



SAINT FIACRE AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Parish

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NSW 2040

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ST FIACRE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Phone: (02) 9560 2225

Email: info@stfleichhardt.catholic.edu.au

Bring people closer to Jesus Christ and His Holy Church through Mother Mary, by proclaiming the Good News (*Mission*), forming the family of God (*Community*), and changing lives in Christ (*Renewal*).

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B - SUNDAY, 06 DECEMBER 2020

Welcome to St Fiacre's Parish

Children's Liturgy Matters

This week, we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. The exclamations of John the Baptist in the Gospel today should inspire us to repent and transform our lives, in preparing ourselves for the Lord's coming. In line with this idealism, I would like to invite you to focus on the development of faith for our children.

I can see the urgency of Children's Liturgy. Every time I celebrate Holy Mass at 9:30 AM on Sundays, there are always some children (and more to come) staying with their parents, faithfully and lovingly. However, **apart from the Mass, I think they also need another creativity that is suitable for their age.** In this case, Children's Liturgy plays an important role, and we need to start it soon.

Therefore, I invite you to help our Parish in this matter. I intend to form a Children's Liturgy team, consists of adults (males and/or females) and parents, whose job is simple: **cares and guiding the little ones in our Parish on Sunday mornings (9:30 AM).** The only requirement I need is that you have already a Working with Children (WWC) check. However, even if you don't have it yet but open for this call, our Parish can help you. Therefore, if you do care about the future of our Church and want to help, please contact me or ring the Parish Office: (02) 9518 0650. Thank you for your great supports! – Fr Pio.

Christmas Masses & Confessions

THURSDAY, 24 DECEMBER

- ➔ 06:30 PM Confession
- ➔ 07:00 PM Christmas Carols
- ➔ 07:30 PM Christmas Vigil
- ➔ 11:00 PM Confession
- ➔ 12:00 AM Christmas Midnight (*Italian*)

FRIDAY, 25 DECEMBER

- ➔ 08:00 AM Christmas Day (*at Lilyfield*)
- ➔ 09:30 AM Christmas Day
- ➔ 11:00 AM Christmas Day (*Italian*)

SATURDAY, 26 DECEMBER

- ➔ 07:00 AM Morning Mass: St Stephen
- ➔ 04:45 PM Confession
- ➔ 05:30 PM Vigil Mass: Holy Family

SUNDAY, 27 DECEMBER

- ➔ 08:00 AM Sunday Mass (*at Lilyfield*)
- ➔ 09:30 AM Sunday Mass: Holy Family
- ➔ 11:00 AM Sunday Mass (*Italian*)
- ➔ 04:00 PM Adoration & Installation Mass for the new coordinators of CYA

Liturgy & Devotional Timetable

- ❖ **DAILY MASS:** Monday-Saturday, 7:00 AM, followed by the Holy Rosary after Mass.
- ❖ **SUNDAY MASS:**
 - Vigil Mass (Saturday afternoon), 5:30 PM
 - English Mass, 8:00 AM (*at St Francis' church, Lilyfield*)
 - English Mass, 9:30 AM
 - Italian Mass, 11:00 AM
 - Adoration & Mass for Young Adults/Professionals, 4:00 PM
- ❖ **CONFESSION:**
 - Every Saturday 4:45 PM – 5:15 PM
 - Every Sunday 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM (during the Adoration for Young Adults/Professionals).
 - Other time, by appointment. Please contact the Parish Office.
- ❖ **BAPTISMS:** 1st & 3rd Saturday (at 11:00 AM), or 2nd & 4th Sunday (at 12:30 PM).
- ❖ **WEDDINGS:** Every Saturday, at 11:00 AM or 2:00 PM. Please contact the Parish at least six months before the wedding.
- ❖ **FUNERALS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** by appointment.

PARISH GROUPS/ASSOCIATIONS CONTACT DETAILS:

IN ENGLISH: *Secular Franciscan Order:* Fr John Cooper OFMCap. (johncap@ozemail.com.au); *Capuchin Young Adults:* James Petrie & Vy Nguyen (capuchinyoungadults@gmail.com); *Neocatechumenal Way:* David Piccolo (david.piccolo79@gmail.com); *St Fiacre's Primary School:* Catherine Cameron (info@stfleichhardt.catholic.edu.au). **IN ITALIAN:** *Padre Pio Prayer Group:* Felice Montrone (cimaustralia@tpg.com.au); *Renewal in the Holy Spirit:* Diana Impala (dianadigirolamo11@gmail.com); *Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii:* Natasha Liotta (natasha.liotta@outlook.com).

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE

Priest - Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfil all of God's promises to us.

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

People - Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith.

Priest - The prophet Isaiah calls the Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

People - Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Light the Second Candle

Priest - Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Entrance Antiphon *Cf. Is 30:19,30*

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.

First reading *Is 40:1-5. 9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Second reading *2 Pt 3:8-14*

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 3:4. 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:



Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Communion Antiphon *Bar 5:5; 4:36*

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

WEEKLY PSALM RESPONSES

Monday 07 December (St Ambrose):

Our God will come to save us!

Tuesday 08 December (The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary):

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds.

Wednesday 09 December:

O bless the Lord, my soul.

Thursday 10 December:

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Friday 11 December:

Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

Saturday 12 December:

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-

hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope. – *Copyrights 2020 @ Liturgyhelp.com*

IMPORTANT NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

RCIA PREPARATORY CLASS



Our Parish has started the RCIA Programme, a preparatory class for non-Catholics who are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or for Catholic adults who want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. The preparation takes place **every Sunday, from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** at the Parish hall. If you are interested, please register via the Parish Office: fiacre@capuchinfriars.org.au.

YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP



All young adults and young professionals are invited to join the CYA (*Capuchin Young Adults*), an opened group of young Catholics inspired by the life of St Francis of Assisi and supported by the Capuchin Friars. The schedules for this **Sunday, 6th December**:

- ➔ 4:00 PM: Adoration (*confession available*)
- ➔ 5:00 PM: Holy Mass
- ➔ 6:00 PM: Dinner (*BYO*)
- ➔ 7:00 PM: Advent Bible Study (sharing about Bible, faith and real life as adults)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2021



Our Parish opens the registration for the Sacramental Program in 2021. If you wish that your child could receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** next year, the application form is available at the foyer of the church. Please fill the form, scan and email it back to: fiacre@capuchinfriars.org.au.

WORKING BEE BEFORE CHRISTMAS



The Parish invites you to join other parishioners for a Working Bee before Christmas. We will work together on **Saturday, 19th December**, start from 8:00 AM - 09:30 AM. Please bring garden supplies and other tools for this activity. All are invited!

MORNING TEA FOR ALL CHURCH VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS



All church volunteers and helpers: cleaners, florists, catechists, marshals, musicians, choirs, altar servers, readers, money counters, etc. are invited to join the Parish small gathering on **Saturday, 19th December**, from 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM, at St Fiacre's Parish Hall. Our Parish is truly grateful to have you all. May God bless you!

MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS



Bishop Richard Umbers will celebrate the Mass for Expectant Mothers on **Saturday, 12th December, 12:00 PM** at St Mary's Cathedral. Each expectant mother and her unborn child are invited to join the celebration.

- ➔ Please click here to register: sydneycatholic.eventsair.com.
- ➔ For more information, please go to: www.stmaryscathedral.org.au

HELP THE HOMELESS & SAVE THE EARTH



Please never throw anymore **plastic bottles and cans that have 10 cents recycling written on it**. Instead, collect and sort them out (bottles with bottles – cans with cans), then bring them with you on Sunday. Drop them in the recycling bins nearby the entrance door at St Fiacre's church. Through this way, you can support the Friars' Van ministry, a ministry for the homeless in Sydney, as well as save our environments. Every container counts!

CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Friars' Van needs your generous supports. You can donate **cordials, full cream milk, milo, coffee, tea and chocolate bars**. Also, you can support it by donating **gift cards** from Woolworths and Coles. Thank you!

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES



Please take and complete the Planned Giving registration form at the church entrance/foyer. Then, return it via the collection box at Mass, or to the Parish Office, or by email. Many thanks!

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING



The next Parish Finance Committee meeting is on **Thursday 17th December, at 6:00 PM** at the Presbytery.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas. The event officially being launched on **10 December** with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm The lights will be displayed each night until 11:00pm, concluding on Christmas Day.

DR SCOTT HAHN TO SPEAK AT SYDNEY CATHOLIC YOUTH VIRTUAL EVENT



PDMKK Sydney, an Indonesian Catholic Charismatic Youth Group, is hosting a virtual event, with popular US-theologian Dr Scott Hahn, who is credited with helping thousands of lapsed Catholics and Christians from other faiths embracing the Catholic faith. **Time:** Saturday, 11th December, at 11:00 AM **Admission:** \$20 per person **Register online:** <https://pdmkksydneyshine.eventbrite.com.au>

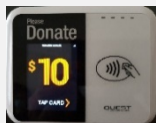
06 DICEMBRE – SECONDA DOMENICA DI AVVENTO - Voce di uno che grida nel deserto - Voce di uno che grida nel deserto: «Preparate

la via al Signore, appianate nella steppa la strada per il nostro Dio» (Is 40, 3). Dichiara apertamente che le cose riferite nel vaticinio, e cioè l'avvento della gloria del Signore e la manifestazione a tutta l'umanità della salvezza di Dio, avverranno non in Gerusalemme, ma nel deserto. E questo si è realizzato storicamente e letteralmente quando Giovanni Battista predicò il salutare avvento di Dio nel deserto del Giordano, dove appunto si manifestò la salvezza di Dio. Infatti Cristo e la sua gloria apparvero chiaramente a tutti quando, dopo il suo battesimo, si aprirono i cieli e lo Spirito Santo, scendendo in forma di colomba, si posò su di lui e risuonò la voce del Padre che rendeva testimonianza al Figlio: «Questi è il Figlio mio prediletto, nel quale mi sono compiaciuto. Ascoltatelo» (Mt 17, 5). Ma tutto ciò va inteso anche in un senso allegorico. Dio stava per venire in quel deserto, da sempre impervio e inaccessibile, che era l'umanità. Questa infatti era un deserto completamente chiuso alla conoscenza di Dio e sbarrato a ogni giusto e profeta. Quella voce, però, impone di aprire una strada verso di esso al Verbo di

Dio; comanda di appianare il terreno accidentato e scosceso che ad esso conduce, perché venendo possa entrarvi: Preparate la via del Signore (cfr. Mt 3, 1). Preparazione è l'evangelizzazione del mondo, è la grazia confortatrice. Esse comunicano all'umanità al conoscenza della salvezza di Dio. «Sali su un alto monte, tu che rechi liete notizie in Sion; alza la voce con forza, tu che rechi liete notizie in Gerusalemme» (Is 40, 9). Prima si era parlato della voce risuonante nel deserto, ora, con queste espressioni, si fa allusione, in maniera piuttosto pittoresca, agli annunziatori più immediati della venuta di Dio e alla sua venuta stessa. Infatti prima si parla della profezia di Giovanni Battista e poi degli evangelizzatori. Ma qual è la Sion a cui si riferiscono quelle parole? Certo quella che prima si chiamava Gerusalemme. Anch'essa infatti era un monte, come afferma la Scrittura quando dice: «Il monte Sion, dove hai preso dimora» (Sal 73, 2); e l'Apostolo: «Vi siete accostati al monte di Sion» (Eb 12, 22). Ma in un senso superiore la Sion, che rende nota le venute di Cristo, è il coro degli apostoli, scelto di mezzo al popolo della circoncisione. Sì, questa, infatti, è la Sion e la Gerusalemme che accolse la salvezza di Dio e che è posta sopra il monte di Dio, è fondata, cioè, sull'unigenito Verbo del Padre. A lei comanda di salire prima su un monte sublime, e di annunziare, poi, la salvezza di Dio. Di chi è figura, infatti, colui che reca liete notizie se non della schiera degli evangelizzatori? E che cosa significa evangelizzare se non portare a tutti gli uomini, e anzitutto alle città di Giuda, il buon annuncio della venuta di Cristo in terra? – Source: www.maranatha.it

HOW TO SUPPORT THE PARISH VIA ONLINE DONATIONS?

TAP & GO MACHINE



Tap & Go Machine is available at the entrance of the church, and is set for \$10. To donate, just tap your credit card. If you wish to donate more, simply tap your credit card as many times you like.

BPOINT PAYMENT SERVICE



BPOINT is a secure payment service for your credit card, and is set for \$5 or more. To donate, just scan the QR code above with your smartphone, or visit our Parish website and click on the button "MAKE A DONATION" then choose your preference.

ONLINE PLANNED GIVING



We encourage you to support the Parish in a regular basis. More and more parishioners are abandoning the old way (envelopes with cash) and choosing to give their planned giving digitally (via EFT or credit card). It is secure and super easy. To register and receive your unique planned giving number, please contact the Parish Office: (02) 9518 0650, or by email: fiacre@capuchinfriars.org.au.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

DOMINIC & LUCAS CLAYTON
(sons of Simon Clayton & Melini Pillay)

Welcome into the community of St Fiacre's. May your baptism be just the start of a life filled with blessings.

A QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS



"The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development." – Fratelli Tutti, p. 118.

COVID-19 UPDATE

In a welcome step forward for our churches in the lead up to Christmas, NSW Health has announced that:

From Monday 7 December, churches will be able to have unlimited numbers at all religious services, as long as a TWO SQUARE METRE RULE is observed.

You'll find more information here: www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions

Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass.

A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Blessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance. By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities. May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians. **Pray for us!**
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. **Pray for us!**
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. **Pray for us!**

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS A CRIME. THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH CRIMES ARE THE POLICE.

If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.