

**The church is kept open for private prayer at the following times**

Days	Morning	Evening
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri	7.30 am to 10.00 am	5 pm to 7 pm
Tuesday		5pm to 8 pm
Saturday	7.30 am to 9 am	3.15 to 6.15 pm
Sunday	8.30 am to 10.30 am	4.15 to 6.15 pm

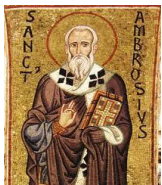
**2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPERATION FOR CHRISTMAS  
MONDAY 21 DECEMBER, 6-7.30PM**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE**

TIME	24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020
5.00 pm	VIGIL MASS
11.30 pm	CHRISTMAS CAROLS
12 MIDNIGHT	SOLEMN CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS
	<b>25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020</b>
8.00 am	Christmas Day Mass
9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
11.00 am	Christmas Day Mass
	<b>NO EVENING MASS</b>

**Parishioners Please Note:**

Registration to all our Christmas Masses of 24/25 December will be required. The registration sheets will be available in the church foyer this weekend, 28/29 November. We need you to record your name, contact number, name of family members or guests attending with you.



**THE FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE WILL BE ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. HE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH. Our 9am morning Mass will be offered in honour of St. Ambrose. THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL EVENING PRAYER (VESPAS) AND BENEDICTION COMMENCING AT 7 PM.**



Fr Chaminda Wanigasena,  
Parish Administrator  
2 Burke St, Concord West NSW 2138  
[admin@stambrose.org.au](mailto:admin@stambrose.org.au)  
[sacraments@stambrose.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stambrose.org.au)  
[parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au)  
[www.stambrose.org.au](http://www.stambrose.org.au)  
Phone: 02 9743 1023  
VASA: 9736 3686, 8765 1295  
St Ambrose Primary School  
Stuart St, Concord West  
Principal: Ms Linda McFadden  
Ph: 9743 5605  
[info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au)

**Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm**  
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)  
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.00am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 8.30am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,

Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.30am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

**First Sunday of Advent (Yr B), 29 November 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Is 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7

Responsorial Ps 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Cor 1:3–9

Gospel Mk 13:33–37

**Advent Watchfulness**

“What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

Are you attentive to Christ? Though this is a profoundly important question, there are many who may not even fully understand what this means. Yes, on the surface it is clear: Being “attentive” is being aware of the presence of our Lord in your life and in the world around you. So are

you attentive? Are you watchful? Are you looking, seeking, waiting, anticipating and preparing for Christ to come? Though Jesus came to Earth over 2,000 years ago in the form of a little child, He continues to come to us today. And if you are not daily aware of His profound presence, then you may already be somewhat asleep, spiritually speaking.

We “fall asleep” on a spiritual level every time we turn our interior eyes to the passing, unimportant and even sinful things of this world. When that happens, we can no longer see Christ Himself. Sadly, this is becoming increasingly easy to do. Violence, sickness, hatred, division, scandal and the like plague us day in and day out. The news media daily competes to present us with the most shocking and sensational news possible. Social media daily seeks to fill our short attention span with sound bites and images that satisfy for but a moment. As a result, the eyes of our soul, our interior vision of faith, is darkened, ignored, forgotten about and dismissed. And as a result, many in our world today no longer appear to be able to cut through the growing chaotic noise so as to perceive the gentle, clear and profound voice of the Saviour of the World.

As we begin our Advent season, our Lord is speaking to you in the deepest depths of your soul. He is gently saying, “Wake up.” “Listen.” “Watch.” He will not shout, He will whisper so that you must give Him your full attention. Do you see Him? Hear Him? Listen to Him? Understand Him? Do you know His voice? Or do the many voices all around you take you away from the deep, profound and transforming truths He wishes to communicate to you?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God is speaking within the depths of your soul each and every day. He is speaking to you now. And what He says is all that really matters in life. Advent is a time, more than any, to renew your commitment to listen, to be attentive and to respond. Do not remain asleep. Wake up and diligently be attentive to the profound voice of our Lord.

***Come, Lord Jesus! Come! May this Advent be a time of deep renewal in my life, dear Lord. May it be a time in which I strive with all my heart to seek out Your gentle and profound voice. Give me the grace, dear Lord, to turn away from the many noises of the world that compete for my attention and to turn only to You and to all You wish to say. Come, Lord Jesus, come into my life more deeply during this Advent season. Jesus, I trust in You.***

Source of content: [mycatholic.life](http://mycatholic.life)

## Advent? What is it all about?



Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard

Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The colour of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This colour symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called "Gaudete" Sunday; Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.

Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.

**The Advent Wreath**, a venerable European tradition, can be a way to



involve even very little children in learning about Christian preparation - not only for celebrating Our Lord's birth, but to make our hearts truly ready to receive Him.

The wreath's symbolism of the advent (coming) of Light into the world is clear. The gradual lighting of the four candles, one on each Sunday of the Advent season, combined with the liturgical colours of the candles (purple is the penitential colour used during Advent and Lent; rose is a liturgical colour used only on Gaudete Sunday in Advent and Laetare Sunday in Lent) help to symbolize not only our expectation and hope in Our Saviour's first coming into the world, but also in his Second Coming as Judge at the end of the world.

The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represents everlasting life. The seedpods, nuts and cones used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of resurrection, and fruits represent the nourishing fruitfulness of the Christian life.

Gathering materials for the wreath-perhaps on an outing in the park or woods, or even in the backyard- and assembling it at home is an

interesting family project in which even the youngest children can participate. **Courtesy: Catholic Online**



**Please remember in your prayers the following for whom Masses will be offered.**



During the month of November we pray for all Holy Souls. Our Holy Souls book is available to list all family and friends you wish to be prayed for during November. Recently deceased, anniversaries, special intentions and our sick will be listed as requested.

**Recently Deceased:** Terry Murphy, Yao Yu Lan (Taiwan)

**Anniversaries:** Joan Doran, Lorraine Bonanno, Vincenzo & Agata Rodi, Harry O'Hara, Anna D'Silva

**Please pray for the sick especially:**

Denise McCaffery, Joe Abbate, Patricia Christosi, Dalton James Bonnici, Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Yuan Sheng Ye, Veronica Rutherford, Paul Dovico, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Viru, Esther Tully, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Peter Weinfroe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan



### **ADVENT PROGRAM**

In preparation for the beautiful celebration of the Nativity at Christmas. Advent is a very special time in our Church's liturgical Season.....

There is a very beautiful book, "**A D O R E**" prepared by the Wollongong Diocese to help us pray and be in the spirit of the four weeks of Advent.....

It is the kind of book that will help you personally.

Sure it would be valuable to use in groups but just for a daily reflection, it is also a valuable little asset.

**AVAILABLE NOW AT THE PIETY STORE for \$6 each.**

**ADVENT- CHRISTMAS CONCERT- REFLECTION with PETER KEARNEY. SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER, 3.30-4.30pm. ST. AMBROSE CHURCH, CONCORD WEST.**

Mainly contemporary songs and carols including some with an Australian flavour. "*Spiritually uplifting. Perfect for leading us into the true meaning of Christmas*". (Janelle Towells).

Peter Kearney is a composer, singer and guitarist who has made music his work since the 1980s. Some of his Peter's hymns are in the 'As One Voice' hymnal. Donations collected at conclusion. Peter's CDs will be available.

**Please register for this concert. Registration sheet will be available in the church this weekend.**



Congratulations to Ivy June Joseph who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Ivy and family in your prayers.

## Parishioners' Faith Column

### Daily Mass and Holy Eucharist shaping my life.

The shaping of my life by means of the Holy Eucharist and daily Mass has been a gradual ongoing process. Up until about 1987 I was basically just a Sunday Catholic. I have always liked going to Sunday Mass though out my life and it was never any effort to do so. My out look towards my faith started to change that year in 1987 when I became aware of our Heavenly Mother Mary was appearing in Medugorje and Her messages made a deep impression on me and made me reflect on where I was in my relationship with God. With a young family from then we prayed the Rosary regularly at home. A few years later I was in a position to attend daily Mass and I felt this strengthened my faith and made me more aware of putting my faith into action in serving others. I'm became an Acolyte assisting at daily and Sunday Masses which always sustained and strengthened my faith. I was also drawn to join the Parish SVDP Society in helping the more needy people in our Parish. I was also drawn to taking Holy Communion to the sick members of our Parish community in their homes and Nursing Homes. I was also inspired to carry out voluntary Pastoral Care Duties to the sick at Concord Hospital which was always very rewarding. Regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Cenacle prayers commenced at St Ambrose Church about 1993. Adoration and Cenacle prayers have been a great source of joy and strength making me more aware of the need of spending time in friendship with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist exposed on the Altar or in the Tabernacle. Adoration and Cenacle prayer have made me more aware of the great importance of our Heavenly Mother Mary our powerful intercessor has on my daily life. A short little daily consecration prayer I like to say daily to our Mother Mary is:

"Heavenly Mother Mary, I consecrate myself to you today, lead me, guide me and tell me what to do. Amen"

For me then the Holy Eucharist and daily Mass is the spiritual food I need to keep me strong in faith, hope and love. Just as I need food and drink to keep my body strong and healthy to get me through the day so do I need my fill of spiritual food to get me through each day. I thank the good Lord and our Heavenly Mother ever Virgin Mary for the strong gift of my faith without which I would surely languish.

Yours in Christ Jesus

**Jerry Ambrose (A senior Acolyte of St. Ambrose parish)**

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY COVERAGE:

**ALL VOLUNTEERS**, who are in any way, connected with the celebration of Mass in our Parish are required to be covered by the above policy by Sunday, 6th December.

The below volunteers are required to complete the Safeguarding recruitment/induction process:

- Youth Ministers, Workers or Leaders
- Pastoral Associates
- Sacramental Coordinators
- Sacramental Group Leaders
- Catechists in State Schools
- Children's Liturgy Coordinators
- Children's Choir Ministry Leaders
- Acolytes and Senior Altar Servers
- Ministers of the Altar
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Ministers of the Word
- Parish Collectors
- Ministers to the Homebound
- Readers
- Other roles as deemed necessary



The above volunteers need to complete and comply with the below Safeguarding Process to ensure full compliance with Archdiocese of Sydney Policy and Protocols as well as legislative requirements. All new volunteers need to follow steps 1 – 5 whereas existing volunteers need to follow steps 2 – 5.

- 1. Interview and Reference check**
- 2. Volunteers to provide Parish with a Working with Children Check**
- 3. Volunteers to sign the Archdiocese of Sydney Code of Conduct for Working with Children**
- 4. Volunteers to complete Safeguarding Induction Training**
- 5. Volunteers to sign the Volunteer acceptance form**

#### Please note:

- Once you have completed the first THREE, kindly notify Sr. Judith so as to obtain the website assigned for **ONLINE TRAINING**.
- *FINALLY*, volunteers were asked to retain all papers from the above FOUR sections and place them in the **LARGE PLASTIC BOX IN THE PRIESTS' SACRISTY**

We are ever so blessed in the generosity of our many volunteers who serve so generously.

**“Whatever you do to the least of Mine,  
I take it as done to Myself.” (Jesus’ own words)**



### **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

The Christmas season is almost upon us. Once again we are seeking your generosity for donations to assist those in need in our community.

If you wish to buy a gift for a child or adult, Giving Tree tags will be available in a basket, at Mass this weekend. Our Giving Tree will be on display next weekend, gift tags will also be on the tree.

Cash/credit card donations for our Christmas Appeal will commence shortly. Envelopes will be available for your convenience. Your assistance to families in need is so greatly appreciated. Without your generosity of spirit and ongoing donations, we would not be in a position to assist families in our community.

Concord West Conference assists singles and families who are struggling to provide for their basic needs.

Families, single men and women who have fallen upon difficult times, through sickness, grief, addiction, mental health issues and domestic violence. The poverty cycle creates barriers, and in itself generates other hardship such as social isolation, exclusion, anxiety and depression.

Our members give generously of their time to assist the disadvantaged, vulnerable and lonely, in the hope that we can help them restore their dignity and place in society.

On behalf of those we assist, we thank you for your care and support of our work.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*



## **CHRISTMAS APPEAL - GIVING TREE**

Participate in the Giving Tree Appeal and help spread Christmas cheer and excitement, though the gift of surprise! Even the smallest of gifts are most welcome.

### **How it works**

- Each tag lists a person and age (e.g. Girl 4).
- Take a tag from the tree and buy a new gift for the child or adult on their tag.
- Pop the unwrapped gifts under the Giving Tree.
- Your gifts are then distributed by St Vincent de Paul to families in need, just in time for Christmas.

### **Giving Tree – Guidelines**

- Each tag lists a person and age group e.g. ‘Girl aged 4’ or ‘Adult Female’ - a gift should be bought for the person on the tag.
- The value of each gift we would suggest as a guide is \$20 (or whatever you can afford).
- We would ask that all toys/gifts are new – no second hand toys please.
- You can also give a gift voucher for movies/music/book/sport shops etc.

### **Gift Ideas**

**Gift ideas for children:** Small games, fashion accessories (hair/make items, arts and crafts).

**Gift ideas for adults:** toiletry items: soaps, creams etc., slippers, socks, hats, sunscreen, sport items, books, gift vouchers.

**For health and safety reasons all gifts must be unwrapped. We cannot accept the following:**

- Soft Toys
- Small pieces that can be swallowed for the 0-3 age group
- War figures or guns.

## **ST AMBROSE ROSARY PILGRIM PRAYER WALK**

Parishioners and Friends

you are invited to join the parents, grandparents and friends  
at St Ambrose Catholic Primary School fortnightly,  
Thursday afternoon @ 2pm

to participate in our ROSARY PILGRIM PRAYER WALK.

We begin our rosary outside the school gate on STUART STREET  
and then walk around the streets surrounding the school and parish  
church for approximately 40 minutes.

As we walk we are invited to individually dedicate each decade to  
someone or something.

The gathering is a beautiful way to not only gather in prayer to honour  
Our Lady, but also to recognise the significance and beauty of this prayer  
form in our Catholic prayer life.

The dates are 22 Oct, 5, 19, 26 Nov & 10 Dec.

**ALL PARISHIONERS & TODDLERS ARE WELCOME!**

### **A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

