



# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year C Cycle I

15 December 2024



## Rejoicing Sunday

One of the four candles on an Advent wreath is usually rose-coloured. This is the candle lit today, the Third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday also named Gaudete or 'rejoicing' Sunday, a name taken from the opening word of the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass.

Before the birth of Christ people often seemed to be at a loss about how to live in harmony with God. While they received the law through Moses as a gift, they soon tragically reduced this life-giving direction to little rules that served to bind rather than free. Those who are captive struggle to sing songs of rejoicing. Such directionless people flock to John asking: What must we do then? At this point John presents the first clear social teaching of the Christian era, firstly to the people, then tax collectors, then the soldiers. Afterwards John declares before them all that Christ whom they had awaited was imminent and the era they had long awaited had arrived.

The risk we face is to see the arrival of the Messiah only as an historical event. The reality is that Jesus Christ, who overcame death, is present in our world today, and wherever there is love, there is God. There is no greater cause for rejoicing than awareness of this fact.

*God's Word* Fr John O'Connor

## Christmas Mass & Confession Times

### Wednesday 18 December

2nd Rite of Reconciliation 6pm

### Saturday 21 December

Confessions 9:30-10am and 4-4:30pm

### Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December

Carols 4:30pm, Children's Nativity Mass 5pm

Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm

Carols 11:30pm, Midnight Mass 12am

### Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December

Morning Masses 8am and 9:30am

Mass at Reynolds Court, Bias Avenue Bateau Bay 11am

Maronite Mass 5pm

### New Years Day Wednesday 1 January

Feast of Mary Mother of God Mass 9am





## Congratulations

to Remi Sarkodie  
on being Received  
into the Church  
this weekend.  
Welcome Remi!



**Welcome**  
to the Clarke  
Family for the  
Reception of their  
child for the  
Sacrament  
of Baptism.



## Nursing Home Mass

Mass and  
Anointing will be  
celebrated at  
Nareen Gardens  
Bateau Bay  
on Tuesday  
at 10:30am.

My Offering  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Christmas  
Offering  
Envelopes**  
are available  
on the tables.  
Donations support  
the Priests of our  
Diocese - active  
and retired.

## The Challenge

**I**n our passage, the River Jordan has become something of a spiritual cleansing ground, with John the Baptist baptising the arriving crowds.

God's people at this time did not live in peaceful contentment: Judea was under Roman rule and the local puppet "king" Herod, lorded it over a populace who longed to be delivered from oppression and restored as God's nation. Hope for the arrival of the long-prophesied, liberating Messiah was wearing thin when John's unconventional ministry sprang up from nowhere. No wonder so many sought him out in the desert. Perhaps this was the moment of a divine breakthrough – perhaps, at last, the breath of God's renewing presence was near. So the people flocked to hear John.

But rather than comforting the crowd, John challenged them. If they wanted the Messiah to change things, they would need to change their own ways to be ready to meet him. Lives needed to align with longings. God whose goodness pours forth in love and mercy is also the God whose holiness judges wrongdoing and impurity – even in his own people. The Jews could not rest on spiritual credentials inherited from Abraham – they needed to make their own authentic response of faith and obedience.

John's call was urgent: as the Messiah's forerunner, he proclaimed the imminent coming of Christ himself. But he did not leave God's people in a state of vague alarm – they could prepare by repenting and submitting to baptism. But baptism, John warned, was not just a ritual gesture. A cleansing plunge into water brings no more healing to the spirit than a surgical dressing to a physical wound. The fruits were to become obvious in subsequent action.

John did not debate the theological niceties about virtuous behaviour with the crowd. Time was too short. Rather, he gave them practical examples – the tax collector was not to extort money; the soldier was not to make false accusations for personal gain. Honesty and generosity rather than exploitation and greed were to characterise behaviour. These actions did not constitute the grand overthrowing of a system, nor even great acts of heroism. They were simply putting right what theologian Tom Wright has called "the small-scale injustices which turn a society sour".

By willingly setting their lives in order, God's people were preparing to receive a deeper spiritual awakening – Christ's baptism of the Holy Spirit and refining fire - that were just around the corner.

John the Baptist's message can be both uplifting and unsettling. We might long for Christ to come close, enfold us in his love and put the world to rights, but how do we respond when it is we who are being challenged to change? God does not ask the impossible of us, and it may even seem that what is required is very ordinary – to gossip less and encourage more; to share more and hoard less; to keep promises; to listen to someone in need. These are not vague, good intentions – they are specific, practical and immediate. In doing ordinary things we begin to develop holier habits that start to mould our character into a more Christ-like shape. This makes us more open and able to receive his Holy Spirit.

John's message carries an urgency for us too. We do not know when we will meet Christ, but we do know that the day is coming, and that he calls us to be ready.

*Sunday Living Word* Majellan Family Media

## Advent Reflection Days

You are welcome to join Deacon Rosan for Advent Reflection Days on Wednesdays during Advent after 9am Mass, in the Reynolds Room. We will be using the reflection journal from the diocese "A Journey of Hope".

**Final date:** 18 December **Time:** 9.30am **Place:** Reynolds Room

## Christmas Family Mass & Rehearsal

Christmas is on our doorstep so it's a good time to remind families that our Christmas Family Mass will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and we invite children to participate in this Mass. Roles include the re-enactment of the Gospel (no speaking parts), readers, offertory procession, Gospel procession and of course, we welcome children to dress up for the Mass as angels, shepherds, kings etc. To be eligible for a part in the Nativity story or part of the Mass children will need to attend rehearsals at 10am on Monday 23 December at the church. All children are included as extras on the night.

## Memorial Garden Statues

Our new statues of St Patrick and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop are now in residence in the Memorial Garden. This completes the garden and we now have a patron for each of the walls. Thank you to those who contributed so generously to the purchase of these statues.



## Please Note

### New Ministry Rosters for Christmas and New Year

Now available in the Sacristy. Thank you to all for your good work.

### Prayers for the Holy Souls

The Holy Souls Crusade Group has decided to continue their prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, until the end of the year. All are welcome to join in on Thursdays at 2pm in the Church. Enquiries 0438 320 927.

### Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

2nd Rite will be celebrated this Advent on Wednesday 18 December at 6pm. Several Priests will be available to hear Confessions. Please take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas.



### Welcome Visitors!

A warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish over the Christmas Season. It is lovely to have you with us.



### Children's Mass Dress Up

All children are invited to come dressed as angels and shepherds to the 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve.



### 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday  
18 December  
6pm.

Visiting priests will be assisting with Confessions.



### Christmas Mass Remembrances

Envelopes need to be in to the office by Wednesday 18 December to be printed in the bulletin list.



# THE ENTRANCE PARISH DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

*A beacon of Faith, Hope and Love*

**PARISH PRIEST & DEAN OF THE CENTRAL COAST** Fr Brian Moloney **ASSISTANT PRIEST** Fr Joshi Naduppura  
**DEACONS** Rev Rosan Mathew & Rev Paul Simmons **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE** Colleen Smith  
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**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL** Tel 7256 2115 **ST PETER'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE** Tel 4351 2344

## Mass & Devotions

**Sunday Masses** Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am (11am at Reynolds Court) Maronite Mass 5pm.  
**Weekday Masses** Monday - Thursday 9:00am Friday 11:45am Saturday 9:00am  
**Reconciliations** Saturdays 9:30-10am and 4-4:30pm  
**Liturgy of the Hours** Saturday 8:40am **Rosary** Monday-Thursday 8:35am Friday 11:20am Saturday 9:30am  
**Cenacle Prayer Group** Wednesday 9:30am **Christian Meditation** Friday 10:30am-11:30am Reynolds Room

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zph 3:14-18

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

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

**Responsorial Psalm:** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**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.

## Keep Us In Your Prayers *There is no gift more precious than prayer - Fr Benedict Groeschel*

**Recently Deceased:** Deborah Czyrkowski, Teresa Oliva, Cesare Marangoni, Milton Russell, Rhonda Brennan, Fr Michael O'Toole, Jacqueline McCann, Carmen Bouchet.

**Funerals:** The funeral of Teresa Oliva will be held next Friday at 9am. Please pray for Teresa and her family.

**Anniversaries:** Patricia Byrne, Maria & Richard Lucchese.

**Remembrances:** Pat Smith, Marie Powell, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Terence & Josephine Smith, Terry Howard, John Giutronich, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, Simon Butcher, Frank Malone, Molly & Bob Amor, Barry Mulwain, Marie O'Brien.

**Families:** Moore & Langley.

**Sick:** Neville Allen, Rosalyn Evans, Charmaine Goodwin, Margaret Ayres, Glenda Way, Jacob McCarroll, Beau Davis, Max Leete, Frano Stitic, Anne Clancy, John McClement, Anne & Trish Knoke, Paul Smith, Emma Horton, Linda Read, Kelly Will and all with serious illness.

**Welcome Newly Baptised:** Levi Yeo, Max Cameron, Keelan & Kenzie Poole.

## Pearly Gates Revisited



## Gift Centre Christmas Sale!!

Great Nativities and gifts clearance sale on now!

Come along for a look!

The Gift Centre is open weekends before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass on Saturdays, and before and after the 9:30am Mass on Sundays, and during the week upon request. We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Enquiries 4332 2216**

