



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

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, **INDIVIDUAL NAME OF FAMILY MEMBERS OR GUESTS ATTENDING WITH YOU.** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, WE NEED TO TRANSFER THIS INFORMATION ONTO A SIGN ON SHEET FOR THE **NOMINATED MASS.**

Upcoming Feasts during the Christmas Season

- The feast of Holy Family (Sunday 27 Dec)
- The feast of Holy Innocents (Monday 28 Dec)
A special blessing to be given for Children during the 9am Mass
- The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy MOTHER of GOD

FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021

- 9.00am** Morning Mass
- 5.00pm** The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 7.00pm** The Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 7.30pm** The Holy Mass



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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.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Year B
20 December 2020**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 89:2-5,27,29*

A prayer of praise to the Lord for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading: *Romans 16:25-27*

Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:26-38*

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.



True Servants of God

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” [Luke 1:38a](#)

What does it mean to be a “handmaid of the Lord?” The word “handmaid” means “servant.” And Mary identifies herself as a servant. Specifically, a servant of the Lord. Throughout history, some “handmaids” were slaves without any rights whatsoever. They were property of their owners and were required to do what they were told. In other times and cultures, a handmaid was a servant more by choice, enjoying certain rights. However, all handmaids are inferiors serving a superior.

Our Blessed Mother, however, is a brand-new type of handmaid. Why? Because the one she was called to serve was the Most Holy Trinity. She was certainly an inferior serving one who is superior. But when the one you perfectly serve has perfect love for you, and directs you in ways that edify you, elevate your dignity, and transform you in holiness, then it is wise beyond description to not only serve this superior but to freely become a slave, lowering yourself as deeply as possible before such a superior. There should be no hesitation in this depth of servitude!

Our Blessed Mother’s servitude, therefore, is new in that it is the most radical form of servitude, but it is also freely chosen. And the reciprocal effect upon her from the Most Holy Trinity was to direct all her thoughts and actions, all her passions and desires and every single part of her life to glory, fulfillment and holiness of life.

We must learn from the wisdom and actions of our Blessed Mother. She submitted her life completely to the Most Holy Trinity, not only for her own good but also to set an example for each one of us. Our deepest and daily prayer must become that of hers: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Following her example will not only deeply unite us with our Triune God, but it will also have a similar effect upon us by making us instruments of the Savior of the World. We will become His “mother” in the sense that we will bring Jesus into our world for others. What a glorious calling we have been given to imitate this most holy Mother of God.

Reflect, today, upon your call to pray this prayer of our Blessed Mother. Reflect upon the words, consider the meaning of this prayer, and strive to make it your own prayer today and every day. Imitate her, and you will begin to more fully share in her glorious life of grace.

Dearest Mother Mary, pray for me that I may imitate your perfect “Yes” to the Most Holy Trinity. May your prayer become my prayer, and may

the effects of your surrender as a handmaid of the Lord also affect my life profoundly. Lord, Jesus, may Your perfect will, in union with the will of the Father and the Holy Spirit, be done in my life today and always. Jesus, I trust in You. Source of content: [mycatholic.life](#)

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.***



**2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPERATION FOR
CHRISTMAS will be held on**

MONDAY 21st DECEMBER, 6-7.30PM

The following **Examination of Conscience** may help you to make a meaningful confession of sins and obtain God's grace.

Did I deny or doubt God's existence?
Did I refuse to believe God's revelation?
Did I believe in horoscopes, fortune telling, dreams, good luck charms or reincarnation?
Did I deny that I was a Catholic?
Did I abandon the Catholic Faith?
Did I despair of or presume on God's mercy?
Did I neglect prayer for a long time?
Did I fail to pray daily?
Did I blaspheme God or take God's Name in vain, curse or break an oath or vow?
Did I miss Mass on a Sunday or on a Holy Day of Obligation through my own fault?

Am I always reverent in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament?

Was I inattentive at Mass?
Did I arrive at Mass late?
Did I leave Mass early?
Did I do unnecessary servile work on Sunday?
Did I disobey or disrespect my parents or legitimate superiors?
Did I neglect my duties to my husband, wife, children or parents?
Did I fail to actively take an interest in the religious education and formation of my children?
Have I failed to educate myself concerning the teachings of the Church?
Did I give a full day's work in return for a full day's pay?
Did I give scandal by what I said or did, especially to the young?
Was I the cause of anyone abandoning the Catholic Faith?
Did I give a fair wage to my employee(s)?
Was I impatient, angry, envious, unkind, proud, jealous, revengeful, hateful toward others or lazy?

Did I give bad example, abuse drugs, drink alcohol to excess, fight or quarrel?
Did I physically injure or kill anyone?
Did I respect human life from conception to natural death?
Did I attempt suicide?
Did I wilfully entertain impure thoughts and desires?
Did I dress immodestly?
Did I use impure or suggestive words?
Did I tell impure stories or listen to them?

Did I deliberately look at impure television, internet, plays, pictures or movies?

Did I deliberately read or watch impure material (Pornography)?
Did I perform impure acts?

Did I steal, cheat, help or encourage others to steal or keep stolen goods?
Have I made restitution for stolen goods?
Did I fulfil my contracts, give or accept bribes, pay my bills, rashly gamble or speculate or deprive my family of the necessities of life?

Did I tell lies? Deliberately in order to deceive or injure others?
Did I commit perjury?
Did I vote in accordance with a properly informed conscience, in a way consistent with the teachings of the Church, in regard to the sanctity of human life and human life issues?

Was I uncharitable in word or deed?
Did I gossip or reveal the faults and sins of others?
Did I fail to keep secrets that I should have kept?
Did I eat meat on the Fridays during Lent or on Ash Wednesday?
Did I fast as require on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?
Did I fail to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season?
Did I fail to confess my sins at least once a year?
Did I go to Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin?

How to go to Confession

When you enter, kneel down, and say:

1. ***“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.***
2. ***It is ... weeks / months / years since my last Confession, and these are my sins ...”***
3. ***“For these and all my sins, I am very sorry.”***
4. **The Priest talks to you and gives you a penance – a prayer to say in the church when you come out.**
5. **Then you say the Act of Contrition:**

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all, because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life.
Amen.

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.



SACRAMENTAL NEWS

Congratulations to Sebastian, Luca and Elijah who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



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

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.

Blessing of a Christmas Tree at Home

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

The leader:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

All: Amen

Scripture Reading: The Letter of St. Paul to Titus: 3:4-7

But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Intercessions

Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Leader: That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Leader: That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Leader: That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

All: The Lord's Prayer.

Leader: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

- **The lights of the tree are then illuminated.**

Leader: May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever. R/. Amen.

- **Conclude with a suitable Christmas Carol**



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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE
FOLLOWING FOR WHOM MASSES WILL BE OFFERED



Recently Deceased:

**Anniversaries: Lorraine Noyes, Peter Nguyen, Alexander Steuerwald,
Francesca & Gaetano**

Please pray for the sick especially:

Scott Dickson, 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 Weinfoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

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@sydnecatholic.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.