V. NAGARAJA	A. WONG
4 th Sunday of Advent	M. FARQUHARSON	N. MCKENZIE	M. ZORE

PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady will be at the home of the Farquharson family 13B Norfolk St:98644801 this week. You are welcome for Rosary for the Parish nightly at 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: for this year will be: Vigil Mass (Thursday): 8.00pm; (Friday): 7.30am, & 9.00am (There is No Midnight Mass for Christmas)

JOHNPAUL II Foundation Mass will be celebrated here next Saturday (the 2nd) at 9.00am. It will be offered for the defeat of the modern "Culture of Death" which means: euthanasia, abortion, contraception, and the destruction of real marriage!

GIVE LORD ETERNAL REST to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Margarita & Justin BANGAY, Michael WONG, Diek GALE, Gerry MONTEIRO, Lucy DIAS, Gertrudes DELACRUZ, Irene VILLARICA, Sheila HARRINGTON, Nikola MIKOSIC, Dungal DELOSANGELES, Tadeusz WOJASINSKI, Jack STASZAK, Mate DZAJA, Jeffrey McRAE, Malcomb FARQUHARSON, Estephania CHUA, Mary & Anatolio PLAN, Poonam MENEZES, Colin FITZGERALD, Xavier & Rita PEREIRO, Crescentina & Francis MONTEIRO, Mary DESOUSA, Dorothy CLARKE, Keith COLEMAN, Franklin MONAHAN, Vincent D'AMADEO, Milagros HROMADA, Ruben SOLARES, Frank NAPLES, Dawod & Jamil SHABO, Ivan NOVAK, Fr. Frantisek VYMETAL, Karel RAJECKY, Michael MENDONCA, Raylenne LAWRENCE, Ivan MEOMURAC, Nikola KOVACEVIC, Joso & Perka PETASI. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory!

"The HUSTLE" for the younger members among us, that is from 18years to mid-30s, is on TONIGHT. They are invited to another evening of companionship and listening at the "Young Adult Formation" program to help them to seek to achieve a standard of virtue in their lives that corresponds to their calling as dedicated Christians. It is to be held **THIS SUNDAY NIGHT, 6TH December** at the large upstairs hall in **Unit 4, 4 Purdy St. Minchinbury.**

The presenter will be **Brother Andrew Rooney** who is Seminarian from our Seminary at Parramatta. (See if you can see him in the poster on the Church doors, or on the envelopes on the seats) He will speak on the subject of the "Three Theological Virtues" of Faith, Hope, and Charity (i.e. Love)

His talk will concern how these virtues fit into our society today; what are they supposed to mean in the lives of people today. All young people **from 18years to mid 30s** are encouraged to come and have some Faith & Virtue formation and afterwards some companionship when they can speak to Brother Rooney informally over tea & coffee & pizza.

Brother Rooney is due to be ordained to the Diaconate next week, and the Priesthood sometime next year. So, say a prayer for him sometimes! The time for the "Hustle" is in the evening when the day's activities are over. That will be from **7.00pm till 8.30pm!**

If you need any more information about it, ring Mark on 0477/004-678. There are Posters on the Church doors! (The \$5- donation is for the pizza)!

A MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS will be held at **St. Marys Cathedral, Sydney, next Saturday, 12 Dec.**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn. It will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers. He will also be bestowing a special Blessing on them. The time of the Mass is arranged for **12.00 midday.** All mothers are welcome to take part in it. But because of Covid, you must register at: www.stmaryscathedral.org.au. You will find the link on the bottom- left column. For enquiries contact chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org

A FAMILY IS STILL SEEKING a place to rent in this area. They want to send their children to Wollemi School at Penrith. There are the parents and seven children in the family with the oldest, 12 yrs. They are coming from Albury on the Murray river. They are very good Catholics and say they will squeeze in anywhere and pay the rent regularly. I have no reason to doubt them. If you know of something, let Fr. Ashton know!

The FUNERAL of the young man who took his own life a few weeks back, is to be held in the Church here next Friday, we expect! The plan is for an 11.00am Mass on that day. He will be taken then to the Chapel at **CASTLEBROOK MEMORIAL PARK** at Rouse Hill cemetery. There another ceremony will take place for all his friends which will continue for about 1 1/2 hours. Because of Covid 19, it would not be possible to fit them all into the Church. After that ceremony the burial will take place in the cemetery.