



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Third Sunday of Advent | Year A Cycle 11 | 14 December 2025



Rejoice: It's a Christian Imperative!

Gaudete Sunday commands us, Christians and Catholics, to rejoice. This Latin word, *gaudete*, is in the imperative mood, plural. It enjoins us to rejoice as a community. We should rejoice because we are now very close to Christmas. We light the third candle of the Advent wreath, whose color, pink or rose, symbolises joy.

We will better understand the command to rejoice when we take the Word of God seriously.

The First Reading contains vocabularies that pertain to rejoicing: the dry land will exult; the steppe will rejoice with joyful song; the ransomed people will meet with joy and gladness. The desert will bloom with abundant flowers; the glory of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon (northern Israel), will be given the people; they will see the glory of God. The Lord is coming with vindication and salvation. He will heal those afflicted with illnesses. God will reverse the miserable fate of his people.

The Second Reading exhorts us to have the patience of a farmer who, after sowing, waits for the seeds to sprout and the plants to grow until it is time for harvest. Patience is an important ingredient to rejoicing. Devoid of patience, we can become rowdy, mindless, cranky, undisciplined, critical, quarrelsome and intolerant.

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St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society is once again holding its Christmas Appeal this weekend. Please help them to support the increasing numbers of families who are struggling with the continuing cost-of-living crisis. Through your donations Vinnies will provide food, clothing, living expenses and crisis support for vulnerable people in Australia, and our local area. Envelopes are available on the pews and can be added to the regular collections.



PARISH PRIEST & DEAN OF THE CENTRAL COAST: Fr Brian Moloney

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Rosan Mathew

DEACON: Rev Tony Hoban

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Leanne McGill

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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Rejoice: It's a Christian Imperative! *(continued)*

In the Gospel, John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to verify if he is the Christ. John has worked hard to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus sends the delegation back to him with the report: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Yes, Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Prophets and the Psalms.

Jesus makes his disciples realise how lucky they are. They have encountered John, whom Jesus considers the greatest among those born of women. But they can be greater than John, provided that they become least in God's Kingdom.

This Sunday calls us to rejoice in our faith and celebrate promises. It anticipates the coming of Jesus in his birth, in our present history, and in his glorious return. We rejoice because we believe Christ is here intervening in our history, giving us hope and liberating us from all forms of oppression, injustice, misery, and false values.

To us who live our faith, *gaudete* is no longer a command, but a spontaneous response to God's call to participate in his divine life. We rejoice, celebrating our faith and the coming of Jesus who gives us joy.

366 Days with the Lord Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

Why I Became an SRE Teacher

I have been lucky to go to three Catholic Schools: OLR, St Edward's and St Joseph's College. Five years ago I went to the parish office to give Fr Bill his newspaper. Leanne asked Fr Bill if I could become an SRE Teacher. Fr Bill said 'No,' but Leanne was very determined that I should.

At first I said "I only want to be a Helper." After two visits to the school the teacher was ill and I was suddenly a teacher. I quickly moved to Year 3 and 4 Teacher. I always use my own experiences in regards to the special events such as Communion and Confirmation. Yes, the children are my inspiration, and they also ask a lot of questions.

Favourite Student: a male student would often ask me several questions. He was well-mannered and a pleasure to teach. Every lesson he would always say, "I enjoy the lesson," and would thank me. This student is continuing his faith journey and has now become a Junior Altar Server.

I would like to express my appreciation to the CCD Diocesan and Parish staff, especially Alicia Klein and Leanne McGill for all their organisation, advice and more importantly, friendship.

I never thought that I would ever become a teacher but here I am five years later. I invite anyone who is interested in becoming a Catechist to speak to a Catechist and come and see Leanne in the parish office. I love the idea that I help a child start their journey with Jesus.

Desmond Ho



Des Ho receiving his Diploma of Special Religious Education from Bishop Anthony at the Diocesan Catechist Mass at Waitara.

Masses: Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm
Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am
Reconciliations: Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am
Rosary: Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am
Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group: Tuesday 9:30am **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am
Christian Meditation Group: Friday 10:30am - 11:30am Reynolds Room



A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

Advent Reflection Mornings

Join Deacon Paul to reflect on the History, Mystery and Majesty of this sacred season. Come along to the Reynolds Room on Thursday mornings after 9am Mass for a cuppa and a chance to contemplate with joyful anticipation the Coming of Christ this Christmas.



Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The Second Rite of Reconciliation is a communal celebration in which we prepare for Confession together through Scripture and prayer, before each person individually confesses their sins to a Priest and receives absolution. This Advent our Second Rite will be celebrated on Wednesday 17 December at 6pm. All welcome!



Children's Christmas Mass Rehearsal

All children are invited to dress up as angels and shepherds for the 5pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to participate in the reenactment of the Nativity they may come to the rehearsal on Tuesday 23 December at 10am in the Church. Costumes are provided for all those participating.



Congratulations Catechist Awardees

Pictured with their Service Awards are: Des Ho 5 Years, Pauline Farrugia 10 Years, Anne Henry 15 Years, Linda Gaze 5 Years, (left photo) and Michael Matus 10 Years (far right of second photo).



3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11

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

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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



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Please Note

Welcome!

This weekend we have the Reception of the Froud and Diggins families whose children are being Baptised in the near future.

Reintroduction of the Chalice

Those wishing to receive the Chalice need to line up on the left-hand aisle for the Host then go to the left to receive the Chalice. As is the Church custom the minister will give you the Chalice to consume a small amount of the Precious Blood and then you will hand it back to the minister.

Nursing Home Mass

Mass for residents will be held at Nareen Gardens Bateau Bay on Tuesday at 10:30am.

Christmas Mass Remembrances

Remembrance envelopes need to be in to the office by Friday to be included in the Christmas bulletin.

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Donations support the Priests of our diocese – active and retired. Envelopes are on the entry tables.

Keep Us in Your Prayers

Recently Deceased: Vera Benotic, Christopher Ryan, Elizabeth Turner, Sue Rowan, Dongsoo Shin, Graham Henneberry.

Funerals: The funerals of Graham Henneberry and Elizabeth Turner were held during the week. Please pray for Graham, Elizabeth and their families.

Anniversaries: Patricia Graham, Maureen O'Mara, Tomo & Julia Horvat, Maria & Richard Lucchese, Leonie Perera, Deacon David Huntley.

Remembrances: Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, John Giutronich, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Richard Falzon, Ralph Jayesuria, Frank Malone.

Sick: Lynne White, Fr Geoff Bugden, Fr Brogan, Julie Fletcher, Lynette Falken, Walter Knoke, Linda Read, Pat McCudden, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Janine Harpley, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, Pauline Fowler, Anne Knoke, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.

Welcome Newly Baptised: Sadie Deaves, Bowie & Harley Thompson, Louis Mayadunne, Goldie Anderson, Lola Abbott, Valley, Banksia & Huey Cummings, Van & Grace Wilkinson.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve 24 December	Christmas Day 25 December
Carols 4:30pm Children's Nativity Mass 5:00pm	Morning Masses 8:00am and 9:30am
Christmas Vigil Mass 7:00pm	Mass 11am at Reynolds Court Chapel Bias Avenue Bateau Bay
Carols 11:30pm Midnight Mass 12:00am	Maronite Mass 5:00pm



Our Lady of the Rosary

**Sacred
Gifts**

4332 2216

Christmas Gifts are In!

Buy something really Christmassy this year! We have Nativities, gifts, cards, Columban Calendars and *God's Word 2026*! We are open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass. Also weekdays by appointment. You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.