



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
	FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER 2020
8.00 am	Christmas Day Mass
9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
11.00 am	Christmas Day Mass
	NO EVENING MASS

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.



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 or phone the Parish House on Monday or Friday if your child is happy to help out.

Christmas cards are available for sale in the Piety Store. \$7 for a pack of 10. All proceeds support St Vincent de Paul.



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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: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at **11.30am** by appointment.
Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

**Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Year B
13 December 2020**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11)

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50,53-54

Mary sings praise to God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8,19-28

“I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” John 1:26–27

These are words of true humility and wisdom. John the Baptist had quite a following. Many were coming to him to be baptized, and he was gaining much notoriety. But his notoriety did not go to his head. Instead, he understood his role of preparing the way for “the one who is coming.” He understood that he needed to decrease as Jesus began His public ministry. And, thus, he humbly points others to Jesus.

In this passage, John was speaking to the Pharisees. They were clearly envious of John’s popularity and questioned him about who he was. Was he the Christ? Or Elijah? Or the Prophet? John denied all of that and identified himself as one who is not worthy to even untie the sandal straps of the one who is coming after him. Thus, John sees himself as the “unworthy one.”

But it is this humility that makes John truly great. Greatness does not come by self-elevation, or self-promotion. Greatness comes solely by fulfilling the will of God. And, for John, the will of God was to baptize and to point others to Him Who was coming after him.

It’s also important to note that John said to the Pharisees that they “do not recognize” the one who is coming after him. In other words, those who are filled with pride and self-righteousness are blind to the truth. They cannot see beyond themselves, which is an incredible lack of wisdom.

Reflect, today, upon your calling to imitate these virtues of St. John the Baptist. Do you see your duty in life as one that is singularly focused upon putting your eyes on Christ and pointing others to Him? Do you humbly recognize that it is Jesus Who must increase and that you are nothing more than His unworthy servant? If you can seek to serve the will of God with complete humility, you also will be truly wise. And like through John, many will come to know Christ because of your holy service.

Lord, fill me with true humility. May I know and believe with all my heart that I am unworthy of the incredible life of grace You have given to me. But in that humble realization, give me the grace I need to serve You with all my heart so that others may come to know You through me.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Source of content: mycatholic.lif

The significance of the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means “rejoice,” is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday’s Mass. This theme is echoed in today’s second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

(Courtesy: Loyola press)

A special announcement By Most Rev. Anthony Fisher,
the Archbishop of Sydney

Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption now lifted

The government has announced a significant easing of restrictions upon places and activities of worship. The only restriction on numbers at indoor and outdoor Masses is now the two-square-meter rule. Of course, we must continue to observe appropriate hygiene and distancing practices. We know we are not out of the COVID woods yet. Along with this letter I have issued new liturgical directives.

In light of the significant easing of the restrictions upon church attendance, I rescind my decree of 20 March 2020 dispensing the faithful of Sydney from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption. Under canon 1247 attendance at Mass on those days is now obligatory once again. Of course, we want people to come to Mass out of love more than obedience, but love itself brings responsibilities. Those who are of great age, have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risks of COVID-19 are free to remain at home and find another way of keeping holy the Sunday Sabbath: I have indicated some ways in my previous letters.

If people find they cannot get in to a particular Mass, they should regard their attempt as satisfying the obligation. But most of our faithful have many options for Mass and it will be rare that someone can’t get in: with greater capacity, additional Masses, pre-registering and other measures, almost everyone should be able to be accommodated. Our priests are looking at a mix of in-church, in-bigger-hall and outdoor Masses to accommodate the Christmas crowds.

***The above is an extract of the Eighth pastoral letter
issued by the Archbishop of Sydney
for the Clergy and Faithful during the COVID-19 Pandemic.***

ADVENT PRAYER FOR ALL



Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours.

Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manager of my Lord.

Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.

Courtesy: Catholic Online School

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



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 Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Peter Weinfoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

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.

Church Opening Hours

Monday	6.30am – 7.00pm
Tuesday	6.30am – 8.00pm (7.30pm Mass)
Wednesday	6.30am – 6.00pm
Thursday	6.30am – 6.00pm
Friday	6.30am – 7.00pm
Saturday	6.30am – 6.00pm
Sunday	6.30am – 6.00pm

Please remember as you enter the church to sign on to our COVID register, name and phone number.



The Members of the Interim Parish Finance Committee

Mr Steve McLeod
Mr Bassam Aflak
Mr Steve Lia
Mr Paul Banoob

St Ambrose Building and Maintenance Donation Envelopes



Envelopes are scattered near the entrances /exits. If you feel that you can contribute, please take one. Take it home and with your own liabilities in mind, assess what you think you can contribute. Donations will, unfortunately, not be tax-deductible.

Other ways to donate to this project include –

- Cheques - made payable to St Ambrose Church.
- Donations can be made via our website. Please use the Building Renovation and Maintenance tab to ensure your donation is directed to the correct account.
- Soon we will also have a dedicated tap and go facility.

Donations of any amount are welcome, but for the overall program to be successful, we are hoping for some substantial amounts to be donated.



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.

***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.

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 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.

