



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]

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Free Parish App **myFaith** (available in Apple Store or Google Play)



Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP | Mrs. Liz Hearne, Parish Secretary | Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon*

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

06 DECEMBER 2020

Lighting of the Advent Candle Prayer

2nd Sunday of Advent | Candle of Peace

(as the second candle is lit, all pray)



Heavenly Father, as we journey on this Advent road, we relight the candle of hope, and we light a candle of peace. Grant us the courage to make peace: peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, and peace in our country. Amen.

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Is 30: 19, 30

O people of Sion, behold,
 the Lord will come to save the nations,
 and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
 in the joy of your heart.

First Reading | Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.
 ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
 that her time of service is ended,
 that her sin is atoned for,
 that she has received from the hand of the Lord
 double punishment for all her crimes.’
 A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
 a way for the Lord.
 Make a straight highway for our God
 across the desert.
 Let every valley be filled in,
 every mountain and hill be laid low.
 Let every cliff become a plain,
 and the ridges a valley;
 then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
 and all mankind shall see it;
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’
 Go up on a high mountain,
 joyful messenger to Zion.
 Shout with a loud voice,
 joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
 Shout without fear,
 say to the towns of Judah,
 ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,
 his arm subduing all things to him.
 The prize of his victory is with him,
 his trophies all go before him.
 He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
 gathering lambs in his arms,
 holding them against his breast
 and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 84: 9-14 R. v. 8

*R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
 and grant us your salvation.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
 a voice that speaks of peace,
 peace for his people.
 His help is near for those who fear him
 and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
 justice and peace have embraced.
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
 and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
 and our earth shall yield its fruit.
 Justice shall march before him
 and peace shall follow his steps.

Second Reading | 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will
turn to page 4

PARTS OF THE MASS

Penitential Rite

℣. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

℟. For we have sinned against you.

℣. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

℟. And grant us your salvation.

℣. May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

℟. Amen.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

℣. Christ, have mercy.

℟. Christ, have mercy.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

℟. Lord, have mercy.

℣. Kyrie, eléison.

℟. Kyrie, eléison.

℣. Christe, eléison.

℟. Christe, eléison.

℣. Kyrie, eléison.

℟. Kyrie, eléison.

Credo | The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Orate fratres

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours...

The people will stand and reply:

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Mysterium fidei

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Libera nos

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days...

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

After the Lamb of God, the people kneel.

Ecce Angus Dei

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people, the priest adds:

Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Devotion | Prayer After Communion

You have come to my heart, dearest Jesus, I am holding
You close to my breast; I'm telling You over and
over, You are welcome, Little White Guest. I love You,
I love You, my Jesus, O please do not think I am
bold; Of course, You must know that I love You, But I
am sure that you like to be told. I'll whisper, "I love
You, my Jesus," And ask that we never may part; I love
You, O kind, loving Jesus And press You still nearer my
heart. And when I shall meet You in Heaven, My soul
then will lean on Your breast; And You will recall our
fond meetings, when You were my Little White Guest.
Amen.

TV / ONLINE MASS

TV Mass - Channel 10, every Sunday 06.00am
St Mary's Cathedral (Sydney) | Sunday 10.30am
<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most
Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I
desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot
at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at
least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if
You were already there and unite myself wholly to
You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Please consider EFT in making donation:

To support the priests (1st collection):

A/C Name: St Edwards Church Presbytery Savings Account

BSB: 082 105 **A/C No.:** 001023592

Reference: First + last name

To support the Church (PGP envelope):

A/C Name: St Edwards Church Suspense Acct

BSB: 082 105 **A/C No.:** 001002950

Reference: Envelope Number + last name

Planned Giving Program (PGP)

If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program, please
email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au so that
envelopes can be organised. Direct debit or EFT are also an
option, for details kindly contact the office.

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Masses

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on church gatherings, the following Mass times have been proposed for Christmas eve and Christmas day.

Christmas Eve Thursday 24/12 - 12noon, 4pm, 6pm

Christmas Day Friday 25/12 - 8am and 9am

Online booking is available at: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/christmas>

Advent Reconciliation

Rite II Wednesday 16 December 2020 12.00noon

Parish Christmas Party

All parishioners are warmly invited to dinner on Wednesday 9/12, 6pm for 6.30pm at Centillion Chinese Restaurant, 331 Goonoo Goonoo Road, Hillvue. RSVP by completing the sheet in the foyer no later than Sunday 6 December.

Cost: \$26/person Banquet Meal (2 entrée, Garlic Combination, Honey Chicken, Mongolian Beef, Fried Rice and Tea or Coffee)

Christmas Day Lunch

All are welcome to our Christmas Day lunch in the Church Hall on 25th December 12noon for 12.30pm. For reasons we cannot always be with family, so do not be alone, come along and share the joys of the season. Please bring something to share. To join, kindly complete the sheet in the foyer.

Christmas Decor Appeal

For just \$5 a decor you can adorn our Christmas Trees, and bring light to someone's life. Proceeds will be donated to three Dioceses in the Philippines which were greatly devastated by the recent typhoons: Rolly and Ulysses. Decors will be on sale at all weekend Masses.

Christmas Dues/Offering

At the end of the year, excess funds in the first collection (Presbytery Account) are sent to the Armidale Clergy Fund to help priests in smaller parishes. This also means that, at the beginning of each year our Presbytery Account is \$0. Please help us cover our costs for January. Christmas offering envelopes are included in the Planned Giving envelope packs or you may *collect an envelope from the table in the foyer*. Please leave on the collection plate at any Mass.

Diocesan Appointments

Fr Abmar Dumayag, MS	Parish Priest Administrator	Gunnedah Parish & Boggabri Parish
Fr Vic Ignacio, MS	Parish Priest Administrator	Moree Parish & Mungindi Parish
Fr Vince Amaro	Administrator Administrator	Quirindi Parish & Werris Creek Parish

Fr Kingsley Etoh	Assistant Priest	Armidale Parish
Fr Samson Koyipurath	Assistant Priest	Gunnedah Parish
Fr Paul Chandler	Assistant Priest	East Tamworth Parish
Fr Tuan Tran	Assistant Priest	Moree Parish

Fr Francis Afu on Study Leave

Mr David Smith Diocesan Financial Administrator
Mr Savin Angelo Project Accountant

Parish Appointments

Mrs. Liz Hearne	Member	Parish Secretary Parish Finance Council
Mr. Grahame York	Member	Parish Finance Council

*In your charity,
please pray for*

Our sick

Mary Anne Plater

Julie Parry

Emily Herden

Neryl Lee

Fr John Willis

Stephen Brown

Julien Ryan

Gordon Livingstone

Pearl Howard

Joy Makepeace

Johanna Turner & Bayly Turner

Cecilia Kelly & Rita Kelly

Jay Peachy & Ricky Lee Peachy

Addison Peachy

Our Deceased

+ Felisa Villote

+Bella Atangan

+ Madeleine Atangan

+Ancizar Diaz

+ Kathleen Barber

Mass Intentions

07/12 + Anne Carlon

08/12 + Sr Eleanor Dawson, RSJ

09/12 + Sr Michtelde Dillon, RSJ

10/12 + Frank Conroy

11/12 + Mary Constance Conroy

Roman Martyrology

7/12 St Ambrose, *bishop & doctor*

8/12 Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary

9/12 St Juan Diego

Cuauhtlatatzin, *hermit*

10/12 Our Lady of Loreto

11/12 St Damasus I, *pope*

12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

MASS THIS WEEK

07/12 - 13/12

Monday 07.00am

Tuesday to Friday 09.30am

Saturday 05.30pm

Sunday 8am, 9am, 5.30pm

BAPTISM

By appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By appointment

CONFESSIONS

Saturday & Sunday 04.45 - 05.15pm

Weekly Collection

29 November 2020

1st Collection \$ 725.55

Envelopes PG \$ 859.00

Loose \$ 28.52

*O God, protector of all who hope in you, bless your people, keep them safe, defend them,
prepare them, that, free from sin and safe from the enemy, they may persevere always in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation | Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel | Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon | Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



GET YOUR COPY NOW!

Dr Cameron's Book Special Discount Offer

Dr Cameron's *Heralding Renaissance: Women & Leadership in the Catholic Church* is available at the piety stall for \$35.00 only (650 pages).

Regular price \$49.95 + delivery or \$62.09 from Amazon.

Faith of our Fathers

A book written by the late Kitty Thomas about the Parish Priests of St Edward's Parish, is available for \$10 at the Piety Stall.

Prayer to St Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

THE WORD IN OTHER WORDS

Commentary | First Reading

The reading from Isaiah for today is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile Israel is looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the desert at the Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. For Christians the excitement is that John the Baptist picks up this message as he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. The coming of the Lord to Jerusalem was never wholly fulfilled, and we can see that the great fulfilment of this passage is in the coming of Christ to his own. He came to Jerusalem, yes, but has the divine glory been yet manifested? He brought the beginning of the kingship of God, but it is for us Christians to show the glory and the love and the generosity of God to a world which has not yet seen the splendour of his coming. This is the daunting responsibility of those who bear the name of 'Christian', who see in Jesus the manifestation of God's reign.

Commentary | Second Reading

The Second Letter of Peter, probably the last of all the writings of the New Testament here sets out to comfort Christians who were disappointed that the 'Big Bang' at the end of the world had not yet happened. The first generations of Christians had expected the world to come rapidly to an end – and yet it still goes on. In the first generation of Christians much of Paul's moral teaching is shaped by the idea that the Second Coming will occur very soon. In the second generation the author of this letter does not have such immediacy. He says that our task is to live holy lives in peace, and to wait in patience. The Second Coming is still imminent in the sense that we must live our lives in view of it, and we have no time to lose. But it will not occur tomorrow! From this point of view, the annual cycle of Church feasts and festivals, even of Christmas, is a reminder that God is in total control of his universe. For us the seasons roll round, but for God time is meaningless.

Commentary | Gospel

Each Advent has two John-the-Baptist Sundays, the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River. There he button-holed all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways – and to change them now, before it was too late. 'I am too busy', no doubt they said, 'I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.' John was forming a community of repentance, but not so much a community which wept 'Boo-hoo!' about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction. Do we give ourselves a moment of pause to ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on our list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come? John said rotten trees were going to be cut down, useless straw to be burnt. Do I need to feel the axe at my feet?