

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC PARISH OF CRONULLA

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

Vol 44 No 12
8.12.19



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 2

Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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.

Congratulations To

Joseph Vuletie, Peach & Soleil Lennox whom we welcome to our Catholic community this weekend. Through their Baptisms we pray they may love and serve the Lord always.

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 from our Parish Priest

Prepare the Way for the Lord with Repentance, Conversion and Renewal

This weekend's Gospel introduces us to St John the Baptist. St John confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees (different religious and political groups in Israel 2000 years ago) and urges them to reform their lives so as to recognize and accept the Messiah. The urgency to reform is as relevant today as it was at the time of Jesus. John's preaching involved a call to repentance, conversion and renewal, so that people would be able to understand, accept and comprehend Jesus Christ. Very often many people think they understand who Jesus is, but it can be easy to be misguided if we don't follow the instructions of John. John the Baptist told the people of his time - who were filled with the expectation that the Messiah was near - to act with justice and charity. He called them to be transformed so that they would be ready to receive the Messiah when he came. In the same way, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, John advises us to "prepare the way of the Lord."

But how do we prepare for the kingdom of heaven, the way of the Lord, and for the birthday of our Saviour?

Preparing with Repentance "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.*" (Matthew 3:2): When John the Baptist was preaching, there had been no prophet in Israel for four hundred years, but the people had no hesitation in accepting John as a prophet because he was like a burning flame summoning people to goodness. He was a signpost that pointed humanity towards God.

John's message was not soothing, and in fact his message was harsh and disruptive. It cut into the very hearts of humanity. John denounced evil wherever he found it. He accused Herod of loose moral life (Matt 14:4), addressed the Scribes and the Pharisees as "broods of vipers" and summoned people to righteousness. Sometimes the message of Christ can offend people because the good news calls people to acknowledge that our previous ways were imperfect. Repentance involves turning around and facing in a new direction. Repentance for us is not a one-time action but we are called to repent of our failings every day, because preparing for the Lord is an ongoing task.

Preparing with Changing our Attitude: St John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look at ourselves. Obeying the commandments and the beatitudes is a good start, but we also need to examine our relationships. We are called to mend divisions and conflicts, face family responsibilities, work honestly, help those less fortunate and treat everyone justly. John's voice is sober and runs counter to the intoxicating voices around us today. He calls for integrity and social consciousness. As Christians, we abandon our selfish thirst for excessive consumption of food and drink, and instead we put in our priorities and focus on the simple humble expectation of Jesus' coming.

Preparing by Staying Alert to the Presence of God: An Advent project is to be alert and watchful in the spirit of today's gospel. Every morning when waking up, pray, "*Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness.*" St Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Whatever you do in your family, for your children, your husband or your wife, you do for Jesus." Every night when going to bed, ask yourself, "Where have I found Jesus today?" The answer will be God's Advent gift for you that day. By being alert, repentant and open to change, we can all be ready to receive the living Christ at Christmas.



**First reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 ::::**

He judges the poor with justice.

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

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 ::::

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9 ::::

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that

God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 ::::

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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)



Calendar and Activities for the Coming Week

Monday:	Parish Office closed. St Vincent de Paul Day Conference: 10.00am in the Parish Centre.
Tuesday:	Legion of Mary: 3.30pm in the Parish Centre.
Wednesday:	St Aloysius End of Year School Mass: 9:15am. Playgroup: 10.00am at Thornton Hall.
Thursday:	No notice.
Friday:	De La Sale Cronulla End of School Mass: 9:30am at St Aloysius (NO 8:15am Mass at De La Cronulla).
Saturday:	No notice.

Friday Morning Masses return to St Aloysius Cronulla ::::

Mass on Friday 13 December will be at 9.30am at St Aloysius for the De La Salle End of Year Mass with no 8.15am. Masses from 20 December until end of January 2020 will return to 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.

Tap to Donate to Help Bushfires and Drought Relief

Tap Donation Facilities are ready for use. 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 bushfires. Last week we raised \$455. This will be matched through a partnership one of our parishioners has with a corporate partner. Please consider trying the tap facility this week to help those struggling in our State.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

Students from St Aloysius and De La Salle Cronulla joined Fr James to get the real meaning of Christmas up and running at our parish church. Audrey, Harrison and Harriet worked hard to assemble the crib and arrange the nativity scene. The stable was built and painted by De La Salle students in 2016 and the historic plaster statues have been in the parish for as long as anyone can remember. The parish has long established links with the school communities and we have been very lucky to have Fr James work with students and teachers in classrooms, on retreat and now by saying weekly Mass at De La Salle's new chapel on Friday mornings. Christmas is an exciting time at the schools and in the parish as students engage in projects like the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.



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

Welcome to our New Seminarian—Mark Anderson

My name is Mark Anderson and I am a seminarian for the Sydney Archdiocese. A seminarian is a man who is in the process of formation for the priesthood, which means, if it is God's will, I shall be a priest in a few years—just like Father James. The process of formation takes about seven years and I am presently beginning my fifth year.


God has been generous to me and I have the great pleasure of having been assigned to St. Aloysius for a 'pastoral placement' from now until June 2020. During a pastoral placement, the seminarian lives and experiences life in the parish to further assist him in discerning whether God is indeed calling him to the priesthood, and to gain exposure to elements of the life he will potentially lead as a priest.

I grew up in Engadine going to school at St. John Bosco, and to De La Salle Cronulla for years 11-12. I then worked as an electrician for many years, spending eight of those in the mining industry in Western Australia—typically working in very remote desert locations. As I told a parishioner earlier this week, I recall an evening where I opened the door to my room and to my surprise was confronted by what I thought was a very large, angry-looking camel standing there. I stayed inside. I often think of that time I spent in the mines, isolated from the regular rhythm of life as a sort of monastic experience that God gave me in anticipation of a priestly vocation.

I am very grateful for the warm welcome I have received from so many, and also to Father James who has generously put himself out and invited me here. I look forward to the months ahead and will make it a point to remember specifically this parish and its members in my personal prayer intentions throughout this time.


Your brother in Christ, Mark Anderson



Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 14th and 15th 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						Frank
Extraordinary Communion Ministers	B. Salmon I. O'Neill M. Remedios	P. Elwin D. Harden L. Oliver M. Hennessy	M. Sakowicz B. Slamon K. Vitenov K. Croxson	I. Ison G. Durante L. Ison P. Morris		
Ministers Of the Word	M. Ball C. Iannelli	D. Harden L. Oliver	K. Vitenov K. Croxson	J. Wright C. Snow	M. Turner C. Toutounji	
Prayer of the Faithful	M. O'Connor	P. Elwin	S. Schembri	I. Erceg	P. Livesey	
Children's Liturgy					Church Work Sandra / Bernard	
Cleaning (Saturday)	S. O'Neill					
Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 2 J. & A. Palumbo, K. & C. Scarra		Next Week Group 3 A. Wagner, J. & M. Bainbridge, J. Lynch			

DIRECTORY

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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 **Laurence Martin, Patricia Crowley, Rosemarie Watts, Eric Lindsell, Moya O'Brien and Ester Mariano** who died recently. We pray for **Joseph Casaceli and Patrick De Souza** 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

