

# ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC PARISH OF CRONULLA

*Incorporating:* Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena & St John Fisher, Kurnell  
Website: [www.stalcron.org.au](http://www.stalcron.org.au) Tel: (02) 8522 0300. Email: [admin@stalcron.org.au](mailto:admin@stalcron.org.au)  
AS A COMMUNITY WE SERVE GOD

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

### Prayer of the Church:

#### Psalter Week 3

#### Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, come and save us.

#### Gospel Acclamation:

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

#### Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong  
and do not fear. Behold, our God  
will come, and he will save us.

#### Acknowledgement to Country

St Aloysius Catholic Parish  
acknowledges the Gweagal people of  
the Dharawal Nation as the traditional  
owners who have walked upon and  
cared for this land for thousands of  
years.

We acknowledge the continued deep  
spiritual attachment and relationship  
of Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Peoples to this country and  
commit ourselves in prayer and  
action to the ongoing journey of  
Reconciliation.

Could the parishioners with Planned  
Giving envelope number 596 please  
contact the Parish Office.

Please be aware that all relevant  
Archdiocese Policy, Protocols and  
guidelines for safeguarding children,  
are public documents and are  
available on the Sydney Archdiocese  
website.

### Reflection for Deacon Greg Alessi

Today the colour of the Priest's vestments has changed. The Priest doesn't wear violet but rose. It is a symbol of Joy, but what do we have to rejoice about?

The Gospel presents us with the rather odd figure of John the Baptist. The Lord proclaims that no greater man has been born. It's clear that John the Baptist has much to rejoice about. What entitles him to this great honour?

John the Baptist was on the edge. His diet and his dress sense were weird, his living environment less than desirable. These things mattered little to John. He was quite clear about his mission, and that was his sole focus. He was tasked with preparing the hearts of the people to receive the great joy of the Messiah. He preached to them a clear message of repentance, that they must turn away from sin so that they can recognise him when he comes. He gave them a baptism of repentance, a symbol of their liberation from the slavery of sin, which made them ready to greet their Redeemer. People flocked to him to listen and to be baptised. He fulfilled his task with great zeal and passion.

In today's gospel, he is making contact with the Lord from prison, for he has heard the Lord's actions. Even though John cannot see the Lord face to face, he is able to recognise him through the thick walls of a prison. The words conveyed to him by the Lord most certainly would make John rejoice.

Repentance is a huge problem for us today because it demands we examine every aspect of our lives. There are lots of areas where we are simply not ready for repenting. It's painful for us to break free from patterns of sin that seem to give us comfort and make us happy. We think we will miss them and suffer without them. There are lots of things in our lives that we don't want to admit are sinful, and sometimes when we look at the extent of our sinfulness we can become disheartened, and think that repentance is pointless. It is, however, necessary if we desire to receive our Saviour.

Reflecting on all these things over the last few weeks of Advent, we might be getting a little bogged down in it all. That's why the Church tells us to rejoice. There's no doubt that the gospel is demanding, but we have the great joy of God's grace and the fellowship of each other spurring us on to true repentance. We have the great comfort of God's mercy which means we don't need to languish in slavery to sin. We're right on the threshold of our complete happiness. We're on the very edge of true joy.

This Sunday reminds us that, like John the Baptist, we're on the edge. We need to edge our way closer to true repentance because that's where we find our joy. Our salvation is a work in progress. Let's continue through Advent to encourage each other in prayer both to repent and rejoice.



"We need to see each  
child as a gift to be  
welcomed, cherished and  
protected." Pope Francis



**First reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 ::::**

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10 ::::**

**R. Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10 ::::**

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 ::::**

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf

hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**St Vincent de Paul Society ::::**

Christmas cards (\$7 per packet) and calendars (\$8 each) are available in the church foyer. Please place money in the poor box or in the Catholic weekly tin.



Boxes for Christmas hamper items are now in the foyer. We gratefully accept in-date non-perishable items. These will be packed into hampers for families doing it tough in our community.

**Tap to Donate to the Christmas Offering Appeal**

Tap Donation Facilities are ready for use. All tap donations over the next 2 weekends and for the Christmas Masses will be for the Annual Christmas Offering Appeal. The Annual Appeal of the Archdiocese of Sydney assists clergy who are in ministries beyond the parish. They can sometimes be out of sight but should not be out of mind. This Appeal directly assists with their living expenses. It assists clergy who are chaplains to migrant communities, nursing homes and hospitals, clergy in special works, clergy undertaking further studies and clergy who are sick at this time. Thank you for generosity and support.

**Special Mass for New Years: Wednesday 1 January 10.30am**

Come and celebrate the beginning of the New Year at a civilized time of 10.30am on 1 January.

Catholic Cemeteries + Crematoria

Warmly invites you and your family to join us at our special

# Christmas

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

to remember those we have lost during 2019 and in past years

With music performed by Artes Christi

**St Mary's Cathedral**  
College St, Sydney

Sunday 15th December, 2019  
at 7.30pm

[www.catholiccemeteries.com.au](http://www.catholiccemeteries.com.au)

### Calendar and Activities for the Coming Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Parish Office closed. <b>St Vincent de Paul Day Conference:</b> 10.00am in the Parish Centre. <b>St Vincent de Paul Night Conference:</b> 7.30pm in the Chapel.
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Legion of Mary:</b> 3.30pm in the Parish Centre.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Funeral Mass for Kevin Burke:</b> 10.30am at St Aloysius.
<b>Thursday:</b>	No notice.
<b>Friday:</b>	No notice.
<b>Saturday:</b>	No notice.

### Weekday Mass Schedule and Offerings

#### Christmas Novena (17-24 December)

##### Tuesday 17 December

7am Mass (*for soul of Laurence Martin*)

9.15am Mass at **St Francis de sales School** (End of Year Mass)

##### Wednesday 18 December

7am Mass (*Mass intention for Brian Small*)

**NO 9.15am Mass TODAY**

10.30am—Funeral Mass for Kevin Burke

##### Thursday 19 December

**NO 7am Mass TODAY**

9.15am Mass (With OLMC and St Aloysius Staff)  
(*For soul of Fiona Seebacher*)

10.30am Mass (At De La Salle School Chapel - With Staff and Brothers. All Welcome)

##### Friday 20 December

8am Mass (At St Aloysius Church)

(*For soul of Noel Staines*)

##### Saturday 21 December

8.00am Mass (*Mass for soul of William Dwight*)

##### Tuesday 24 December

8.00am Mass (*For soul of Reginal Buncombe*)

**Weekday Masses during the Holiday Period will be at 8am (Tuesday to Saturday) in the Chapel Space.**

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### Christmas Eve

**5pm Children's Mass (Cronulla)**

**6pm Stella Maris Aged Care (Cronulla)**

**6.30pm St John Fisher (Kurnell)**

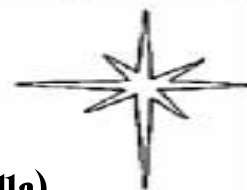
**8pm (Cronulla)**

**Midnight (Cronulla)**

### Christmas Day

**9.15am (Cronulla)**

**9.00am Our Lady of the Way (Bundeena)**



#### Rosary Bead Makers Guild ::::

Our ministry in the Church has been running since August 2008 (11 years). We have 12 active members who meet every 2nd Wednesday at the Parish Centre for our meetings. Last week, 1900 rosary beads were boxed and given to Mother Teresa Nun's (Missionaries of Charity) in Surry Hills, to be distributed to other Mother Houses, Worldwide. (We make Mission Beads) along with a beautiful hamper and a very generous donation (by one of our members).

Thank you members for your generous dedicated work you effortlessly give to the Guild. It is so greatly appreciated. During the year, Rosary Beads (through Catechists) have been given to children in State Schools, along with beads to the sick etc. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas. Best wishes for 2020.

Carol Stuart (President.)

#### St Aloysius Social Justice Group :::: "*Friendship across the Sea in Action*" **HatoUdo, Timor Leste, Education Scholarships**

This weekend the SJG will have **FAIRTRADE** chocolates on sale to support our **High School Education Scholarships** for young people in HatoUdo. Your support is much appreciated. We can assure you all the funds raised through the sale of the chocolates assists third world farmers, the scholarship recipients and some support for the HatoUdo bakery project.

We are pleased to inform you that the Bakery is now in operation and supplying bread to the local villagers. Thanks for the support many of you have given this special project.

#### This week in the Catholic Weekly ::::

- \* WA death squad
- \* A blessing for Westconnex
- \* Medevac move slammed
- \* Sheen beatification called off
- \* Movie review: *The Two Popes*
- \* A home for the homeless

**Still the best Sunday Paper**





#### Piety Stall ::::

Our St Aloysius Piety Stall has now new goods for Christmas, Communion, Confirmation & Baptisms, also cards for all occasions. By purchasing our goods you are helping the organisation in our Parish.

#### Sacramental Program and Dates for 2020

Fr James has prepared a letter for all parents about the upcoming sacramental programs for 2020. The letter has been distributed through the schools and is also available on the parish website.

Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 21st and 22nd December							DIRECTORY	
<b>Masses Cronulla</b>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday 5.00pm</b>	<b>8.00 am Sunday</b>	<b>10.00 am Sunday</b>	<b>6.00 pm Sunday</b>	<b>Bundeena Sunday 9.00am</b>	<b>Nursing Home</b>	Pastor..... Rev James McCarthy Email..... james.mccarthy@sydneycatholic.org Permanent Deacon..... Deacon Greg Alessi Seminarian .....Mark Anderson Pastoral Associate.....Mrs Cathy Sammut Email ..... pastoral@stalcron.org.au Secretary .....Mrs Kim Plummer Youth Minister ..... Miss Anna Sammut Email.....anna@stalcron.org.au Parish Centre .....18 Giddings Ave CRONULLA 2230 Office Hours ..... 8.30 am to 4.00 pm Tuesday to Friday Phone .....8522 0300 Fax.....9544 1451 Email..... admin@stalcron.org.au Website ..... www.stalcron.org.au	
Acolyte and Senior Servers							Carolyn E.	
Extraordinary Communion Ministers	M. Remedios M. Boyd K. Eaton N. Azar	G. Durante J. Cullerton L. Tesoriero A. Tesoriero	K. Vitenov F. O'Driscoll M. Sakowicz B. Slamon	G. Stratton L. Overton P. Morris R. Driscoll				
Ministers Of the Word	K. Eaton D. Smith	G. Durante E. Molloy	F. O'Driscoll K. Vitenov	I. Williams L. Overton	B. Shanahan M. Hills			
Prayer of the Faithful	A. Stempniak	J. Cullerton	S. Schembri	V. Ohis	C. Tiffney			
Children's Liturgy					<b>Church Work</b> Kerry		 St Aloysius Parish Cronulla	
Cleaning (Saturday)	G. Vitano K. Gothard						<b>SCHOOLS</b> 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 .....8522 1500	
Parish Counting Groups	<b>This Week Group 3</b> A. Wagner, J. & M. Bainbridge, J. Lynch		<b>Next Week Group 4</b> M. & S. Barlow, G. Newcombe, J. Small, M. Remedios, B. de Souza					

### Mass and other Liturgical Schedules (Regular Schedule)

#### Sunday:

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla **Vigil Mass:** Saturday 5.00pm. **Sunday Masses:** 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm  
 Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena: **Sunday Mass:** 9am

**Weekday Masses :** St Aloysius Church, Cronulla: **Monday: (No Mass)**

**Mass Tuesday, Wednesday : 7am & 9.15am**

**Thursday: 7am (Cronulla only)**

**9.15am (At St Francis de Sales during School Terms and St Aloysius during Holidays)**

**Friday: 8.15am (At De La Salle Cronulla during Term IV and St Aloysius during Holidays)**

**Mass Saturday: 8.00am (10.30am Anointing Mass on 1st Saturday of every 2nd month)**

**Weekday Masses at Stella Maris Aged Care Chapel—Coast Rd, Cronulla - 11.15am on Wednesday and Friday.**

**Sacrament of Penance (Confession) St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:** Sat 4.15pm (or on request)

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

**Baptisms:** By appointment. **Rosary:** After the weekday Mass.

**Anointing of the Sick in Mass:** 10.30am on 1st Saturday of every 2nd month—next Mass on 7 December



We pray for **Madge Mulvey, Laurence Martin, Patricia Crowley, Rosemarie Watts, Eric Lindsell, Moya O'Brien** and **Ester Mariano** who died recently. We pray for **Joseph Casaceli, Reginald Buncombe, Noel Staines, Fiona Seebacher** and **Fr Tom Fennell** whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Let us also remember our relatives and friends who have departed this life, especially **Brian Small, Gordon O'Donnell, Luke O'Donnell, Mick McMahon, Thelma & Ron Stannard, Harold Newcombe, Joseph Anthony Casaceli, Jim Downes, Helen Forbes, Mary Mullins** and her sisters **Monica and Julia, Jean & Jim Quinn, Paul & Jean Givney, Allan & Laurel Howarth** and **Megan Howarth**.

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



## Friendship across the sea

The St Aloysius Parish Community Cronulla  
 linked in friendship with  
 St Joseph Parish Hato Udo Timor Leste

