



Westmead Catholic Community PARISH HEARTBEATS

Official Weekly Bulletin of Sacred Heart Parish, Westmead

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'The sacred heart of Jesus is an open heart...' St Teresa of Kolkata

Fourth Sunday of Advent

23 - 24 December 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Is 45:8

of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

2 SAM 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

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

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. R.

SECOND READING

ROM 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation

PARISH CONTACTS

(02) 9635 9262

www.sacredheartwestmead.com.au
www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Westmead

Parish Priest

Rev Fr Walter Fogarty PP

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Parish Administrator

Virginia Knight,

Tuesday - Thursday: 10am - 4pm

Email: office@

sacredheartwestmead.com.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Anne Monahan,

Friday: 10am - 4pm

Email: sacraments@

sacredheartwestmead.com.au

Parish Primary Schools:

Sacred Heart Primary

Telephone: 8633 4500 Fax 9893 7415

Principal: Natalie Mifsud

Assistant Principal: Jodie Smith

Mother Teresa Primary

Telephone: 8841 2600 Fax 9687 5893

Principal: Elizabeth Devlin

Assistant Principal: Katherine Stennett

Westmead Hospital Chaplain

Fr Domingo Barawid MI

Tel: (02) 8890 6037; Pager: 8512

MASS TIMES

Parish Church:

Saturday: 6:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00am & 9:30am

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00pm to 5:30pm

BAPTISMS

1st Sundays or by arrangement

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By arrangement with the Parish Priest

(min 6 months notice for weddings)

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

By arrangement with the Parish Priest



The Westmead Catholic Community acknowledges the Burrumattagal people of the Darug nation, traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, recognising elders past & present. We aim to be an inclusive faith community, welcoming people of all ages, races, creeds, genders, orientations, marital status & cultures.

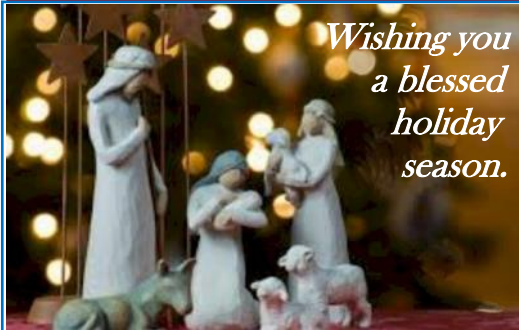
PARISH DIARY DATES

23 / 24 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent			
25 December	The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day			
26 December	Boxing Day			
26 December	<i>St Stephen</i>	27 December	<i>St John, apostle</i>	<i>Feast/s</i>
28 December	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>			
30 / 31 December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph			Feast
<i>23 December 2023 - 9 January 2024</i>		<i>Parish office closed</i>		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS MASS PROGRAM

Dawn Masses	December 16 - 24	5.30am
	<i>(no 9am Mass during this period)</i>	
Christmas Eve, Dec 24	Mass with Nativity	6pm
	Midnight Mass	12am
Christmas Day, Dec 25	Christmas Day Masses	8am & 9.30am
New Years Day, Jan 1	New Year's Day Mass	9am



*Wishing you
a blessed
holiday
season.*

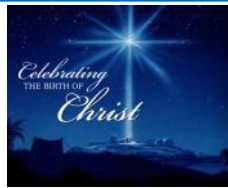
The Parish staff and I would like to thank everyone for their generous gifts and well wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Fr Walter

Can I go to Mass on Sunday for Christmas Day?

Because Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year some have asked does going to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day fulfil both the Sunday and Christmas obligations?

The simple answer is 'No'. The Mass for the Sunday and for Christmas (even if it's a Vigil Mass Sunday evening) are different. Attending one doesn't fulfil the obligation for both days. Come & share the joy of both the end of Advent (Vigil & Sunday Masses); and of Christmas (Vigil & Monday Masses).



Junior & Senior Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians & Readers.

We need volunteer ministers to assist with the Christmas masses.

Please complete the sign up sheets in the church if you would like to assist.



The parish office will be closed from 23 December 2023 to 9 January 2024 and operate on reduced hours from 10 - 31 January 2024. It will return to regular 10am - 4pm Tuesday to Friday hours from 1 February 2024.

For matters of importance during this time please email:

office@sacredheartwestmead.com.au or telephone: 9635 9262 to leave a message.



WEEK 5 ROSTERS—WEEKEND MASS

Please notify Fr Walter you are in attendance

EMoE - 30 / 31 December

6:00pm: R. Saldanha

8:00am: J. Nealon

9:30am: G. Vicente

Readers - 30 / 31 December

6:00pm: G. Manasala / F. Cadeaux

8:00am: M. Schinella / N. Logiotatos

9:30am: J. Macaraeg / P. Alexander

Junior Altar Servers - 30 / 31 December

6:00pm: C. Cristobal

8:00am: *volunteer required*

9:30am: *volunteer required*

Senior Altar Servers - 30 / 31 December

6:00pm: C. San Juan

8:00am: L. Burke

9:30am: N. Emmanuel

If you are unable to attend your rostered date, please arrange a swap with another minister.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Celebrant: As we begin our celebration of the fourth Sunday of Advent let us prepare to light the last candle on our Advent wreath, representing **LOVE**.

As Advent draws to a close we pause to pray for faith that opens our lives to the Spirit of God.

Leader: Come Lord Jesus, hope of the prophets and desire of all nations.

All: Come! Lead us back to you.

Leader: Come Lord Jesus, Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary.

All: Come! Take flesh in us.

Leader: Come Lord Jesus, source of grace and hope for peace.

All: Come and save us, delay no longer.

(The final violet candle is lit)

Celebrant: God, our Emmanuel your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for this coming. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 31 DECEMBER

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

1ST READING: GEN 15:1-6, 21:1-3

2ND READING: HEB 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

GOSPEL: LK 2:22-40

