



ST.ALOYSIUS GONZAGA Catholic Parish of Cronulla

Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena

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Fourth Sunday of Advent ... Year B

Prayer of the Church:
Psalter Week 4

Entrance Antiphon:

Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading:

Samuel 7: 1-5. 8-12. 14-16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Responsorial:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading:

Romans 16: 25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages now revealed.

Gospel Acclamation:

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done . ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Communion Antiphon:

The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and she shall call him Emmanuel.

Congratulations To

Tahlia, Sienna & Flynn McCormick,

Noah Mercuri, Sienna Beetge and Nina Patoprsta

whom we welcome to our Catholic community this weekend. Through their Baptism we pray they will love and serve the Lord always.



Say Yes and Be ready for Christmas :::::

Heroes in movies never surrender to anyone. And they become popular for not surrendering. Not many of such heroes are remembered beyond their time. But there are other heroes who are hardly popular during their life time, but become popular after their mission on earth is complete. Such heroes are remembered for ever.



Today's Gospel paints a picture of such a hero. It was a young woman, Mary, waiting for her wedding after a solemn engagement to a man. This young lady did not believe in sleeping around with men before marriage. This young chaste virgin was told she is pregnant. Hearing this news she naturally was 'panic-stricken'. She just did not know what it meant and what kind of troubles it would bring. Yet she said "yes" to the angel who announced to her "rejoice you highly favoured, the Lord is with you. You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus." Mary could only ask "how is it possible?" The angel's answer was "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of God will overshadow you". This assurance that what is to happen is a call from God was a satisfying answer for Mary. Therefore she bravely said, "Yes, I am the servant of God, let what you have said be done to me." It takes a tremendous courage to say what Mary said. In saying "Yes" Mary became the greatest hero in human history.

With those words, a spark of new life entered our world as deep within Mary's body, a baby began to form. With those words a new universe of obedience to God began. Those words are Mary's response to the call and promise of God. They represent willingness to believe what is not immediately apparent, readiness to be used in risky and even painful ways. They represent obedience and surrender.

Now the question is whether the 'annunciation' is something for Mary only or is there anything for us in it.

We may not have winged angels in our room, talking to us; but we do get God's call to difficult missions. Do we then have enough trust in God and courage to say "yes" to God's call?

Can we say "I am a servant of God" when we experience a change in our life such as assignment or job transfer? Can we say "I am a servant of God" when a spouse is afflicted with cancer or Alzheimer's disease? Can we say "I am a servant of God" when the family members have problems and turn to us constantly for help? Can we say "I am a servant of God" when the burdens of age starts to weaken our bodies? Can I say "I am a servant of God" when we have to carry the cross of addiction or burden of a mortal sin? Can I say "I am servant of God" when faced with unplanned pregnancy?

God's entrance into human life is in ways we can perceive, comprehend, and embrace. God comes to us through people, challenges, events, responsibilities and family. If we are ready to say "yes" and let God in our lives, we are ready for Christmas.

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.

We are supposed to preach without preaching not by words, but by our example, by our actions. All works of love are works of peace.Bl Teresa of Calcutta.





CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday:	The St Vincent de Paul Evening Conference will meet in the Madden Room at 7.30pm
Tuesday:	The Legion of Mary meet in the Madden Room at 4.00pm.
Wednesday:	Care and Concern: There will be a Coffee Morning at the Coffee Shop at Monro Park Lane (All Welcome) 10.00am. Christmas Reconciliation at St Aloysius' Church 7.00pm
Thursday:	Christmas Reconciliation at St Aloysius' Church 7.00pm
Friday:	No Notices
Saturday:	Mass at 8.00am then Christmas Vigil Masses. See notice page 3 of this Bulletin
Sunday:	Christmas Day Masses. See notice on this page.

This week in the Catholic Weekly :::

- New bishop 'at home' in diocese
- Christmas Carols 2011
- Govt 'must act now' on aged care funds crisis
- Great day if you're Irish: heritage move
- Christmas Mass times, Reconciliation

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

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

Christmas Midnight Mass

NEXT Sunday: Christmas Dawn Mass 8.00am
Christmas Day Mass 10.00am

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day.



Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena.

NEXT Sunday : Christmas Day. 9.00am

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION (Confession)

St Aloysius' Church, Cronulla:

THIS WEDNESDAY 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

THIS THURSDAY 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena.

Prior to the 9.00am Mass.

CALLING ALL SHEPHERD'S, ANGELS, AND WISE MEN

We need you for our Christmas Eve 6.00pm Family Mass

Please come along dressed accordingly for our beautiful Christmas Mass.



We need Mary and Joseph and a Baby Jesus to complete our Christmas Celebration. Please be at St Aloysius' Church at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve before Mass commences.



Phone Cathy at the Parish office 85220300. All our children are warmly invited to attend this Mass with their family and be part of our Joyous Celebration.

Fr Thomas Moving on :::::

By New Years day, 2012, I will be completing my term of six years in Cronulla. Cardinal Pell has asked me to take charge of Berala and South Auburn parishes for the next term.

Therefore I will be saying goodbye to Cronulla and moving on to Berala on the second week of the New Year to St Peter Chanel Parish. Berala is between Bankstown and Auburn parishes. South Auburn parish is next to it. Priests of both these parishes are retiring now. By going there, I am, in a way, going back to where I came from! Rev Dr Tom Carroll from Ashbury will be your new Parish Priest.

I have had a great time in Cronulla and made some very good friends. I have had plenty of appreciation for the Pastoral Ministry and Sacramental Ministry I could offer during my time here. I also had plenty of help and cooperation for all the works undertaken for the good of the parish. I thank you my friends and parishioners and God for all those good times and the good people.

I wish you a great time with Fr Tom Carroll in the New Year and thereafter.

.....Fr Thomas

Behold the Handmaid of the Lord :::::

Over the last two Sundays of Advent, the Gospel readings have focussed on the person of St. John the Baptist, who is proclaimed as the one sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. He is revealed as a voice in the wilderness, who calls to repentance and change of heart. He is recognised as the vital link between the Prophetic tradition of the Old Testament (the great Prophets sent by God over the ages), and the coming of the New Testament, John's teaching and martyrdom in witness to Christ.



Today is now the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and the feast of Christmas is only just around the corner. For this reason, the Gospel passage for today's Mass has a different focus. We reflect now upon the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary, that she would be the Mother of the Saviour. Mary is greeted by the Angel as "full of grace", and by this greeting we are reminded that our Lady was filled and enriched with a unique and profound holiness from the moment of her own conception. The message of the Angel disturbs Mary, not because of any reluctance on her part to accept the will of God, but in her puzzlement about how such a profound reality could come about.

And so Mary, who was united in heart and soul to God in all things, and through every moment of her life, consented to this great and marvellous plan of God coming about in her life. Perhaps Mary did not understand completely and fully what this would mean for her, and how exactly this mystery would impact upon her immediate future, but her trust and faith in God were profound enough to enable her to accept.

Mary was no passive figure, or victim of fate, or slave to circumstance. Our Lady freely and willingly accepted the plan of God in her life. Our Lady could have said no to this profound message, but it is to our joy and exaltation that she said "yes", *fiat*, I will, be it done.

During this time of Advent we reflect upon the reality of our salvation that was brought about through the faithfulness of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church has a beautiful wealth of prayers and devotions that allow us to focus upon the reality of the Incarnation (literally the "en-fleshment" of Christ). One of the most well known is the *Angelus*, which is traditionally said at different set times during the day (6am, 12pm and 6pm). However, it can be said at any time, with faith and love and the recognition of the beautiful and profound mystery that it conveys. I have included this prayer below for you to pray during this time of Advent, as a family or by yourself:

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary . . .

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary . . .

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

.....Fr Andrew Benton

New Deacon to Cronulla :::::

Sam Lynch was ordained a deacon, along with three others, last Saturday in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, by Cardinal Pell. He has been appointed to Cronulla to exercise his diaconate ministry till his priestly ordination here. The parish congratulates and welcomes him. Sam is not new to the parish, he spent some time with us as a seminarian last year.



Ministerial Duties Next Weekend - Christmas.

Masses Cronulla	Vigil & Midnight Masses Saturday	8.00 am Sunday Christmas Dawn Mass	10.00 am Sunday Christmas Day Mass	No Evening Mass	Bundeena Sunday 9.00am	Nursing Home
Acolyte & Adult Server	See Roster	V. Steed	K. Croxson	No Mass	K. Maughan R. Farrell	
Communion Ministers	See Roster	C. Coady R. Winton K. Hilder F. Schembri	A. Palumbo R. McCabe M. Loxley A. Zammit	No Mass		G.Casaceli
Ministers of the WORD	See Roster	J. Gallagher M. Hennessy	G. Hetherington M. Loxley	No Mass	M. Hills F. Waugh	
Commentator	See Roster	V. Rolland	A. Zammit	No Mass	J. Hills	
Junior Altar Servers					Church Work C. Nolan J. Leishman	
Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 5 V & R. Buncombe, T. Buncombe, K. Scarra.		Next Week Group 6 J. Lynch, C. Muirson, J & M. Bainbridge.		The Prayer Tree Can you please pray for someone who needs your prayers? Phone Jane on 9527 9964	

DIRECTORY

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SCHOOLS

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

Mass and other Liturgical Schedules See Christmas Masses Page 2

Sunday Christmas:

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla Vigil Mass: 6.00pm & 8.00 pm (Saturday). Midnight, 8.00am, 10.00am, **No Mass in the evening**

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena: Sunday Mass 9.00am

Weekdays: This week:

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla: Monday to Friday 7.00am
 Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am
 Saturday: **No Mass in the morning**

: **No Mass during School Holidays at St Francis de Sales School, Woolooware**

Sacrament of Penance (Confession) St Aloysius Church, Cronulla: See Christmas Reconciliation Times Page 2 (or by appointment)

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena: Before **Christmas Mass..**

Baptisms: By appointment. **Morning Prayer:** Monday to Friday: Before first Mass

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 **Fr Tom Fennell and Michael L. Taguibao** whose anniversaries occur around this time. Let us remember in our prayers our relatives and friends who have departed this life, especially Keith Hilder, George & Louise Jaconelli, Brian Small, Jean & Jim Quinn, Diana Casaceli, William Noel Dwight, Jean Givney, Allan Howarth, Megan Howarth, Ellen Reordan.

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

Name.....Telephone Number

Address