



ADVENT

*3rd Sunday of Advent
Year B
17th December 2017
Psalter Week 3*

OF YOUR CHARITY

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Owen "Pat" Kavanagh, Laurel Smee, Jack George, James Humphry.
- **Anniversaries:**
Ann Culmer, Patricia Hogan, Wesley Christoffelsz, Ken Job, Frank Ryan.
- **Remembrances:**
Paul Holmes, Shirley Smith, Linda Evans, Palmer and Finucane families, Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Darcy Green, Mary Drinan, Margaret Davin, Helen Taylor, Patricia Dwyer, Laura Krauss, Mick Nino, Nellie Brown, Ken Thorson, Janet Dean, Donna Vella, Bobby Sutherland, Dianne Briemer, Grace Wellins, Courtney Wellins, Tom Thorton, Audrey Kirkman, Malina Tugaga, Maria Wise, Elizabeth Skinner, Beryl Reynolds, Ian Wilks, Terry Wilkinson, Rene Glaze, Victor Gauci, Brian Finlayson, Pamela Power, Marta Panczyna, Helen Tilkins, Teresita and Jorge Villansanti.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent *Laudete* Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way *Gaudete* Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel John the Baptist is the model of humility, opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scot-

tish farmer replied, waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did.

In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Just like Farmer Fleming or Lord Randolph Churchill, he could not have known the implications of what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

No wonder we have him as our focus on *Gaudete* Sunday. And so may we all rejoice today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.

Richard Leonard SJ

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Psalms Response

response

My soul re-joic-es in the Lord and mag-ni-fies his name.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Around the Parish



Welcome! A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our Parish this Christmas. We wish you a happy and holy holiday. Please visit us again.



Receiving Holy Communion in our Parish: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood: the Body of Christ is received on the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the cup. We kindly ask you to refrain from dipping the host if this is your parish's custom.



Second Rite of Reconciliation *this* Tuesday, 19th December



Timor Sea treaty at last: Timor-Leste and Australia have finally agreed on a draft treaty to establish a new maritime boundary in the Timor Sea and set up talks leading to an early decision on the utilisation of the Greater Sunrise seabed gas resource.



The agreement, reached after negotiations at the Conciliation Commission in The Hague in October, follows years of often acrimonious dispute over the boundaries – originally agreed between Australia and Indonesia – and access to the gas fields.



The draft treaty delimits the maritime boundary between



Catholics Returning Home 2018: We may have in our congregation today a Catholic who feels separated from the Church, who may like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today; or, who may like you feel at home once more in the Catholic Church. No matter how long one has been away, or for whatever reason, everyone is most welcome to be here. If you are interested, we invite you to renew your relationship with the Church through Catholics Returning Home Programme which will commence at St.

at earlier time of 7pm.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Tobias Peace who was baptized last Sunday.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available in the church for those without weekly envelopes.

Christmas Cards - \$5 a packet and 2018 Calendars - \$9 each available in the Piety stall.

Carols, Carols, Carols! Come and enjoy Christmas Carols commencing half and before 8pm & 10pm Masses on Christmas Eve.

Ecumenical Event: Please join Fr. Timothy Saturday, 23rd

December, 7pm, at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 147-149 Blackwall Rd., Woy Woy for Service of Lessons and Carols.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 22/12/17: Kevin Glacken, Christine French, Laurie Jarvis, Cheryl Sillick.

Children's Liturgy Roster 24/12/17: Geraldine Baxter, Christene French, Emma Baker

Wanted: A seamstress to make 2 or 3 Kaftans for Size 40. Materials supplied. Contact Ann on 4342 8627.

The Just Word

the two countries in the Timor Sea and addresses the legal status of the Greater Sunrise gas field, the establishment of a Special Regime for Greater Sunrise, a pathway to the development of the resource, and the sharing of the resulting revenue. Timor-Leste and Australia will now pursue their domestic approval processes before signing the treaty and the specifics of the boundaries will be released after further talks between the parties.

Representatives of the Greater Sunrise Joint Venture joined the negotiations and the agreement provides for

the Hague Commission to remain involved to facilitate talks between the two countries and the joint venture to ensure there is an informed decision on the development of the Greater Sunrise field.

The Commission hopes the treaty can be signed by the end of this year or early 2018 if talks proceed as planned.

For further information visit - www.pca-cpa.org/en/cases/132/

or the website of the Timor Sea Justice Forum NSW, timfo.org. Australian Catholic Justice Council.

From the Diocese and beyond

Patrick's Church, East Gosford on February 112, 2018. To view the flyer with programme details please log on to St.

Patrick's website: www.gosford.dbb.org.au or call the office on 4325 1042.

CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay is looking for everyday families who might consider taking a child or young person into their home - to love and support them whether for one or two nights, a few weeks, months, or long term. This just might be you ... If you have space in your home and room in your heart,

please reach out now. You can attend our information evening, speak to one of our team or check out our website for more information. Please help us help these children.

INFORMATION EVENING
Thursday 23 November 7.00pm
Suite 1, 32 Central Coast Highway, West Gosford
CatholicCare Foster Care
P: (02) 4320 7700
E: catholiccarefoster-care@dbb.org.au
W: catholiccaredbb.org.au

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17

Is 61:1-2, 10-11
Lk 1:46-50, 53-54
1 Thess 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Once again we encounter John the Baptist in today's Gospel. He "came to testify to the light" (v 7), who is the one promised by God long ago through the prophets. John's presence and preaching stir up the hopes of the people. They suspect he might be "the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet" (v 25), individuals expected to be sent by God to the people. But John tells them, and us, that the one coming "after me" (v 27) is more than that. The one who is to come is the Son of God, our redeemer.

Today's text from Third Isaiah is considered a foreshadowing of the mission of Jesus. "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me" (v 1). He has been anointed and sent. He comes to bring "glad tidings" (v 1), the gospel, to those in darkness. The time of his visitation marks a new era in world history, a time when those who are in need of God's healing grace will receive it and when justice will "spring up" (v 11) on the earth.

Paul calls the Thessalonians to persevere in their faith. "Pray without ceasing" (v 17), he advises. In his prayer for them he prays that God will "make you perfectly holy / and may you ... / be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v 23). God is faithful, Paul tells us, and "he will also accomplish it" (v 24). Writing with an expectation of an imminent return of the Lord Jesus, Paul exhorts them to live lives of holiness as they wait. Two thousand years later, we still anticipate his return and so are called to live with that same hope, cooperating with the grace of God in our lives.

For reflection: How does my baptismal anointing unite me with Christ's mission to bring good news to the world? God desires to make us holy and blameless; do I regularly seek God's grace to grow in holiness, or am I content to stay as I am?

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

Israel's hope for a Messiah can be traced back to God's promise in the Book of Samuel, when the prophet Nathan tells David: "The Lord ... will establish a house for you" (v 11). The line of David "shall stand firm forever" (v 16). Without a king during the intertestamental period, Israel's hopes turned to the future, when God's promise would be renewed in a son of David, one descended from Israel's great king. This is why the Gospel tradition stresses Joseph's place in the line of the house of David: Jesus, as son of David, fulfills the promise.

Paul tells the Romans that in Jesus, "the mystery kept secret for long ages" (v 25) has been revealed. God's promise of a Messiah, originally found in "the prophetic writings" (v 26), is fulfilled in Jesus, so faith in Jesus leads to salvation. Concluding his letter with a doxology, a prayer of praise to God, Paul tells us that because God has fulfilled the promises in Jesus, we should give glory to God.

In these last days of Advent we turn our focus to preparing to commemorate the birth of Jesus. Today's Gospel is the story of the annunciation. God's angel Gabriel is sent to Mary, who we are told is "betrothed to a man named Joseph, / of the house of David" (v 27). The link to the promise made to David is reinforced by the angel's statement that Mary's child will be given "the throne of David his father" (v 32). But this is no ordinary child; conceived by the Holy Spirit, he "will be called holy, the Son of God" (v 35).

For reflection: How does Jesus's connection to David link him more closely to salvation history? What can I do to make my immediate preparation for Christmas take on a more spiritual dimension?



All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?



Catholic Parish of Wy Woy

Peninsula

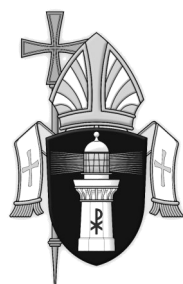
Woy Woy,

Woy Woy South, Umina, Umina Beach, Ettalong, Ettalong Beach, Koolewong, Blackwall, Booker Bay,

St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point, Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,

Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy



Parish Office

P.O. Box 264

54 Victoria Road

WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073

Fax: (02) 4341 0214

Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

Out of hours **medical emergency**
0438 631 327.

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.

Office Hours:

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice:

3.30 p.m. Wednesday.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7.30am, 9.15am, 6pm.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday 7.45am (Monday & Tuesday with Lauds);

Saturday and Public Holidays 9am; First Friday 4pm (with Anointing of the Sick).

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday after morning Mass; First Friday 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).

Godparents are examples of faith to the child. They must be confirmed and practising Catholics, at least sixteen years old. If there is at least one godparent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents and godparents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am). Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday night, 7.30pm-8.30 pm.

PARISH CHOIR - Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7pm. Enquiries:

4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. . For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

CATECHISTS conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

CATHOLIC CARE Counselling and Family Relationships 4356 2600.

MARY MAC'S PLACE Volunteers provide nutritious, freshly cooked meals and information and referrals to appropriate community services. Open Monday to Friday, 11am-1pm, at the Ethel Cox Parish Centre. For more information, please contact Christine on 4341 0584.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference.

Please ring Peter 0425 358 376 or Joan 0422 272 339.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre,

Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

Weekend and Christmas Mass times 2017

| | 2017 | | OBLIGATION |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Saturday | 23 December | Vigil 5:00 p.m. | Sunday |
| Sunday | 24 December | 7:30 a.m. | Sunday |
| Sunday | 24 December | 9:15 a.m. | Sunday |
| Sunday | 24 December | 6:00 p.m. | Christmas |
| Sunday | 24 December | 8:00 p.m. | Christmas |
| Sunday | 24 December | 10:00 p.m. | Christmas |
| Monday | 25 December | 7:30 a.m. | Christmas |
| Monday | 25 December | 9:15 a.m. | Christmas |

For Sale

Parish Car

2012 Mazda 3 Maxx Sport
Sedan

BL Series 2 Auto MY13

4 Cyl, 2 litre engine.

79 500 km's. Black.

Rego until 1.9.18.

Great condition. \$14,000.

Please call the Parish Office,
4341 1073 if interested.