

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

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE**

TIME	THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 2020
5.00 pm	VIGIL MASS
11.30 pm	CHRISTMAS CAROLS
12 MIDNIGHT	SOLEMN CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS
	<b>FRIDAY 25 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 from the weekend of 28/29 November. We need you to record your name, contact number, name of family members or guests attending with you.



**OUR CHRISTMAS CRIB**

The parish Crib was initially created by Mr & Mrs Gibson. This year it was arranged by Mr & Mrs John and Morena Pasqua. God bless both families for their kind assistance.

**Children's Christmas Vigil Mass:** Unfortunately, we are not able to go ahead with our usual nativity play at our Christmas Eve Children's Mass. However, we are hoping that there will be some children who will volunteer to be our readers and other helpers at this Mass. Please contact Megan Harris on [sacraments@stambrose.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stambrose.org.au) or phone the Parish House on Monday or Friday if your child is happy to help out.



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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.

**Second Sunday of Advent (Yr B), 6 December 2020**

First Reading : Is 40:1–5, 9–11  
Ps 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14  
2 Pt 3:8–14  
Mk 1:1–8

**And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.” [Mark 1:7](#)**

John the Baptist was considered by Jesus as one of the greatest human beings ever to walk the face of the Earth (see [Matthew 11:11](#)). Yet in the passage above, John states clearly that he is not even worthy to “stoop

and loosen the thongs” of Jesus’ sandals. This is humility to the greatest extent!

What made St. John the Baptist so great? Was it his powerful preaching? His dynamic and attractive personality? His way with words? His good looks? His numerous followers? Certainly it was none of the above. That which made John truly great was the humility with which He pointed everyone to Jesus.

One of the greatest human struggles in life is pride. We tend to want to draw attention to ourselves. Most people struggle with a tendency to tell others how good they are and why they are right. We want attention, recognition and praise. We often struggle with this tendency because self-elevation has a way of making us feel important. And such a “feeling” feels good, to an extent. But what our fallen human nature often fails to recognize is that humility is one of the greatest attributes we can have and is, by far, the greatest source of greatness in life.

Humility is found clearly in these words and actions of John the Baptist in the passage above. He knew who Jesus was. He pointed to Jesus and turned the eyes of his followers from himself to his Lord. And it is this act of pointing others to Christ that has the double effect of elevating him to a greatness that self-centred pride can never achieve.

What could be greater than the act of pointing others to the Savior of the World? What could be greater than helping others to discover their purpose in life by coming to know Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior? What could be greater than exhorting others to a life of selfless surrender to the one and only God of mercy? What could be greater than elevating the Truth over the selfish lies of our fallen human nature?

Reflect, today, upon your calling in life to imitate the humility of John the Baptist. If you want your life to have true value and meaning, then use your life to elevate the Savior of the World to the greatest extent possible in the eyes of those around you. Point others to Jesus, make Jesus the central focus of your life and humble yourself before Him. In this act of humility, your true greatness will be discovered and you will find the central purpose of life.

*My glorious Lord, You and You alone are the Savior of the World. You and You alone are God. Give me the wisdom of humility that I may dedicate my life to pointing others to You so that many will come to know You as their true Lord and God. I am not worthy of You, my Lord. Yet in Your mercy, You use me anyway. I thank You and dedicate my life to the proclamation of Your holy name. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**Source of content: mycatholic.life**

## Kids Prayer for Advent



My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me. Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins so that I can change the things that You want me to change.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do. You said “Yes” to all that God asked of you. Please pray for me that I may do the same.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus, come!  
I love You, Jesus.

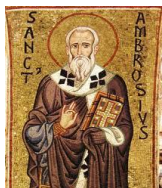
Amen.

**Source of content: mycatholic.life**

**GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES:** In our constituency of Reid thousands of temporary Visa holders, including people seeking asylum, are in a desperate situation, ineligible for Jobseeker, reliant on charitable organisations. If you support advocacy on their behalf to Member for Reid, Fiona Martin, please add your name to the page of signatories or send me a text on **0431 960 050 – Message: ADVOCACY (then your name)** With thanks! Sr. Maureen.



## UPCOMING FEAST DAYS



**THE FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE, Monday 7 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.**



**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Will be celebrated in our Parish on TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER at 7.30pm**

The solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

**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.**



## SACRAMENTAL NEWS



Congratulations to Alby, Frankie, Maja, Oliver, Anly who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

In the past 4 months we have had 220 children complete their First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation over 13 services. I would like to say a big thankyou to Fr Brian for his willingness to have enough services to allow the Sacraments to continue, the parents and carers for attending the (revised) group sessions and assisting their child with their Sacramental work, the family and friends of all the candidates for understanding that not everyone could attend the Services this year and the parent helpers for all their help and advice on the day of the Sacraments. Many thanks again, Megan Harris



## VOCATIONS

In the coming weeks we will be highlighting religious Vocations. We will praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**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.**

## CAN YOU HELP?

Fr Chaminda is keen to have an up to date register of those community members who would like Eucharist brought to them in their home from the Parish Community Masses.



1. Current Ministers to the Sick: If you are currently ministering the Eucharist to homebound parishioners please let Sr. Judith know to whom you are ministering, their address and phone number.
2. New Ministers of the Eucharist: Do we have anyone who is willing to volunteer for this Ministry. If so, please let Sr. Judith know your name and contact number
3. Currently, there are a few parishioners who are being sent forth from Parish masses to their sick at home. We would be glad to know who these Ministers are, and the name of the homebound parishioner to whom they minister. Please let Sr. Judith know.
4. If you know anyone who is housebound and is desirous of receiving Eucharist at home, please let Sr. Judith know the name, address and contact number.

In this way we can compile an up to date list of our community faith members who are no longer able to attend Mass at the Church and yet still be part of our faith community through reception of the Eucharist.

Also during the Lenten or Advent Seasons, Fr. Chaminda could be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick for our house bound members of our faith community.

Sr Judith's contact is [judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au](mailto:judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au) or 97361477 or 0455 727501

## 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

### 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, 2pm Thursday afternoons to participate in our ROSARY PILGRIM PRAYER WALK. We begin our rosary outside the school gate on STUART STREET, 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.



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.

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



**Recently Deceased:** Richard Piekarski (brother of Barbara High)

**Anniversaries:** Peter Nguyen, Alexander Steuerwald, Francesca & Gaetano Defina, Joan Doran, Lorraine Bonanno, Vincenzo & Agata Rodi, Harry O’Hara

**Others:** Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Peter Soosai, Jessie Tan, Terry Murphy, Frank Kriletich, Jack Kocina, Luka Susic & Family, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guisepppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy’s Family, Dahdah Family, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

### Please pray for the sick especially:

Denise McCaffery, Dr Bede Muller, 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, Robert Carey, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Peter Weinfefoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

