



# The Parish Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent, Year B/2



## Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## 1st Reading:

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

## Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

## 2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation:

Ps 84:8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

## Communion Antiphon:

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**



## Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



## Reflection

by Father James McCarthy

Christmas is a time when people give and receive gifts. The practice dates back to the time of Christ, when the magi brought gifts to Jesus. But what gift can we give to Jesus this Christmas and what gift is Jesus wanting to give us this Christmas?

The "end of the world" is the theme for today's Mass. It ties in with the theme from last Sunday. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the 'Sunday of Hope' in God and His Son Jesus Christ through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people.

Advent is a time of serious preparation, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. But it's about far more than preparing to celebrate Christmas with trees, cakes, tinsel and lights. In the midst of the busyness of preparing to celebrate Christmas, the Church calls us to prepare to celebrate the Mass of Christ, for that is what Christmas is. The Mass of Christ is the eternal banquet which occurs in Heaven. That is what we are called to prepare for at Christmas.

Advent is a time to do a lot of shopping, to give and receive gifts, but how often do people think about giving a gift to Jesus, even though we are celebrating his birthday. Jesus desires that we give him the greatest gift possible on his birthday— The gift of our very lives. He wants us to love, serve and build his kingdom in this world, and to desire eternity with him in the next. The reason why the liturgical year ends and begins with the same theme is very clear: if we have already embraced Jesus in his first coming, then we should have no fear of embracing him in his second coming.

Today's gospel is the conclusion of a speech found in Mark Chapter 13, in which Jesus predicts his Second Coming. "Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come." For some people, there's a fear that the master will come home "suddenly and catch us unprepared or asleep." Our Gospel passage reminds us that we should not be so foolish to forget God and become immersed in the commercialism of Christmas. Christ reminds us of the alertness



**continued next page**

**Acknowledgement of the land**

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoiria nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

**Parish Directory**

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**Parish address & contact number:**

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9:00am-4:30pm

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meynardo@laposte.net

*Please submit requests for publication by 12 noon Wednesday.*

**Acolytes:** Arthur Lee

**Readers & Special Ministers of**

**Communion:** Sue Metzmacher (Weekdays & Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

**Music Ministry - Coordinators for 6 pm Saturday Vigil Masses:**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday - David Foong

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday - Aneela Pereira

**Sunday Masses:**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

1<sup>st</sup> SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2<sup>nd</sup> SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

2<sup>nd</sup> SUN 10am - David Foong

3<sup>rd</sup> SUN 10am - Mary Towers

4<sup>th</sup> SUN 10am - Mary Towers

5<sup>th</sup> SUN 10am - Mary Towers

**Youth Co-ordinator - TBA**

**Children Liturgy - Elsa Manu**

**Ushers/Collectors - Michael Wixted**

**Altar Society - Marie Bennett**

**Liturgy Committee - Sue Metzmacher**

**Finance Committee - Stephen Topple**

**St Vincent de Paul Society - Jim Lemcke**

**Catechists - Stephen Topple**

**Divine Mercy Devotion - Gloria Divine**

**Driver Roster - Felicity Donnelly**

**St Michael's Primary School**

**School Principal - Brian Story**

53 Maxim St, Meadowbank, NSW 2114

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**Welcome to St Michael's Church - Meadowbank!**

A warm welcome to all to attend our church! May you find our parish community a place where your life of faith will be nourished. We hope that you will also share your special gifts with the community. Your prayers, your presence, your talents and skills are most welcome.

**Reflection**

*continued from previous page*

and preparation needed not just to prepare presents, trees, tinsel and lights, or to prepare new toys, clothes, holidays, food and drink. This season of Advent before Christmas is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives in four main ways:

1. The coming of Jesus at Christmas,
2. The coming of Jesus into our lives on a daily basis,
3. The coming of Jesus at the moment of our death, and
4. The coming of Jesus in Glory at the end of the time.

How will each of us prepare for these comings of Christ during the next 4 weeks?

**This Sunday - Parish Volunteers Luncheon.**

**Sunday 3 December. From 12pm to 2.30pm in the Parish Hall.** All

parishioners and their families who contribute their time, talent or treasure to the Parish are invited to a special lunch hosted by the parish to thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you do for Christ and the Church. The Parish will provide the main

meal for the luncheon. Parishioners are welcome to bring a plate of dessert to share.

**The Piety Stall**

will be open after all masses this weekend. Christmas cards, gifts and Advent calendars are now on sale.

**Become a Catechist Now.**

Bored, sitting at home wondering what to do? Something worthwhile and rewarding is to become a Catechist. Share your faith with some bright young children. You may say, "How do I become a Catechist?" Very easily! Ring Stephen Topple on 0422374989 and you are nearly there. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided with all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist. Make that phone call now!

**VOYAGE OF VOICES.**

Saturday 24 February. St Patricks Cathedral, Parramatta. Sunday 25 February Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney. On the face of it, the tiny Baltic state of Estonia and the vast continent of Australia couldn't be more different, or distant. But there's at least one thing that unites us: the vibrancy of our musical traditions. The sublime voices of VOX will be joined by E Studio Youth Choir Estonia to perform a cappella masterpieces by Arvo Pärt, Paul Stanhope and Ross Edwards.

**Tell your MPs: Hands off our freedoms!**

Take action to defend religious freedom and parental rights over the education their children receive. Contact your local federal MP today to demand your freedoms are protected in any legislation for same-sex marriage. For more information and to contact your MP got to: [www.marriagealliance.com.au](http://www.marriagealliance.com.au)

## Come Celebrate Australia's

**largest Mass** since World Youth Day 2008! - Saturday 9 December. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to attend Mass in the Domain on Saturday 9 December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This will be a joyous occasion! The Mass at 6.30pm will follow an afternoon of concerts and festivities beginning at 4pm and featuring Australian and international musicians and performers, including Matt Maher. The Archbishop also invites the people of Sydney to pray for the success this important event. Prayer cards have been distributed to parishes. For more information go to the ACYF website: [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au)

## One week to go - Joyful Generation.

The excitement is building around the country as we countdown the final days to the Festival. Last week we were very excited to launch the long-awaited official song of the festival. Tim Hart singer-songwriter from the Southern Highlands in the Wollongong Diocese has worked with the festival team over months to get it just right. See the full press release and download the song here

<http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/resources/song>

This newsletter gives you the latest news and information so you can be ready for all the excitement of the festival. We can't wait to see you there. Make sure you are following the ACBC Office for Youth social media (links on the right) for regular announcements and reminders, including on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/acbcyouthmin/>). Don't forget your tags #ACYF17 #SpreadingJoy #NewHorizons We wish you every blessing in this time of celebration.

## ST MICHAEL'S JESSE TREE. MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT.



The annual St. Michael Jesse Tree provides Christmas gifts to the elderly residents of Estia Health Ryde (formerly known as Rothingham) and Fernleigh Nursing homes. In keeping with this wonderful tradition, the Jesse Tree is now in the Church. We kindly request your generosity by

taking a tag or two from the tree. Please return your new, wrapped gift, with the gift tag attached to the Church and place it under the tree. If the Church is closed you may also leave the gift at the Parish Office. The nursing homes have supplied us with the following gift suggestions:

**Body lotion; Hand cream; Pjs and nighties (medium or large); Polo shirts (medium or large); Nail polish; Deodorant; Perfume**

We thank you for your generous help in always making the Jesse Tree program at St Michael's Meadowbank a success. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. GIFTS ARE DUE BY TUESDAY 12TH OF DECEMBER 2017.

## Catholic Weekly 3-December

Massive week ahead for Sydney Catholics  
Pope visits Myanmar  
A new statue for Dulwich Hill  
Olivia to lead Australia XI  
Justice League reviewed  
Gunpowder, treason and plot  
Fun with Faith – Kids page – P26

## Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

Saturday 23 December – 6pm

Sunday 24 December – 10am

(No 8am Mass).

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS



### 24 DECEMBER – SUNDAY

10am — Mass

6:00 pm — Christmas Vigil Mass  
(including Children's Christmas Pageant)

11:30pm — Christmas Carols

12:00am — Christmas Midnight Mass

### 25 DECEMBER – MONDAY

8:00am — Christmas Morning Mass

10:00am — Christmas Day Mass



## Christmas Masses.

Christmas Roster sheets for Readers and EOMHC are available at Our Lady's side altar. Please add your name where you'd like to assist Altar Servers have a separate roster also available.

## A Christmas Celebration 2017

– Friday 15 December 2017. Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes including congregational carols and music to lift your spirits in the joy of the season! For tickets and more information please visit [www.achristmascelebration.com.au](http://www.achristmascelebration.com.au)



## Christmas Remembrance Service

– 17 December 2017 at 7:30pm.

All are welcome to join in St Mary's Cathedral as we remember and pray for all those who have died and whose memory we cherish over the Christmas season.

**CATHOLICCARE.** Looking for parenting resources? CatholicCare's new online parenting resource provides information and tips to help build positive parent-child relationships. Visit [catholiccare.org](http://catholiccare.org) and look for the Parenting Hub icon or call our CCareline Team 13 18 19 [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

**NEXT WEEKEND**

**Roster: 9 / 10 Dec. 2017**

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
<b>6:00PM Vigil</b>	<b>Vigil Mass Cancelled Next Saturday</b>		
<b>8:00AM</b>	Dominic Bui	Gregory Chen Maureen Fairbairn	Judith Orrock Marie Bennett
<b>10:00AM</b>	John Fillion	Nelyn Gasataya Leony Hamor	1 Joan D'souza 2 Maureen Richardson 3 Felicity Donnelly 4 Celeste Villarente 5 Michael Dunkin 6 Darryle Fernandes



**Prayer to St Michael the Archangel.**

Saint 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 wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**Request for Mass and Prayers**

**SICK:** 1. Pray for the people who are suffering from stroke, the mentally ill and sick children  
2. Tony & Jeanette Abraham



**PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:** 1. Holy souls

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** 1. Stephen Choy- Thanksgiving for good health  
2. Reginald Campion's 99th Birthday on 2nd December

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:** Sue & Helmut Metzmacher- 50th Wedding Anniversary

**Liturgy for this week (4 - 10 Dec. 2017)**

**Weekday Masses:**  
9:15am - Monday *Communion Service only*  
9:15am - Tuesday to Saturday

**Weekend Masses:**  
6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass **CANCELLED 9th DECEMBER**  
8:00 AM and 10:00am - Sunday  
*Children's Scripture Class at 10am Mass on Sundays*

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass at 9:15am on 8 December*

**HELP WITH THE CHURCH LAWN MOWING.**

We have one more lawn mower, which will make mowing much easier. Come and test it out by joining the team. Contact Don Smith 0414 748 302

**Altar Society.** CHURCH CLEANING, LAUNDRY OF THE ALTAR LINEN, FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. Join the Altar Society and help keep our church fit for God. A gold coin or coins donation is greatly appreciated for the on going cleaning and flowers for the church. There is a box at the back and side doors of the church for those gold coins.

**FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

**THU 7 DEC** St Ambrose, bishop, doctor  
**FRI 8 DEC** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



**FINANCIAL HELP.** The parish has expenses – electricity, insurance, maintenance and commitments to the Archdioceses. Please help and take a box of contribution envelopes.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL.**

The Meadowbank Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society continues its Christmas Appeal over this weekend. Envelopes can still be returned if they have been taken home. Thank you to all those who have already donated.



**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DELIVERY.**

Every year, Meadowbank Conference asks for volunteers to help deliver Christmas hampers to families in our local area. The delivery date this year is 14th December. Hampers will need to be collected from Vinnies Welfare store, in Ryedale Road about 6:30pm that night. If you would like to participate, please call Jim Lemcke on 98014202.

**Sacraments:**

- Reconciliation:** Saturdays 5:30pm-5:50pm
- Devotions: Prayer for Priests:** 8:45am every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday
- Morning Prayer (Lauds)** 7:40AM every Sunday
- Rosary:** 8:50am on weekdays before the Mass (except Friday)  
Friday before Mass : **Silent Prayer**
- Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
8:15am-9:15am every Friday  
8:15am-9:15am every Saturday
- Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet** - Wednesdays after AM Mass



**No 6pm Vigil Mass next Saturday.**

All parishioners are invited to attend the **biggest Mass in Australia since World Youth Day 2008.** Mass for the conclusion of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be held at **6:30pm at the Sydney Domain on Saturday 9 December.** The Archbishop has cancelled all Saturday evening Masses in Sydney that day and encourages every Catholic in Sydney to attend, both the young and the young at heart.

**ROSARY AT ANZAC PARK.**

We invite everyone to join the Rosary on Saturday, **9th December**, at Anzac Park, West Ryde at 2:00-3:00pm for Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Rain or shine the event will go on. Any queries ring Annette Tidy at 98076892.



**St Michael's Church,**

**Meadowbank** A copy of this bulletin is also available from the FB Page.

