

Diocese of Broken Bay Under the Pastoral Care of the Discalced Carmelites since 2008

17 December 2023, Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Mass Times:

Monday to Friday: 9am
Saturday: 9am, 6pm (vigil)
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm
Public Holidays: 9am
Rock Mass: Once a term

Baptism: Third Sunday of each month by appointment

Wedding: Contact Parish Office at least 6 months prior notice

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday: 8:30am

Anointing of Sick: 2nd Thursday of the month at 9am or by request

Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday 9:30 – 10am concluding with Benediction

Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am

Rosary: Immediately after weekday Mass and Saturday (8:35am)



**Every Monday
(during term time)**

Divine Will Prayer Group
10-11:30am - Hall

Second Wednesday of Every Month

Parish Catch Up Coffee Morning
Archies, St Ives Village 10:30am

**Every Friday
(during term time)**

Lectio Divina; Hall & Zoom 10am

Second Thursday of Every Month

Anointing of the Sick – 9am

First Friday of Every Month

Exposition/Adoration at 7pm
followed by Mass at 7:30pm

Tuesday 19 December

Rejoice! Advent Program 7pm in the **Church**

Wednesday 20 December

Christmas Choir rehearsals 7pm

Thursday 21 December

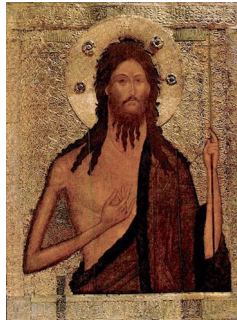
Parish reconciliation in preparation for Christmas 7-8pm

Saturday 23 December

Children's Christmas Nativity Rehearsal— 4pm in the Church

Friday 22 December

Parish Office closes for 3 weeks



**“A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.”
(Gospel)**

Dear Parishioners and visitors to the Parish,

Because John, the son of the priest Zechariah, baptises people in the Jordan River, the nickname ‘Baptist’ or ‘Baptiser’ is attached to his name. Bring the Fourth Gospel, he is primarily a ‘witness’, the first and the witness par excellence to Jesus.

What testimony does John give to the delegation consisting of priests and Levites who launch a formal inquiry against him? They ask him who he is and why he baptises. Rather than identifying himself, he formally states who he is not: ‘I am not the Christ’. Asked if he is Elijah, he responds: ‘I am not’. And asked if he is the Prophet like Moses, he answers: ‘No’. When pressed for his identity, he reveals himself as ‘a voice that cries in the wilderness’.

The voice acknowledges only that he baptises with water. But he goes on to say: ‘There stands among you - unknown to you - the one coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ John’s act of humility further enhances the honour of the one to whom he gives witness: Jesus of Nazareth. Here and in the following episodes, John testifies to Jesus as the Master, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, the Bridegroom. John does not only testify with words but also with deeds. And he witnesses to the very end, to the shedding of his blood.

On this Gaudete Sunday, when we are invited to rejoice always, we are reminded that the ‘works of Christmas’ focus on the joyful witnessing to Christ, the Saviour of the world, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. Our witnessing may not reach the point of shedding blood in martyrdom, but we are invited to ‘die to ourselves’ so that the life of Jesus may be made manifest through us in our humility and acts of love and service.

May God bless you.
Fr Greg Chee, OCD

CONTACT DETAILS

263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives
Phone: 9144 6998
Email: office@corpuschristi.com.au
In an emergency call 9144 6998
Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/stives

PARISH OFFICE TEAM

Fr Greg Chee, OCD, Parish Priest
Ed Wales, Parish Finance
Michelle Miles, Office Manager
Jennifer Perrott, Faith Facilitator
Gerri Hadwen, Sacramental Co-Ordinator
Christina Surjan, Administrative Assistant

HALL BOOKINGS

Michelle Miles / Christina Surjan
9144 6998

Corpus Christi Parish School
Phone: 7256 2114

17 Link Road, St Ives NSW 2075
Web: www.ccsidbb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Jayne Wheen
Email: ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

You can now find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiChurchStIves and Instagram www.instagram.com/CorpusChristiStIves

Corpus Christi Parish, St Ives
Christmas Mass Times 2023

Christmas Week
Parish Reconciliation, Thursday 21st December
 7-8:30pm

Sunday 24th December *
 Saturday Vigil; 8:00am & 10:00am
 * Sunday mass obligation

Christmas Eve Masses**
 5:00pm Family Mass / Pageant
 8:30pm carols in preparation for 9:00pm Mass

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December **
 8:00am, 10:00am (no evening Mass)
 ** Christmas Obligation

After Christmas
Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th December
 9:00am Morning Masses

Saturday 30th December 2023
 9:00am Mass, & 6:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 31st December 2023
 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:00pm Mass

Monday, 1st January 2024
 9:00am Morning Mass

263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives 2075 | Phone 9144 6998 or office@corpuschristi.com.au



PRESBYTERY FUNDRAISING

As you know our dedicated priests, who have served our congregation for many years, are in need of a new home. It is our turn to show our appreciation and gratitude by contributing to the renovation of the Parish Office to construct a new residence for the Carmelites. Your generous donations will not only provide a comfortable and secure living space for our priests, but also symbolize our collective commitment to sustaining the spiritual well-being of our community. Every contribution, no matter the size, will make a meaningful impact and help create a nurturing environment for our priests. Let us come together in unity to support the ones who have devoted their life to nurturing our faith and fostering a sense of belonging among us.

We would like to acknowledge and express gratitude for the parishioner donations that have been received in the past week in response to this appeal. A further \$28,000 has been received taking total parishioner fundraising towards the presbytery project to \$208,000. So the gap to reach the \$500,000 goal is now \$292,000. If you have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, then please consider making a donation today and further demonstrate the strength of our community through our shared generosity.

For every \$1 we raise for the presbytery the Diocese will give us 50 cents. So for every \$10 donated we will eventually receive \$15.

You can donate directly to our bank account as below:

Please reference: **New Presbytery Build** in your payment message. This will ensure that the entire amount will be used for the presbytery and the Parish won't be subject to Diocesan tax on these donations.

Account Names: St Ives Catholic Parish
 BSB: 062 784
 Account No: 100001798

Thank you for your generosity! Please note, any donations made are **NOT** tax deductible.

2023 RCIA GROUP



The 2023 RCIA group with their partners and our 3 priests celebrating with a Christmas dinner (we are halfway through the course). Please pray for them as they prepare to be welcomed into our church at Easter.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to the Elders past and present . We also wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal people.



Advent Reconciliation Service

Parish Advent Reconciliation

Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. One of the best ways to do this, among others, is to come to our Parish Reconciliation Service on

Thursday 21 December 2023 7-8pm

See you there!



Children's Nativity Rehearsals Family Christmas Eve Mass 5pm

A full rehearsal will be held on **Saturday 16th December at 4pm** in the Church for those who would like to participate as a main character in the Children's Christmas Mass and again on **Saturday 23rd December at 4pm** for one hour.

A final run through will also be held before the 5pm mass on **Sunday 24th December at 4pm**. For those that would like to join in on the fun, there are lots of roles for younger children who would like to participate. Please turn up dressed as an angel or shepherd at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, even if you have not attended prior rehearsals.

Parish Choir Rehearsals for Christmas



We are very close to Christmas now and you are all invited to come to the parish choir rehearsals in the church so that we will be ready to sing for the 9 pm Christmas Eve mass on Sunday 24th December. Even if you are not a regular attender of the choir we would love you to come along.

Our next rehearsal is on **Wednesday 20th December at 7 pm and Christmas Eve.....**

I know everyone is busy at this time of year and I am hoping you can stretch that little bit more to attend. Even if you cannot come to all the rehearsals you would be most welcome to attend when you can.



Prayer Zone

Anniversary: Robert Sanders

Please pray for the ill:

Michelle Fisher; Fr Sergio Chauira; Jessie Chang; Amy O'Connell; James Frederick Riley; Tom Brewer; Sylvia Fishburn; Nicolette Harris; Marshall O'Brien; Helen McCarthy; Quentin Stewart; Rob Sanders; Anne Jardane; Naomi Upton; Vanessa Park; Rebecca Davies; Grace Cheah; Elizabeth Walsh; Rebecca Anderson; Maria Garcia; Jose Mestres; Meacheal; Estelle Sok; Thi Nguyen; Carmel Hadley; Carmel Hurrell, Fergus O'Brien, Michelle Soumier, Gracie Spencer, Brendan Stone

If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let Michelle or Christina know.



Steve and Marijke Newnham from Cana would like to thank you for your wonderful generosity to Cana Communities, at the Market Stall on the 3rd of December.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For the Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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Contact: Matthew Johnson - 0418 767 150 or 9488 8200

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Monica Fletcher
0419 484 377

monicafletcher@bigpond.com



The Catenians

*Strengthening family life through
friendship and faith*

Catenians meet every month to pray together, to enjoy each others' company and to support their Clergy and Parishes.

For further information phone
President - John White 0439 851 910
Secretary - David Conoulty 0412 267 538

The Word

Sunday 17 December 2023, Third Sunday of Advent Year B

Collect

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *(R.)*
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. *(R.)*
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. *(R.)*

Second Reading

From the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thes 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to John Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.