

ST.ALOYSIUS GONZAGA Catholic Parish of Cronulla

Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena

Website: www.stalcron.org.au Tel: (02) 8522 0300. Email: admin@stalcron.org.au



Third Sunday of Advent ... Year B

GAUDETE SUNDAY ::: REJOICE! REJOICE!

Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 3

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

Responsorial:

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading:

Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: John 1: 6-8. 19- 28

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save us.

Rejoice:.....

Twenty seven years ago this month, at my first Mass as an ordained priest, I chose the Gospel according to Luke chapter 4 to proclaim. This passage tells us how Jesus started his public ministry. He went to the local synagogue and read a passage from the Book of Isaiah. The passage he read was the same as what we heard in the first reading today, where the prophet announces a new beginning of a world with justice and peace. This new beginning also speaks of God favouring the poor and the disadvantaged. Announcing the joy of this new world being realised was the beginning of the ministry of Jesus. As I was making a new start in my life by assuming a priest's vocation in the church, I chose this passage at my first Mass to sum up my joy and mission.



In today's Gospel John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the beginning of a new world, a world of justice and joy. The First Reading from the Book of Isaiah helps us understand the meaning of the new world our messiah has come to announce. Paul's letter to Thessalonians, from which was the second reading today, describes the mood of the people receiving this message. God is coming into our human story.

The Church's Liturgical Calendar calls this third Sunday of Advent 'Gaudete' meaning rejoicing. This name originated when Christians considered Advent as a time of penance and fasting in preparation for Christmas joy. Passing half-way mark in the time of penance and fasting was celebrated as a Sunday of rejoicing, 'Gaudete'. Now in Australia and in the western world this meaning is lost because in Advent people are busy celebrating Christmas with parties and gatherings. With Christmas day the celebrations closes rather than starting. Consumerism of the day has helped it.


The concept of joy is also different to many who celebrate Christmas. Greetings we use at this time of the year, "Merry Christmas" epitomises the meaning we give to Christmas joy. Making merry is seen as the best celebration of joy. We assume 'joy' and 'pleasure' has the same meaning. 'Pleasure' makes us focus on ourselves and what is happening to us; 'joy' on the other hand takes us out of ourselves. The scriptural meaning of rejoicing over God's coming to our history means reaching out to others providing hope.

The coming of God into our human story is the beginning of a new world of justice and outreach to the disadvantaged. It involves selfless giving of our time, talent, and money. Such a world would bring peace and joy.

The strong expression of joy of presenting Christ is a self-less feeling. Joy is something that is not directed inwards. It is an expression of goodness within a person and goes out as an infectious energy that lifts up those who experience it. Awareness of the people in need may not be helping you find pleasure, but it surely will help some more people rejoice and consequently you too will find more joy.

Congratulations To

Rocco Mafici and Patrick Hughes whom we welcome to our Catholic community. Through their Baptism we pray they will love and serve the Lord always.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER LEN

 This Tuesday, 13th December, Fr Len Wholohan will greet the day of his 89th Birthday. Congratulations Fr Len and thank you for your friendship with us.

Remember your Parish in your Will :.....
 To ensure your parish continue to grow, please consider a gift to your Parish in your Will. Contact the parish office for a representative of the parish to contact you, to discuss confidentially leaving a gift in your Will.



CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday:	The St Vincent de Paul Day Conference will meet in the Parish Centre at 10.00am.
Tuesday:	Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, martyr. The 55 and over Club: This group of seniors will gather in Thornton Hall at 10.00am for carpet bowls and other activities. Come along and join with them. The Legion of Mary meet in the Parish Centre at 4.00pm. Advent Program: This group will meet in the Chapel of St Aloysius' Church at 6.30pm
Wednesday:	Memorial of St John of the Cross, priest, doctor. Year 6 Graduation Mass at St Aloysius' Church at 9.30am. Care and Concern: There will be a Coffee Morning at the Coffee Shop at Monro Park Lane (All Welcome) 10.00am.
Thursday:	St Al's Kids Club Christmas Party in Thornton Hall at 3.30pm. The Finance Committee will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.
Friday:	The Youth Group will meet in Parish Centre at 6.30pm.
Saturday:	St Vincent de Paul Conferences packing Christmas Hampers in Thornton Hall all day.
Sunday:	Keep Holy the Sabbath Day

This Week in the Catholic Weekly

- **Marriage Act** - 'Let's not legislate for lesser good' says bishop
- We need to make the disabled welcome
- A visit to the place where Jesus was born
- Immigration department pulls rug from under student's feet.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

Saturday: Christmas Vigil: 6.00pm Family Mass. 8.00pm

Christmas Midnight Mass

Sunday: Christmas Dawn Mass. 8.00am.

Christmas Day Mass. 10.00am.

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena.

Sunday : Christmas Day. 9.00am

Calling all Shepherd's ,Angels and Wise Men.

We need you, Christmas Eve at the 6pm Family Vigil Mass. Please come along dressed for our beautiful Christmas Mass .We need Mary and Joseph and a Bay Jesus to complete our Christmas Celebration. Please be at the church 5.30pm Christmas Eve before Mass. Call Cathy at the office 85220300,all our children are warmly invited to attend this Mass with your family and be part of our Joyous Celebration.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION (Confession)

St Aloysius' Church, Cronulla:

Wednesday 21st December 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Thursday 22nd December 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena Prior to the 9.00am Mass

Sunday & Weekday Missals available from St Paul's Publications

Sunday Missal (complete edition) **\$39.95** publication 16th March 2012

Pre publication offer **\$27.25** plus gst

Sunday Missal-Gift Edition **\$49.95** publication 16th March 2012

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Weekday Missal (complete edition) **\$79.95** publication 1st June 2012

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Please send orders with payment before 16th December 2011

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NOT JUST A CUPPA, BUT A JUST CUPPA ::::



We are very sorry that the Fair Trade Tea and Coffee stall did not appear in the foyer of St Aloysius' Church last weekend. What happened is another story! BUT, THIS WEEKEND, it will appear once more and we hope the parishioners who are regular customers will buy their supplies as usual.

By your support in purchasing a packet of tea or coffee you are helping our Social Justice Ministry in their good work of endeavouring to obtain a fair price for the farmers in disadvantaged countries for their produce. Thank you for your support it is really appreciated.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2011 ::::

The St Vincent de Paul Conferences in our parish are grateful for your wonderful support to the Christmas Hamper Appeal. Each weekend over the past couple of weeks, the donation boxes in the church have been filled to overflowing. **NOW WE ARE PACKING AND DELIVERY DRIVERS ARE WANTED NEXT SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER , FROM 11.00am ONWARDS.** Volunteers are needed in Thornton Hall, to help with delivery of Christmas Hampers, packed with your generous donations.

AT LEAST 10 CARS WILL BE NEEDED WITH DRIVERS TO DELIVER THESE HAMPERS; Deliveries will be ready to start at 11.00am.

If you can spare an hour or so next Saturday morning, please come along to Thornton Hall and help with the packing... drivers, your car boots and willing hands will be most welcome. The more helpers we have, the quicker and easier the task will be. **WILL YOU BE A SANTA?**



Carols :::::

Not even the weather could dampen the spirit of the people gathered for Carols. Both primary Schools, various choirs of the parish, and a number of individuals made the evening a great time of celebration. The quality of singing was commendable. I thank the people who helped train the singing groups. A lot of organisation had gone into it. Cathy Sammut, Wayne and Michelle Staunton, Andrew Christoforidis were the leading organisers. The parish thanks them for a job well done.

..... Fr Thomas



Year of Grace 2012 :::::

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to you on behalf of all the Bishops of Australia, giving thanks to God for your faith and witness. We now share with you a message of hope.

We call the Catholic people in Australia to a **Year of Grace**, to span the time from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013. Like the disciples at the first Pentecost, we commit ourselves to **start afresh from Christ**. For several years the Bishops have been reflecting deeply on the life of the Church in Australia. We have asked how we can better serve the needs of you, God's faithful people, in bringing the peace and good news of Jesus Christ to our nation.

Pope Benedict XVI has also proclaimed a **Year of Faith** for the whole Church, to begin on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council.

We are confident that, with grace leading to faith, and faith responding to grace, the Year of Faith and our Year of Grace will complement each other.

We recognise, firstly, God's abundant blessings to us. You will know many of these in your own lives. We have seen them, too, in large public celebrations such as World Youth Day in Sydney and the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

We also acknowledge with sadness that we are a Church in need of healing. There are many wounds – most especially the wounds of abuse which have left not only those abused but the whole Church in need of healing. There is also the struggle to defend the dignity of the first Australians and those who come as migrants and refugees to our shores. We need to extend the hand of friendship to those of other nations and faiths and to be good stewards of the created world. Most deeply, we desire for the light of Christ to burn more brightly in the heart of each Australian.

As Bishops, we asked ourselves where we can turn with so many issues confronting us. Our response in faith is to **start afresh from Christ**. We make this call, firstly and most urgently, to ourselves as Bishops. We are resolved, in the words of Pope John Paul II, to **contemplate the face of Christ**. Both these phrases come from his Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte (At the Beginning of the New Millennium)*, and we use this Letter as our guide and inspiration.

As we address this challenge to ourselves, we invite you to walk this journey with us in hope. We commit ourselves to pray daily, seeking the mind and heart of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to repent for the areas in which we have failed, individually and together, seeking healing and renewal through the grace of Christ's forgiveness. We commit ourselves to the path of holiness, cultivating the many gifts of the Spirit and seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus.

We entrust this year to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through this renewed commitment, we are confident that the Church in Australia will be transformed by the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives. Planning has already begun in every diocese in the country, so that the Catholics of this nation may respond to this fresh invitation to "**contemplate the face of Christ**".

We invite you to join us in this journey of prayer so that this "Pentecost" year will be for our nation and all Australians truly a "year of grace".

Your brother in Christ,
Archbishop Philip E Wilson
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Laying of New Carpet in the Church

::::: Thanks to all Volunteers who helped to move the pews.

Parishioners will note that the new carpet has now been laid in the church.

However this could not have been achieved unless we had had a tremendous response (both young and not so young) to our requests over the last few weeks for volunteers to move the pews. In all there were five sessions required to carry out the movements, two for the chapel and three for the church.

On my behalf and on behalf of all of the parishioners, I would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteers for a job well done.

.....Fr. Thomas.

A year of favour for the Lord ::::

Every fifty years the people of Israel were commanded by God to celebrate a "Year of Jubilee", a year of favour for the Lord: "You will declare this fiftieth year to be sacred and proclaim the liberation of all the country's inhabitants. You will keep this as a jubilee: each of you will return to his ancestral property, each to his own clan" (Leviticus 25:10-12). God commanded this in ancient times so that his people would never forget all of the many blessings and favours he had shown to them over the ages. Interestingly, the Prophet Isaiah had written that during one of these 'Years of Jubilee', God would send his Anointed One to call his people back from their time of exile. This Anointed One, the Christ, would bring "Good News" to the people. The words "Good News" are translated quite literally as the word "gospel". This Good News would be a message of freedom for those who were oppressed by sin; a message of light in the darkness, and hope where there was despair.



The Gospel readings for the second and third Sundays of Advent (this Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent), speak of St. John the Baptist as the one sent to prepare the way of the Lord. He is a voice breaking the silence of the ages; he is the one who calls out for us to make ready, and straighten the paths that will lead us to encounter the Christ. St. John is an interesting character. He seems somewhat eccentric, when we read that he ate of wild honey and dressed in camel skins, and spent time in the wilderness. What are we to make of him?

When St. John announced the imminent coming of God's Anointed One, the religious leaders had questioned his authority to speak so boldly in God's name. They asked him bluntly, "Who are you?" and "What do you say about yourself?" We hear these questions asked by the Pharisees in today's Gospel. They wanted to know if he was really sent by God, and whether he claimed to be the Messiah, or one of the great prophets who was expected to return and announce the Messiah's arrival. St. John had no doubts and no mistaken identity about his call and mission. In all sincerity and truth he proclaimed that he was only a voice calling the people to prepare for the arrival of the Lord.

St. John the Baptist is an important Scriptural character, because he bridges and binds together the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who pointed the way to Jesus, and at the same time he is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs of the Lord. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people. John only saw from a distance what the Messiah had come to accomplish – ours and his redemption.

The season of Advent places the Church, we the people of God, within a similar time of preparation and repentance, as those who came to St. John for Baptism. We have just commenced again the Church's annual liturgical cycle, and hence during this current season we are like the many holy men and women of the Old Testament who longed for the coming of the Messiah. They longed to hear what WE hear; they longed to SEE what we see; they longed to ENCOUNTER the one who comes to encounter us. We are like those same people who were called by St. John to repent of our sins, and to recognise God's Anointed one in our midst. The question that we ponder in Advent (a word that means "coming"), is whether our hearts are free to welcome accept him.

..... Fr Andrew Benton.

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Enrolment: Monday 30th January, 2012.

10.00am to 7.00pm.

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE BURRANEER

Announces the Retirement of

Ms Celina Fernandez

After 40 years of dedication and service to the College.



All past and present students, parents and colleagues are invited to celebrate a teaching

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

THIS WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER AT

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH, CARINGBAH

AT 5.00pm

Followed by a light supper. Please RSVP for catering purposes. Phone: 9544 1966.

Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 17th & 18th December.

Masses Cronulla	Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm	8.00 am Sunday	10.00 am Sunday	6.00 pm Sunday	Bundeena Sunday 9.00am	Nursing Home
Acolyte & Adult Server	J O'Neill	R. Driscoll	B. Eaton	M. Sakowicz	R. Farrell M. Baldwin	
Communion Ministers	I. O'Neill G. Radford A. Hale B. Salmon	C. Coady F. Schembri R. Winton A. Cimino	K. Eaton M. Loxley R. Natoli R. McCabe	R. Melendez P. Morris L. Overton L. Ison		K. Eaton
Ministers of the WORD	B. Salmon, J. McDonald.	M. Hennessy R. Winton	B. Slamon K. Eaton	C. Melendez L. Wright	R. Watts C. Feldick	
Commentator	A. Hale.	M. Downes	M. Loxley	K. Berger	B. Maughan	
Junior Altar Servers					Church Work K. Plumer	
Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 4 B. McMahon, F. Yan, F. Schembri, S & T. Farrell.		Next Week Group 5 V & R. Buncombe, T. Buncimbe, K. Scarra		The Prayer Tree Can you please pray for someone who needs your prayers? Phone Jane on 9527 9964	

DIRECTORY

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SCHOOLS

St Aloysius Primary 9523 2593
 St. Francis de Sales Primary 9523 7323
 O.L.M.C Burraneer 9544 1966
 De La Salle, Caringbah 9524 9133
 De La Salle, Cronulla 85221500

Mass and other Liturgical Schedules**Sunday:**

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm. (Saturday). 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm
 Sunday Mass 9.00am**Weekdays: This week:**

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

Monday: 7.00am
 Tuesday to Friday: 7.00am
 Tuesday to Thursday: 9.30am
 Saturday: 8.00am
 Friday: 9.30am

St Francis de Sales School, Woolooware:

Sacrament of Penance (Confession) St Aloysius Church, Cronulla: Saturday 5.00pm to 5.30pm

(or by appointment)

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena:

Before Sunday Mass..

Baptisms: By appointment. **Morning Prayer:** Monday to Friday 6.45 am.,**Rosary:** After the weekday Mass**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction:** First Friday of the month: 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm.**Anointing of the Sick in Mass:** 1st Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, December. Mass at 10.00am

Anointing of the sick as required in the home or church. Please contact the Parish Centre.



We pray for the repose of the souls of William Noel Dwight, Diana Casaceli, Dominic, Jean & Jim Quinn, Jean Givney, Allan Howarth, Megan Howarth, Brian Small, Donald Hird, Alma Forrester, Witheriff and Williams Families

MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE

Your Contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your Parish. To become a regular contributor please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office or place it on the Sunday Collection Plate.

Planned Giving Envelope Request Form

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