



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for November

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Vox Episcopi

The Voice of the Bishop

Message from Bishop Anthony

My dear Parishioners,

While we continue to walk “Our journey to Bethlehem” Our readings invite us to be mirrors of joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul’s words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the Gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God’s light upon this earth.

The joy that is offered to us “spiritual joy” that marks the Christian faith, that we are waiting for the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God.

The other is the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realise the goals of Jesus in our world. It’s a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life.

In these times of economic unrest and budget cuts that are endlessly debated, much more than that we are reminded of the blessings in our lives, our reasons to be joyful, the love we enjoy with our family and friends, the pleasure of meeting new people, of awakening some dormant talent, the solidarity we feel in our local community when people willingly help their neighbours in their needs; the consolation to be found in prayer, these are reasons to be joyful.

With prayerful wishes,

Fr Peter de Souza



Anniversaries

30 Dec – Fr Biju begins his 24th year as a Priest, our prayerful journey for him in the coming year, and our gratitude for the gift of his Priesthood as he shares that gift with us in the Community and beyond. God’s Special blessing.

Our Celebration of gratitude, in thanksgiving: For the Ministry and Person of Fr Biju to our Community, will be celebrated on 10 January 2021 *at the 9.30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral.*

First Reading

[Is 61:1-2. 10-11](#)

Isaiah proclaims the goodness of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10](#)

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading

[1 Thes 5:16-24](#)

Rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Acclamation

[Is 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Jn 1:6-8. 19-28](#)

The priests and Levites question John's identity.



Advent

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy**

and is called the “Shepherd’s Candle.” To the shepherd’s great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

Advent Prayer

Leader : Lord, you are the light of the world.

All : O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader : Heavenly Father, we long for our plan of rescue and redemption to be realized. Give us hearts that see Your beauty and wait in hope for You to make all things good and new again.

All : O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader : May Your light and love shine brightly in our hearts, spreading hope and peace to those around us.

All : Amen.

Bulletin Publication Please note our last bulletin for the Year will be on the **19/20 December 2020**. We will recommence publishing on **30/31 January 2021**.

Our Christmas Vigil and Day Masses
Please arrive 30 mins before Mass start.

Christmas Vigil: 24 December 2020

4.30 to 5.30 p.m. (School Mass)

6.30 to 7.30 p.m. (Youth Mass)

8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Please note all the Vigil Masses will be held at the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

11.45 p.m. Carols

12.00 a.m. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

8.00 a.m. Our Lady Queen of Peace, Normanhurst

9.30 a.m. Our Lady of the Rosary, Cathedral, Waitara

New Year's

9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara

Live streaming will take place at the Midnight Mass and 9.30 a.m. Mass.

Christmas Break From 28 December to the 26 January 2021

there will be **only one Daily Weekday Mass** at the **Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara at 9.30 a.m.**

During the holiday break live-streaming will take place only on the weekends.

Boxing Day 26-Dec-20 There will be **no morning Masses** at OLOR and QOP.

Vigils Mass for the day will still be on following the usual time i.e., 5 p.m. at OLOR and 5:30 p.m. at QOP.

As Christmas approaches, we have an Urgent Request for COVID Marshals (minimum 10 marshals per Mass):

Parishioners interested in helping as COVID Marshals for various Masses during Christmas and the weekends, please contact the Parish office, and we shall get back to you. Your help is a great gift to our community.

February 2021: We hopefully will be able to start our Masses at McQuion Park, so please be aware that our **Wednesday 9:30 a.m. & Sunday 11.00 a.m. Masses will discontinue at the Cathedral.**

Parish Gifting Tree

"Our journey to Bethlehem" during this time also invites you to reflect as a **"Community of faith" on our Parish Gifting Tree**. This is an opportunity, for each of us to stop and focus on what best way we can gift of our persons, for our personal growth, and that of our community, in whatever capacity we are in.

Let us ask ourselves, how can we best use our time, our talents and our treasures to be of greater and richer use. We are invited to open our hearts in prayer, and our hands in an act of commitment, so that our journey stands enriched when we carry the incarnated Lord on our travels.

On behalf of the Clergy of the Parish, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you in advance for considering this, and my prayer is for us to walk together in faith. Let us pray for the star of "Bethlehem" to guide us through.

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick, those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur during this time. May I request you to keep all those who are struck with the virus, those tested positive and those in isolation in your special prayers.

My Gratitude to those who are returning back to various Ministries: Given the circumstance surrounding the COVID pandemic, thank you for making the effort. I trust the Lord will be with you to keep you safe through these unprecedented times.

My Gratitude to those Parishioners who have come forward to clean up after our Masses during this time. Thank you for your untiring service to our parish community. We still need many hands to continue the good work, please feel free to support us. Shout-out to all those who donated cleaning products, your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated.

Bishop Anthony's Pastoral letter & Prayer Card : Please help yourselves with the copies located at the back of the Churches.

Sacrament of Penance is available on Saturdays from 9:00 to 9.30am at the Cathedral.

There will be no special evening for Reconciliation before Christmas.

If a Priest is needed in a matter of emergency, after hours or on the weekend, please call **0458 351 843**.