

PARISH BULLETIN, 6TH DECEMBER 2020

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH & ST JOHN FISHER MASS CTR

Under the Pastoral Care of the

Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)

VISION *The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community*

MISSION STATEMENT *We will live and proclaim the message of the Gospel :
Engage, Participate, Reach out and Transform*

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION 6TH DECEMBER

Spiritual writers speak of the journey that we must make to God. The point is valid but there is a danger that we may think that God is stationary somewhere and we must journey to him, that it's all up to us. No, our relationship with God is far more dynamic and God is always journeying towards us, searching for us, calling out to us by name as he did with Adam and Eve in the garden. The season of Advent prepares us to celebrate God's coming to us as a babe at Bethlehem and encourages us to look forward to Christ's final coming in glory. What we are called to do is to 'prepare a way for the Lord 'to come to us. And what is that way? Well, today's responsorial psalm says that 'justice shall march before him'. To prepare the way, we need to act with justice and promote justice, both in our personal lives and globally.

Today's first reading captures beautifully the longing of God to be united with us: 'He is like a shepherd leading his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast, and leading to their rest the mother ewes.' (Isa 40: 11) For a few moments imagine yourself being held in the loving arms of God and leaning against his breast. That is the kind of intimacy God desires with us. We pray: 'Lord help us to prepare a way for you to come to us. Help us to remove any barriers we create, whether consciously or unconsciously, that keep us from your loving embrace.

Reproduced from God's Word 2020: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield

We request for everyone to please wear a mask when they attend church for any Mass, religious service or prayer.

SUNDAY MASS 6 DECEMBER 2020 THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11

'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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 84:9-14

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

SECOND READING 2 PETER 3:8-14

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 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.

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

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.'

**Please join us as we livestream Mass every Saturday at 5pm on Facebook.
Please see the link below, don't forget to like and follow our Facebook page.
www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish**

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it is an irish honour.*



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**You must book in your attendance for our
CHRISTMAS MASSES**



**Advent Preparation
and
Christmas Mass
Times 2020**

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

1st Rite Reconciliation: St John Fisher Mass Ctr
19th Dec Following 5pm Mass and 20th Dec following
5pm Mass

2nd Rite Reconciliation: St Cecilia's Church
Wednesday 16th Dec 6pm

TRIDUUM MASS

St Cecilia's Church
21st, 22nd and 23rd
December 7pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020

**With limitations at Mass still in place, we kindly remind
you that you MUST RING to book in your attendance
for our CHRISTMAS MASSES at St Peter's College, St
Cecilia's Church and St John Fisher.**

**Please text or call Jo on 0424 763 734 to book your
attendance.**

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th Dec

St John Fisher

5.00pm Children's/family Mass
7.00pm Mass

St Peter's Catholic College

5.00pm Children's/family Mass

St Cecilia's Church

10.30pm Christmas Carols (listen and reflect)
11.00pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Friday 25th Dec

7.30am St Cecilia's Church
8.30am St John Fisher
9.30am St Cecilia's Church

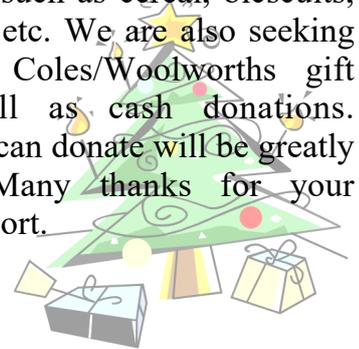
The Advent Wreath

The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. **Candles** symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. The purple candles suggest penance and fasting & perhaps a royal colour of the coming King. Pink is used as a colour of joy & expectation.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS APPEAL:**

Our Christmas appeal will be held over the next two weekends. Christmas hamper boxes will be located at the back of the Church for you to fill.

Each hamper needs tinned ham, Christmas Cake & pudding, custard as well as basics such as cereal, biscuits, pasta & sauce etc. We are also seeking donations of Coles/Woolworths gift cards as well as cash donations. Whatever you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks for your continued support.



Christmas Card & Calendars

Christmas cards and calendars are now available at the back of the church and after Mass at Tumbi. Cards are \$7 for a pack of 10 & calendars are \$10. Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul Society.

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To the Parishioners of Wyong Catholic Parish,

Thank you very much for welcoming me into the Parish over this past week. I have settled in well and feel at home, especially thanks to the hospitality of Fr Raul and Fr Alex (especially their cooking!). It's also been wonderful to meet, pray and worship at Mass with some of you. Developing relationships with Parishioners of the Diocese brings me great joy and is of great importance for the Diocesan Priesthood. So please don't hesitate to talk or meet with me. I want to be available and get to know you!

I also ask that you continue to pray for me during this time, especially that I may do Our Lord's will in all things while I'm here in the Parish. Please know that you are all in my prayers. God has placed a great desire in me to pray for His people and it brings me much consolation. So please let me know your intentions.

I am looking forward to getting to know more of you during this month.

God bless,
Shayne



*Birthdays
and*

Anniversaries

Best Wishes

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Murace 1/12/2011

Colleen Hughes 23/12/1930
(90 years)

Mary Kerry 19/12/

Warmest Congratulations

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan and Ian McCall
1/12/1962 (58 years)

Serge & Michelin Yardin
14/12/1970 (50 years)

RETURN AND EARN

From when we started collect-
ing recycled bottles in October
2019 **RETURN AND EARN**
HAS RAISED \$1448.30 TO
DATE.

100 CLUB WEEK 7 WINNERS

1st prize \$100 Vince & Frances

Allport no.145

2nd prize \$60 Sue Millar no. 92

3rd Prize \$40 Serge Yardin no.93

WEEK 8 WINNERS

1st prize \$100 Fred Crowe no.121

2nd prize \$60 Kevin Langby no.131

3rd Prize \$40 Charlie Conaty no.104

WEEKS 9

1st prize \$100

2nd prize \$60

3rd Prize \$40

WEEK 10

1st Prize \$450

2nd Prize \$250

3rd Prize \$150

4th Prize \$50.

9th draw is Sunday 8th Dec after
the 5pm Mass at St John Fisher.

Good luck!

Feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday 8th December
Please join us at the **8am**
Mass at St Cecilia's followed
by the recitation of the Rosary
or the **9.15am Mass at St**
John Fisher

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

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.

Christmas Stall
ST CECILIA'S CHURCH
On the 5th/6th December at
all Wyong Masses, Rae will
be running a Christmas Stall.
All money raised will be
going towards our Parish
Charitable Works quota.
There will be some wonderful
Christmas gift ideas and
stocking fillers.



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Vox Populi - The Voice of the People

This week we hear from newly ordained Deacon Sam French. Sam grew up in the Woy Woy Parish and is now serving at Pennant Hills Parish. He is the youngest member of the Clergy in Broken Bay.

He must increase...

By Deacon Sam French

This week, on the Second Sunday of Advent, the lectionary jumps back to the opening verses of Mark's Gospel, where we are introduced to Saint John the Baptist. Since I was a child, I've had a particular love for this ragged desert dwelling cousin of Jesus; I even chose him as my confirmation saint. While, I suppose, sainthood is not a competition, not too many among the 'Church Triumphant' can claim to have been called the "greatest among those born of women (Mt 11:11)" by Christ himself. So, if my bias towards John is a little obvious, I can safely say: Jesus started it.

I grew up as a parishioner of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Woy Woy and attended the parish primary school by the same name. I had the benefit of inspirational stories about John the Baptist's poverty, courage, and holiness drilled into my consciousness from day one of Kindergarten. I distinctly remember shouting the lyrics: "Fill every valley up, tear every mountain down, prepare the way of the Lord" in Miss Culmer's Year 2 class, and being taught that we can be more like John the Baptist if we prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts by being much quieter.

Saint John the Baptist is often called the "Forerunner of Christ" for obvious reasons, but this was truly the case in my own spiritual journey. I remember realising how important Jesus must be, if the guy my church and school was named after was "not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals." This was an early glimpse at the divinity of Christ and the humility of Saint John.

Saint John's humility is again captured perfectly in his quote about Jesus, the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). This has long been one of my favourite scripture passages, but it has taken on a new significance in light of my recent Ordination to the Diaconate. Even with only a few weeks of ministry under my belt, I've begun to see with clearer eyes the nature of my vocation. In order to increase Christ through my preaching and sacramental ministry, I must decrease by submitting my will to his. I'm discovering that the spirit of diaconal service is, in some sense, a zerosum game – it's either my will or his, I can't have both.

The poverty of John's camel cloak and locust lunch make more sense to me now. The more I seek distractions or comforts superfluous to my vocation, the more my ministry suffers. As each week passes, I'm finding new habits – in thought and action – that need pruning to make room for Jesus to work better through me. For example, I learned that a prayerful, well thought-out homily can't coexist with a Netflix binge. Fortunately for me, John also proclaims "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin" (Mk 1:4). Advent is a time of particularly focused spiritual preparation. I would encourage anyone reading this, regardless of your vocation, to take some time to reflect on the example of Saint John the Baptist, and ask his intercession to prepare the way of the Lord in your heart in these weeks leading up to Christmas.

In Christ,

Deacon Sam

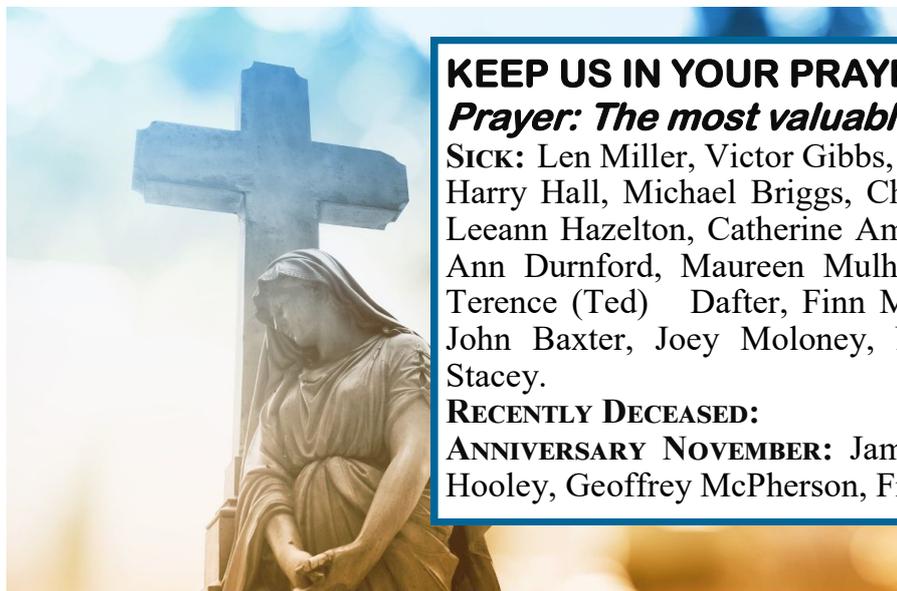
KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

SICK: Len Miller, Victor Gibbs, Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Leeann Hazelton, Catherine Amey, Bernadette Kiely, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Margaret Hobbs, Christine, John Baxter, Joey Moloney, Noel Muir, Cathryn Sharkey, Jacqui Stacey.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER: James Bastick, Bill Martin, Larry George Hooley, Geoffrey McPherson, Fr Barry Nobbs, Dionisio Gler,



WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES

St Cecilia's Church has a **limitation of 45 people per Mass**, we kindly remind you that you **MUST** RING to book in your attendance for our WEEKEND MASSES.

To book your attendance for the Weekend Masses please text or call Jo on 0424 763 734 during office hours.

UPDATED MASS TIMES FROM 3RD/4TH OCTOBER 2020

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH MASS TIMES LIMITATION OF 45 PEOPLE PER MASS

- Saturday Vigil Masses 5pm Sunday Masses 7.30am and 9.30am
- Weekday Mass times Monday to Saturday 8am

ST JOHN FISHER MASS TIMES LIMITATION OF 100 PEOPLE PER MASS

- Saturday Vigil Masses 5pm Sunday Masses 8.30am and 5.00pm
- Weekday Mass times Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8am and Tuesday, Friday 9.15am

Anointing Mass: We will not recommence Anointing Masses at this stage.

Group Meetings: We will not recommence group meeting at this stage.

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN COMING TO MASS THAT:

- If you have a temperature or a cold, please do not attend.
- You must sanitise your hands before entry into the church.
- **we requested for everyone to please wear a mask when they attend church for any Mass, religious service or prayer.**
- For Weekend/Weekday Masses you Must make sure you have your name and contact details recorded on the attendance sheet as you come into the church.
- Individuals (not families) are asked to respect the 1.5m distancing from each other obligation.
- Boxes for 1st and 2nd Collections are inside the church/mass ctr

Emergency Priest Contact

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099

Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest Fr Raul Balute, SOLT
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Assistant Priest Fr Alex Barnedo, SOLT
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Parish Coordinator Jo Helm ph: 0424 763 734
email: jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary Helen Bath ph:4352 1011

Parish Office 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

Office Hours: Mon to Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm
& Fri 9.30am to 12pm

Parish Email:

wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Website:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Parish Pastoral Council

email: wyongcatholicparishppc@yahoo.com.au

PPC Secretary; Kerry Bugden ph 4388 2938

Anointing of the Sick **First Friday of the Month and will recommence Feb 2021**

St Cecilia's During 8.00am & 11.30am Mass and
St John Fisher During 9.15am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration **from 1st December**

St Cecilia's Daily 7am-8am

St John Fisher 1st Friday 8.15 - 9.15am

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher (after the 8am mass)

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Fri after the 8am Mass

St John Fisher Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Fr Raul/Fr Alex and the Legion of Mary **visit Berkley Vale Nursing home** 3rd Wednesday of the Month

prayer groups

St Cecilia's Rosary Group 2pm Tuesdays

St Cecilia's Legion of Mary 8am Wednesdays

Meetings

St Cecilia's Choir practice

Liturgy meeting

Catechist Meeting

Parish Pastoral Council

Social Justice Meeting