



ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC PARISH OF CRONULLA

Vol 44 No 11
1.12.19

Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena & St John Fisher, Kurnell
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AS A COMMUNITY WE SERVE GOD



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 1

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be
put to shame. Nor let my enemies
exult over me; and let none who
hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of
the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us
your mercy and love, and grant us
your salvation. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its
increase.

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.

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.

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



Reflection for our Parish Priest

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the 'Sunday of Hope.' The "end of the world" is the theme for this weekend, and it connects with the themes from the Sundays in November.

Advent is a time of serious preparation for the coming of Christ. But it's about far more than preparing to celebrate Christmas with trees, cakes, tinsel and lights. In the midst of the busyness of preparing to celebrate Christmas, the Church calls us to prepare to celebrate the Mass of Christ, for that is what Christmas is. The Mass of Christ is the eternal banquet which occurs in Heaven. That is what we are called to prepare for. The Mass of Christ!

December is a month when we do a lot of shopping, a lot of eating and most people give and receive gifts to those they love and even sometimes to those we don't even know. But how often do people think about giving a gift to Jesus for his birthday, for that is what we actually celebrate at Christmas. Jesus desires that we give him the greatest gift possible— the gift of our very lives, but often Jesus can easily be overlooked. Jesus asks us and wants us to love him, to serve him and to build his kingdom.

In some cultures, people do not give gifts to the birthday boy or girl, but rather the person whose birthday it is, gives gifts to all his or her friends. It is the same with God. God wants to grace us, bless us and give himself to us at Christmas. Jesus gave himself to us at the last Supper and on the cross, but his blessings extend beyond the pages of the Scriptures. God is blessing us through our encounters with people in our world, he is in our lives every day, he is present when we celebrate the Eucharist and when we receive his body and blood in holy communion.

The consistent warning in today's gospel is that we should be prepared for the coming of the master – that we need to stay awake. The Gospel tells us that the end will not happen with earthquakes and destruction, but the end will occur when things seem peaceful and normal. In the security and peace of day to day life, it is easy to forget that we need God, that we need a Saviour and that we need a protector.

Many people today turn towards God only in difficult times – such as natural disasters and illnesses. But God is not a God only for difficult times. God desires a daily relationship and friendship with each person. It is precisely when everything is good that we need to turn to God.

In a reference to the story of Noah, today's Gospel tells us that the people were too concerned with eating and drinking, with too much emphasis on the normal cares and necessities of life. In many ways we can be the same at Christmas. But Jesus reminds us that there is something more important than feasts: Christ is telling us about eternal life and that we need to be prepared for this eternal life today.

Christ is not saying that we should not eat, drink or have fun, but he is saying that we need to be prepared to attend an even greater feast than the parties we attend over the next 4 weeks - we need to be prepared to attend the Party, the Banquet of Eternal life – Christ's Mass.



**First reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 ::::**

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9 ::::

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **R.**

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14 ::::

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 ::::

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.'

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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

Advent Program - Begins this coming Tuesday at 6pm

There will be a 3 week Advent Program commencing on Tuesday 3rd December at 6pm in the Chapel. Sessions will run for about an hour and will include reflection on the Gospels of Advent and Prayer. There is no cost involved except your time. Please call Vicki Rolland on 0414523449 if you require further details. All Welcome.

St Aloysius Social Justice Group: Invitation to interested parishioners to our Planning Session for 2020—This coming Thursday 5 December 4pm to 5.30pm in the Parish Centre.

The purpose of the Planning session is to identify outcomes for next year and enable us to focus our resources (human) to maximise our efforts. We have a guest facilitator for the planning session. We are conscious of time constraints and will start and finish on time.

Where: Meeting Room in St Aloysius Parish Centre.

If you are unable to attend, written suggestions or submissions are welcome. Please send to parish office or email admin@stalcron.org.au

Welcome to Mark Anderson!

Mark Anderson is a 5th Year seminarian at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, who is on the journey towards priesthood. He has been assigned to the Parish for an extended experience over the next 9 months. Please make him feel welcome and encourage him in his ministry and service within our community.

Friday Morning Masses return to St Aloysius Cronulla

The last Mass on Friday at De La Salle College Cronulla Chapel for 2019 will be Friday 6 December.

Mass on Friday 13 December will be at 9.30am at St Aloysius for the De La Salle End of Year Mass.

Masses from 20 December until end of January 2020 will be continue at 8.15am in the Chapel at St Aloysius.

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.

Diaconate Ordination of Roberto Keryakos

Sunday 15 December, 2pm at St Raphael's, South Hurstville.

Roberto undertook an extended placement as a seminarian at Cronulla in 2017 and is well known and loved in our community.

Calendar and Activities for the Coming Week

Monday:	Parish Office closed. St Vincent de Paul Day Conference: 10.00am in the Parish Centre.
Tuesday:	Funeral for Rosemarie Watts: 1.00pm at Bundeena Church. Legion of Mary: 3.30pm in the Parish Centre. Advent Program: 6pm—Chapel
Wednesday:	Playgroup: 10.00am at Thornton Hall. Rosary Guild: 12.30pm in Parish Centre.
Thursday:	Social Justice Group meeting: 4.00pm in the Parish Centre.
Friday:	No notice.
Saturday:	Anointing Mass: 10.30am at St Aloysius (NO 8am Mass).

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)



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS AT CRONULLA

Thank you to everyone who assisted in helping with preparing and decorating the Church for Christmas this year. Many of the lights that have been put up have been from previous years and were in parish storage. Thank you also to the generous additional donations that have been received by the Parish of the Glowing Angel and other additional lights that were donated from those who discovered they had too many lights at home. Thank you also to the various electricians who donated their time to install and help prepare for the lights. The lights have not been an additional expense to the parish. Thank you also for the donation towards the Christmas trees and wreaths in the Church. May the joy of Christmas be felt in every person this year. Let us pray that many people will think about what Christmas is really about when they look at the Church over the next few weeks. Let us bring Joy to the World!

Tap to Donate to Help Bushfires and Drought Relief over next 2 weeks

From today, Tap Donation Facilities are ready for use at Cronulla. For the first two weeks of Advent, all tap donations will be directed to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund, specifically helping communities impacted by drought and/or bushfires. Please consider trying out the tap facility this week to help those who are struggling most at this time in our State.

Tap Donations are Operational in Cronulla from this weekend

Cash transactions could become a distant memory by 2026, according to predictions from experts. Survey data from the Reserve Bank of Australia indicates that the percentage of cash payments in Australia has plummeted from 69 per cent in 2007 to below 30 per cent in 2018. Government and business are planning for a cashless society by 2026, and the Parish, which has historically relied upon cash donations, is beginning to offer alternatives.



The Parish Finance Committee has decided to recommend installing **tap & go donation facilities**, as an additional option to donate. These will be located at the entrance foyer to the Church at Cronulla and will initially be used as an aid for special collections and special project giving.

No tax deductions will be available for tap donations. They are self-serve facilities, which fully encrypt the credit card data. No receipt or reimbursement is possible, although the transaction will appear on your credit card statement.

The facilities are initially set at \$5 and \$10. If you want to give more than these amounts, then you are welcome to tap more times for more transactions.

The facility will accept Mastercard and VISA. There are no individual transaction fees. **The facilities will not replace regular collections, envelopes, credit card giving or other methods** which can facilitate tax deductible giving. The implementation of Tap&Go is not designed as a method to increase giving, but simply to assist giving for those not carrying cash.

Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 7th and 8th December

Masses Cronulla	Vigil Mass Saturday 5.00pm	8.00 am Sunday	10.00 am Sunday	6.00 pm Sunday	Bundeena Sunday 9.00am	Nursing Home
Acolyte and Senior Servers						Kathy V.
Extraordinary Communion Ministers	N. Azar M. Remedios I. O'Neill	F. Schembri G. Durante C. Coady R. Winton	K. Croxson K. Vitenov F. O'Driscoll B. Slamon	P. Morris R. Driscoll M. Awad L. Overton		
Ministers Of the Word	A. Stempniak N. Azar	F. Schembri J. Turnbull	F. O'Driscoll R. McCabe	M. Awad L. Brbot	B. Maughan F. Waugh	
Prayer of the Faithful	C. Henry	G. Durante	B. Slamon	D. DeSouza	C. Toutounji	
Children's Liturgy					Church Work Brenda	
Cleaning (Saturday)	B. Potter A. Woodhouse					
Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 1 L. Overton, M. Staunton, C. & M. Sammut		Next Week Group 2 J. & A. Palumbo, K. & C. Scarra			

DIRECTORY

Pastor..... Rev James McCarthy
 Email..... james.mccarthy@sydneycatholic.org
 Permanent Deacon..... Deacon Greg Alessi
 SeminarianMark Anderson
 Pastoral Associate.....Mrs Cathy Sammut
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St Aloysius Parish Cronulla

SCHOOLS

St Aloysius Primary 9523 2593
 St Francis de Sales Primary9523 7323
 O.L.M.C. Burraneer 9544 1966
 De La Salle, Caringbah9524 9133
 De La Salle, Cronulla8522 1500

Mass and other Liturgical Schedules**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 **Rosemarie Watts, Eric Lindsell, Moya O'Brien and Ester Mariano** who died recently. We pray for **Joseph Casaceli** whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Let us also remember our relatives and friends who have departed this life, especially Gianni Cevasco, 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

