



15 / 16 December 2018

Vol. 8 Issue 50

St Michael's Church - Meadowbank

The Parish Bulletin

3rd Sunday of Advent Yr C/1

2018: Celebrating 70 Years as a Parish



Entrance Antiphon:

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

1st Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-18

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst

Responsorial Psalm:

Isaiah 12:2-6

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

2nd Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord is very near

Gospel Acclamation:

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Gospel

*Luke 3:10-18*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Reflection from Fr James McCarthy

Today is Gaudete Sunday – or the Sunday of Rejoicing. It is one of only two days in the year when the priest is encouraged to wear pink or rose coloured vestments, which highlights that there is joy and happiness in the midst of waiting and preparing. There is joy and happiness because Christmas is not just a little boy's birthday party, but at Christmas we celebrate the good news that God has become a part of humanity so that we can become part of God. We have a future and our future is bright despite the sinfulness and evil that has happened in the past. Jesus saves us from our past and gives us a future with rose-coloured glasses. This is Good News and this is a reason for us to "Cry out with joy and gladness" as the Psalm tells us to.



The theme of the third Sunday of Advent is **rejoicing in hope**. Advent is a time for joy, but unlike the joy that comes after something is achieved, we are called to be joyful in preparing our lives and our families for the coming of Christ.

The second reading, from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians, reminds us to be happy. A sad Christian is a contradiction in terms, whereas a happy, positive and joyful Christian attracts others to the good news. According to the John the Baptist, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully,

The Parish Bulletin**Acknowledgement of the land**

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoira 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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Office hours: Tuesday - Friday

9:00am-4:30pm

Secretaries: Lou Temprosa (Tue-Wed)
Marilyn Vallejo (Thu-Fri)

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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 6pm Saturday Masses:**

1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)

2nd Saturday - David Foong

3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira

Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:

1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

4th SUN 10 am - Muntia Gouw

1st SUN 10am - Peter & Jenchris

3rd, 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2nd SUN 10am - David Foong

Children Liturgy - Elsa Manu**Sacramental Coordinators:** Marisa

Squadrito & Liz Mulcare

Ushers/Collectors - Michael Wixted

Altar Society - Marie Bennett

Liturgy Committee - Sue Metzmacher

Finance Committee - Stephen Topple

St Vincent de Paul Society - Jim Lemcke

Catechists - Judith Orrock

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer -

Lou Temprosa

St Michael's Primary School

School Principal - Brian Story

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Welcome to St Michael's Church -

Meadowbank! A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

**REFLECTIONCONTINUED**

doing good to others and sharing our blessings with others. John's call to repentance is a call to joy, restoration and holiness. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. Filled with joyful expectation that the Messiah was near, the people asked John the Baptist, 'What must we do' to be ready for the coming of Christ? This question should be asked by every follower of Christ in the days prior to Christmas. 'What must we do?'

Some people put up lights, trees and decorations in order to get ready for Christmas. Others have parties, while others go shopping or send out Christmas cards. As Christians, we are called to do all these things and more. We are directed by the Gospel to prepare for Christmas by rediscovering the joy we have in living holy and upright lives. John the Baptist advises a number of activities.

1. Be charitable and share your wealth with others.
2. Be honest in work and don't extort money from others.
3. Be kind and gentle towards others and don't cause fear or intimidation.

Ultimately, John the Baptist is calling the people of his time to turn away from sin and to live saintly lives. The Church recommends that every Catholic comes to the sacrament of reconciliation in the days prior to Christmas, as a way of preparing our hearts, minds and souls for Christmas Day. Spending some time during the week in quiet prayer, maybe at the Nativity scene, is also an appropriate way to be ready for the coming of Jesus this year.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Prior to Christmas

Catholics are strongly encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Christmas. Reconciliation will be available before and after the weekday Masses this coming week (on Tuesday to Saturday from 8.45am - 9.10am, and from 9.40am - 10am). Please take up this opportunity to prepare for the coming of Christ in the best way possible.

An Advent App for Christmas! – Meet Me in the Silence.

Walk the journey to Advent on your mobile device. Each day delivers a new video, podcast or written feature to assist you to prepare for Christmas and meet Jesus in the silence, despite the busyness of the Christmas season. The Advent Calendar App is free and available on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent

Protection of Children. A copy of Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Policy on the care, well-being and protection of children and young persons is available in the Parish office and from the Parish Website.

Download & Sync Parish Calendar - view and download from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis. If you use a google calendar, it is easy to include the calendar in your own calendar by simply hitting the + button on the homepage: www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

Collections Update from 9 December

Thank you for the generosity of all parishioners. Please note the new adjusted weekly targets in order to reach our budget.

1st Collection (assists clergy): \$1665

New 1st Collection weekly target to cover costs: \$1432

2nd Collection (parish costs): \$1978

New 2nd Collection weekly target to cover costs: \$2032

DIRECT TRANSFER GIVING

Please consider using a direct recurring automatic transfer for Sunday offerings. It is a safe, secure process that each person can easily setup via their own online banking to give to the parish on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Parish First Collection Details: BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292002; Account Name: St Michael's Pastoral Revenue

Parish Second Collection Details: BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292000; Account Name: St Michael's Church

Please use your envelope number (if you have one) as a reference for the transaction.

Carols in Anzac Park (West Ryde)

Saturday December 22 @ 5:30pm-8.30pm. Live Music - Carol singing - The Christmas Story - Free Coffee - Jumping Castles for the kids - Animal Farm for the kids.

Christmas Masses Roster : Help needed

Children's Mass 5pm (complete)

Acolytes Stephen Topple & Joel Tabuso

Readers Parents/students

EOMHC Lala Tabuso, Henaa Jawher, Carol & Brian Maher, Charlene Harrison

8pm Mass

Acolyte Jim Lemcke **Readers x2 required**

EOMHC Liz Paricka, Joseph J K, Violet Moussa, Sue

Metzmacher **2 more EOMHC required**

Midnight Mass

Acolytes: Connie Buttigieg

Readers Cielo Padrique, Maureen Richardson

EOMHC Celeste Villarente, Prescilla Luzon

4 more EOMHC required

Christmas Day 9.15am Mass

Acolytes: Arthur Lee, Moussa El Bayeh

Readers Colleen Maguire, Sunitha Victor

EOMHC Judith Orrock, Norah Gardner (**1 more needed**)

Please add your name to roster at rear of Church if you can assist. Altar servers are welcome to serve at any Mass they attend. The more the merrier!

Mowing/Weeding Help Needed prior to Christmas

Christmas: The mowing team is in urgent need of assistance to tidyup the carpark prior to Christmas. If you can spare 2-3 hours, please contact Don Smith 0414 748 302

January Church Cleaning Roster

Sarah Magsakay, Henna, Colleen McGuire & Sue Lobo

LINEN: Ancy Joy (Weekly) Carolyn Thomas (End of month) **VACUUM ROSTER:** Justin Isaac

PULPIT POINTS 16 December

- WYD Pilgrims prepare to leave
- Down but not out: Horsley Park parish stays strong
- Armenian art for cathedral
- Faith in the desert
- Movie review: New Life
- Vatican, China agreement worry

Volunteers needed to deliver Vinnies Christmas Hampers.

Hampers can be collected from the St Vincent de Paul Welfare Centre in Ryedale Road West Ryde, between 6.30pm & 7.00pm, on **Tuesday 18th December**. If you feel you can help, please contact Jim Lemcke urgently on 9801 4202.

St Michael's Jesse Tree - return Gifts this weekend.

The annual St Michael's Jesse Tree provides Christmas gifts to the elderly residents of Estia Health Ryde. Please return your new, wrapped gift, with the gift tag attached to the church and place it under the tree at the rear of the Church. The nursing home have supplied us with the following gifts suggestions: Body lotion, Hand cream, PJ's & nighties (medium or large), Polo shirts (medium or large), Deodorant, Perfume, Chocolates or biscuits

Last day to bring your gifts on Sunday 16th of December, Sunday.

Christmas Eve Pageant at 5pm

We invite children to play the roles of Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men. There will be a rehearsal in the Church at 10am on Saturday 22 December. All costumes supplied. If your child would like to take part, please email marisa.squadrito@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH

If you have any Christmas Bush and Agapanthus in your garden, can you please consider donating some for the church. Please bring them to the church on Saturday 22nd December. Any colour of Christmas Bush or Agapanthus would be wonderful. Thank you.

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Please consider making an offering at Christmas to assist with priests in special ministries, including those undertaking further studies, those who are sick/recovering from illnesses, and those who work with migrant communities. Please place your offering on any collection over the next 3 weeks.

**NEXT
WEEKEND**

Roster: 22 / 23 December 2018

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Arthur Lee Arlene Burton	1 Rita D'Mello 2 Robyn Meehan 3 Sue Metzmacher 4 Sunitha Victor 5 Brian Maher 6 Carol Maher
8:00AM	Meynardo Talisayon	Judith Orrock Maureen Fairbairn	Nora Gardner Norman Fairbairn
10:00AM	Joel Tabuso	Nelyn Gasataya Sean V Wyk	1 Gloria Divine 2 Felicity Donnelly 3 Joel Tabuso 4 Lala Tabuso 5 Maureen Richardson 6 Celeste Villarente

Please signup for Christmas roster.

Liturgy for this week (17 - 23 December 2018)

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:15pm-5.45pm

Devotions: Prayer for Priests: 8:45am every 1st Saturday

Morning Prayer: 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 (with Benediction at 9.05am)

Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet - Wednesdays after AM Mass

Weekday Services this week:

10am - **Funeral Mass:** Monday (No Communion Service)

9:15am - **Weekday Mass:** Tuesday to Saturday

Weekend Masses:

6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday (*Children's Liturgy at 10am Mass*)

Reconciliations: Tuesday to Saturday from 8.45am-9.10am

The Piety Stall will be open after all Masses this

weekend. Christmas gifts for all the family!

Church Cleaning, Altar Linen & Flowers

Have you ever noticed how beautiful our sanctuary and church is arranged? We have a great team of helpers who arrange flowers, clean and vacuum the church on a weekly basis. We always need more help. Please consider volunteering by contacting Marie Bennett on 0447 830 551. Flowers cost about \$100 per week. Please consider donating to the Altar Society. Donation boxes are at the church doors.

BAPTISM: Welcome to our newest Christian Juan George, who will be baptised this Sunday 16 December at 8am

January 1 New Years Mass at 11am.

Christmas Midnight Mass & Carol singing

Singers and musicians are cordially invited to share your talents at our Midnight mass and carol singing. Next practice will be on Friday 21st December at 7pm. For any further details please call David on 0418276360.



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.

Christmas Mass Times: 24 December

Children's Mass with Pageant: 5pm

Parish Mass: 8pm (followed by supper in the hall).

Please bring something to share.

25 December

Midnight Mass: 12am with carols from 11.30pm

Parish Mass: 9.15am (with carols 9am)

Please spread the invitations far and wide.

Parish Weekly Mass Offerings

Tuesday 18th December 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Amado Cabaero

Wednesday 19th December 2018 9:15am

Mass for George Guanzon who died recently

Thursday 20th December 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Yvonne Lees

Friday 21st December 2018 9:15am

Mass for safe holidays of all parishioners & for restoration of health of Chelsea & Mary Rose

Saturday 22nd December 2018 9:15am

Mass for the souls of Aflak & Azar Family Tree

Note: Only One Mass Offering is accepted per day

Funeral Mass: Sheila Poole

Date: 17th December, Monday Time: 10am

Place: St Michael's Catholic Church Meadowbank

Become a Catechist for 2019.

All Christians are called through our baptism to teach and help bring others to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. A rewarding and outreach activity is to become a Catechist by sharing your faith with children in our local public schools. Ring **Judith Orrock on 98742825** if you are interested. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist.

Saint of the Week

Fri 21 December St Peter Canisius,
Priest, Doctor



Are you new to the Parish?

Welcome. It is great to have you here. Please make our parish your home. Feel welcome to share experiences and ministries from your previous parish with our community. Please complete a parish registration & census form at the office. Consider volunteering and joining the parish planned giving.