

Parish Notices.

1. Note Christmas Mass times. Confessions available on Saturdays from 9.45am and from 4.30pm during Advent period and every day after the morning Masses.

2. **2023 Diocese of Parramatta Christmas Mass Times.** Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

3. **Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!**

The Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition features reflections on Mary's journey into the dark night, how our communities celebrate Christmas, our four new leaders in the Diocese, a handy Christmas Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from the back of the Church or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine



SUNDAY 24th December

4th Sunday of Advent

Usual Masses at 7.30am & 9am

CHRISTMAS EVE:

8PM Family MASS

10PM Samoan Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY:

7.30am & 9.00 AM MASS

PRAYERS FOR THOSE in our COMMUNITY

SICK: Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fe Llave, Boyet Llave; Ernie Merjudio, Fara Vargas; Maria Llave; Sheila Glennon, Alice Cassar, Maureen Farquharson; William Steven Latu.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Paciencia P Danza, Felise Laugutu Faleono; Douglas Kerr; Anthony Leong; Victor Sultana; Fr Lolesio Teo; Fr Faauli Lagaia; Fr Niusila; Eugenia Wrzosek; Ralston Pietersz; Ian Henry Marks; Tevaga Vaasili Sarek; Haizel Sprway.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Eduardo David; Wilhemina & George Lavis. Jess Garcia jr; Epifania & Edilberto Salazar; Lorenza Umbao; John Marjorie William; Aurther and Edith Holmes; Peggy Wheatley; Thomas & Patricia Wiggins; Margaret Smith; Sr Mary Stephen, Marija Blazevic; Jack & Joseph Staszak; Vicenta & Domingo Perales; E. Perafiel; Irene Alfonso; Efipania Flojo; Luis Perales; Teodoria Alfonso; Narciso & Juana Reyes; Elisa & Manuel San Jose; Jesus, Teresa, Edgardo & Antonio Miguel; Pat Oliver Freemay; Linda Camba; Jerry Meyer.

Death anniversaries remain on the bulletin for max 4 weeks.



SACRED HEART PARISH

SOUTH MT DRUITT

9 Ropes Creek Road Mt Druitt NSW 2770 tel: 98323896

3rd Sunday of ADVENT (B)

17th December 2023



From Deacon Rod's desk

“Gaudete Sunday” is the name we used to give this Third Sunday of Advent. The name derives from the Latin version of the first sentence of the reading from St. Paul, where he begins to wind up his first letter to the Christians at Thessalonica, a passage that instructs us on the essence of Christian joy. It is worthwhile to unpack his words slowly. Rejoice always. That's not some vapid exhortation like "cheer up!" Joy is really something accessible to the Christian who takes the measures Paul is just about to name, beginning with “pray without ceasing.” While the Russian tradition of the steadily repeated Jesus Prayer is a literal expression of that mandate, most of us hear that imperative as a call to be ready to turn familiarly to God in any situation: to find God in all things.”

In all circumstances give thanks. The Greek verb here (eucharisteite) is used in the Bible only to refer to giving thanks to God—which makes this imperative just another way of urging us to pray always, discerning the giver behind all life's gifts, even finding something to be grateful for in difficult circumstances, for, as Paul continues, this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

The messages on our television screens imply that joy comes with the numbing of pain and the getting of goods. Our ordinary human experience tells us, rather, that joy comes when we are connected in good ways with others and when we have something to look forward to. Revelation goes a step further and tells us that fullness of joy resides in coming to know the face of God in Jesus, rejoicing in the discovery that we are not simply emergent life forms but beloved creatures of the Maker of the cosmos, and that we have nothing less than fullness of life with God to look forward to—if we are faithful to the one who is always faithful to us.

Deacon Rod

Sunday Masses	Saturday	6.00 pm	3rd Sunday of ADVENT (B)
	Sunday	7.30 am & 9.00am	
Weekday Masses	Monday	9.10 am	Monday 3rd week of Advent. (<i>Com. Serv</i>)
	Tuesday	9.10 am	Tues 3rd Week of Advent
	<u>Wednesday</u>	7.00pm	Wed 3rd ^d Week of Advent
	<u>Thursday</u>	9.10am	St Peter Canisius
	<u>Friday</u>	9.10am	Fri 3 rd Week of Advent
	Saturday	9.10am	Sat 3 rd Week of Advent
Confessions	<u>Saturday:</u>	4.30pm - 5.30pm (during Advent)	

Pastoral Director: **Deacon Roderick Pirotta**
Resident Priest: **Fr Marcus Hazelman:**
email: marcus.hazelman@parracatholic.org

Parish Chairperson: **Teresa Samuels**
Church Office: 22 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt. Druitt Ph: 98323896
Email: mounddruittsouth@parracatholic.org
Website: <https://southmounddruitt.org.au>
Baptisms & Weddings: By arrangement only
Sacred Heart Primary School: [Sacred Heart Primary School | Mt Druitt South \(sacredheartmtdruitt.catholic.edu.au\)](http://SacredHeartPrimarySchool|MtDruittSouth(sacredheartmtdruitt.catholic.edu.au) Tel: 9625 8733

Readers	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
16 th /17 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Herminia Villarica Wendy Farquharson	Thomas Merjudio Philip Tonks	Mary Zore Fadi Antown
23 rd /24 th December 4 th Sunday of Advent	Edna Gemzon Luisito Villapana	Sr Agnese Grace Bondoc	Jovita Bugayong Bethany Buhagiar
CHRISTMAS EVE	8.00pm Grace Bondoc Gloria Cardoza	CHRISTMAS DAY Joaquim Mendes Thomas Merjudio	CHRISTMAS DAY Mark Buhagiar Aloysius Wong
30 th /31 st December Holy Family	Wendy Farquharson Jeric Salazar	Vinod Nagaraja Philip Tonks	Matthias Wong Leo Macatangay

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

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel 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.

Advertisements: 1. Chrysalis Law Group. Wills, Power of Attorney, Enduring Guardianship. Wills Hotline: 0493780719; francis@chrysalislegal.com.au
2. Mathematics Tuition available for Year 7 - Year 12. Contact: 0469078225

Music for Lent Workshop: 12 February 2024

Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on Monday 12 February 2024 from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. To RSVP, please contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org by 5 February 2024.

Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

CHURCH CLEANING:
**23th December: Legion of Mary
(Juniors)**

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 10 February 2024

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from October 13-15, 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources

Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.