



Catholic Parish of Baulkham Hills

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1 Canyon Rd Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
 Telephone 02 9639 8385 ▪ olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au
 ▪ www.parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au



YEAR A

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11TH DECEMBER 2022

Parish Information

St Michael's Church

1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm,
 Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, & 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday ~ Friday 9.15am
 Saturday 9.00am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1 Canyon Rd,
 Baulkham Hills

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
 Sunday 9.30am

Weekday Masses

Wed - Friday 9.30am

Adoration of Blessed Eucharist

Friday 8.50am
 Prior to 9.30am Mass

1st Friday of Month

Mass of Blessing of the Sick

Reconciliation - OLOL

Saturday 5.00-5.30pm

Reconciliation - St Michael's

Saturday 9.30-10.30am
 Saturday 4.45-5.15pm

Baptism

By Appointment
 4th Saturday of the month at 11.15am

Our Lady of Lourdes Office

Mon/Tues 1.30pm - 4.30pm
 Wed - Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm

Parish Priest

Fr Wim Hoekstra

Assistant Priest:

Fr Jessie Balorio
 Fr Andrew Rooney

Deacons:

Rev. Roque Dias

Parish Secretary

Louise Ryall

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Principal

Mr. Steven Haskins

JOY FILLED HOPE



~ Reflection by Pope Francis

On this third Sunday of Advent, known as the Sunday "of joy", the Word of God invites us on the one hand to joy, and on the other hand to the awareness that existence also includes moments of doubt, in which it is difficult to believe. Joy and doubt are both experiences that are part of our lives.

To the explicit invitation to joy of the prophet Isaiah: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom" (Is 35: 1), the Gospel opposes the

doubt of John the Baptist: "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?". Indeed, the prophet sees beyond the situation; he discouraged people before him: weak hands, trembling knees, lost hearts (cf. Is 35: 3-4). It is the same reality that in every age puts faith to the test. But the man of God looks beyond, because the Holy Spirit makes his heart feel the power of His promise, and he announces salvation: "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance". And then everything is transformed: the desert blooms, consolation and joy take possession of the lost heart, the lame, the blind, the mute are healed. This is what is realised with Jesus: "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them".

This description shows us that salvation envelops the whole person and regenerates him. But this new birth, with the joy that accompanies it, always presupposes a death to ourselves and to the sin within us. Hence the call to conversion, which is the basis of the preaching of both the Baptist and Jesus; in particular, it is a question of converting our idea of God. And the time of Advent stimulates us to do this precisely with the question that John the Baptist poses to Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?". We think: all his life John waited for the Messiah; his lifestyle, his very body is shaped by this expectation. This is also why Jesus praises him with those words: no one is greater than him among those born of a woman. Yet he too had to convert to Jesus. Like John, we too are called to recognize the face that God chose to assume in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful.

Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need, of the poor who are "a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God's presence in our midst" (Apostolic Letter Admirabile signum, 6).

May the Virgin Mary help us so that, as we approach Christmas, let us not allow ourselves to be distracted by external things, but make room in our hearts for the One Who has already come and Who wishes to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us His joy.

Entrance Antiphon:

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

First Reading

Is 35: 1-6,10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Lord, come and save us.

1. 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.

Response: Lord, come and save us.

2. 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.

Response: Lord, come and save us.

3. 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.

Response: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'

Communion Antiphon

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

REFLECTION FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A

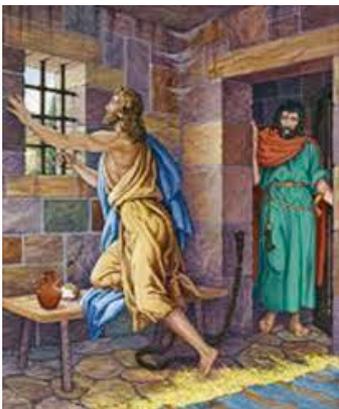


JULIAN McDONALD CFC AO

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”
Matthew 11: 2-11

In 2013, Pope Francis wrote a document encouraging all Christians to proclaim, by the way they live, the joy to be found in the Gospel. The title of that document is *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), and its opening sentences read: “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and the lives of all who encounter Jesus...With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.”

The enthusiasm of Pope Francis about the joy of the Gospel filling our hearts does not match my experience. That’s not a criticism of him but, rather, a comment on my own inadequacy to allow myself to be captivated by the Person and the Gospel of Jesus. Living in accord with the Gospel is, in my experience, a challenge. I suspect that one of the reasons for that is that there is a lot happening in the world that dampens my hope. I am committed to the call of Jesus to work for justice for those who are not getting it, for people who are victims of exploitation, for the countless refugees in search of security, shelter and sustenance to sustain them and their families. However, I find some comfort in the fact that one as great as John the Baptist also had questions and doubts. His sending some of his disciples to check on the credentials and track-record of Jesus indicates to me that he was wondering if his confidence that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah had been misplaced. Admittedly, his own imprisonment must have brought him face-to-face with human depravity and despair. It has to be difficult for prisoners in any age or place to believe in a future full of hope. But John’s limited view from his prison cell meant that he had no appreciation of what Jesus had been doing. As a result, he sent his disciples to put to Jesus on his behalf the question with which he was struggling: “Are you ‘He who is to come’ or do we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)



If there is one thing that gives me hope in the content of today’s gospel-reading, it is the fact that Jesus did not only resist being critical of John for doubting him but went on to praise John for all he had said, done and modelled to prepare his world for the advent of the Messiah, Jesus himself. The Baptist, however, did not have the satisfaction of seeing Jesus in action. His imprisonment deprived him of that. However, the hope that Jesus brought into the world is to be seen in the answer he gave to the delegation who had come from John: “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead people are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them. Blest is the one who finds no stumbling block in me.” (Matthew 11: 4-6). Jesus did not go on the defensive, he merely asked the messengers to open their eyes and judge for themselves whether or not what they saw demonstrated God’s active presence in a broken world.

Let's not forget that Jesus had come to establish the reign of God in the world. But the way in which he did that was different from the way in which John, John's disciples and most of the Jewish people imagined it would happen. For the most part, they were expecting the Messiah to forcefully drive out the Roman occupiers of their country. In contrast, Jesus chose the way of non-violence. The message which Jesus suggested John's disciples take back to their leader was all about the restoration to health and dignity of the poor and needy. What Jesus had done for them was a clear sign that the reign of God was being initiated in a non-violent way.

Jesus' directive to John's disciples is equally relevant to us. Are we ready and open to look at our world for signs of God's presence? What signs of hope can we see? Or do we see a future full of doom and gloom, especially when we believe our political leaders are doing precious little to stem the consequences of climate change? And what spoken and unspoken thoughts do we entertain about Vladimir Putin, Jair Bolsonaro recently ousted President of Brazil, Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria and the Military Junta in Myanmar? We hear of the atrocities over which they are alleged to have presided and conclude that their people and our world would be better without them. Would we be satisfied if they were removed by forces more violent than those at their command? Yet we know that violence is totally foreign to Jesus and his Gospel. Just a few weeks ago on the Thirty-Third Sunday of the year, the gospel-reading from Luke recorded Jesus as saying that there will be wars, brutality and insurrections so long as human beings misuse power and freedom. But such happenings are not a signal that the end of the world is near (Luke 21: 5-19 and Matthew 24: 6). When such things happen, we hear some people asking why God does not intervene. But Jesus did not subscribe to belief in a God who would come and intervene whenever people with power and military might misused their freedom. But violence, terrorism and armed conflict can distract us from seeing God's presence made visible in the goodness and generosity of people reaching out with compassion and care to their sisters and brothers in need.

So, we have to stop and ask ourselves if we really do want to closely encounter Jesus and have our hearts and lives filled with the joy of the Gospel. We also need to look into our own hearts to see whether or not we would want the conflicts in our world addressed by strategies based on the use of force and violence.

Instead of allowing our attention to be turned to all in our world that is destructive, disrespectful of people's freedom and dignity, neglectful of our common home, let's discipline ourselves to hear and see how good and generous people are bringing to reality God's reign of justice, mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

In this context, I am reminded of a story written in the New York Times by Nicholas Kristof, a sometime critic of the Catholic Church. Kristof told of the extraordinary contribution of Dr Tom Catena to the well-being of more than half a million people living in the Nuba mountains of South Sudan. Tom Catena is a medical practitioner and lay missionary, the only doctor working in the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba mountains. In fact, he's the only doctor living and working in that part of South Sudan. And the hospital in which he spends most of his time has been the target of bombing by the Sudanese air-force. Dr Tom does everything from removing pieces of shrapnel from victims of the bombing, to amputating mutilated limbs of children, to delivering babies and run-of-the mill appendix and hernia operations. He attends to children and adults suffering from malnutrition and leprosy.

Aware of the initiatives undertaken by Pope Francis, Kristof admitted that he has a dream that Pope Francis will one day make a visit to the Catholic hospital in the Nuba mountains as a way of galvanising opposition to the evil of the bombings taking place there. That dream might just come true next year when Francis visits Sudan. Perhaps the greatest tribute given to Dr Tom came from a Muslim chieftain who said: "That doctor is Jesus Christ. Jesus healed the sick, made the blind see and helped the lame walk. That's what Dr Tom does every day." If we care to open our eyes, we'll see people like Tom Catena making God's kingdom real.

Prayer Requests



Please remember in your prayers the relatives and friends of our Parish Communities for whom prayers have been requested:

Recently Deceased: Kerry Dorahy

Anniversaries: Cheryl Todd, Charles Boffa, Merryn Bertus

Our sick relatives & friends

Mabel Yabsley, Maria Roche, Benett Perera, Joel Uvero (Lourdes Subijano's brother), Melba Oki, David Wadick, Peter Dawson, Harry Williams, Peter Campbell, Philippa Ford, Honor Rosario, Lavinia Costello, Pablo Herrera, David Molina, Anne Torina Wayman, Michael Dawborne, Holly Burns, Evan Garcia, Brian Roche, Warren Moses, Carmel Willis, Matthew Burke, Julie Bracks, Roumanos Nehme, Deba Beani, Edward Beani, Richard Meagher and all who are ill or struggling as a result of the Coronavirus throughout the world.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Friday morning prior to the 9.30am Parish Mass. Adoration commences at 8.50am.

Are you Coeliac/Gluten Intolerant?



If you are Coeliac or Gluten- Intolerant we have low gluten (negligible) hosts to enable you to receive the Body of Christ in Communion. Please speak to Father or the Acolyte before Mass. Please go to the priest celebrating Mass to receive Communion.

Keeping You Connected

The following links will take you to the 6.00pm live-streaming of Saturday evening :

17th December 2022, "4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

..... <https://youtu.be/OODBgkJKyqM>

24th Dec 2022, "MASS FOR CHRISTMAS" "THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD."

.....<https://youtu.be/AVVrNSklgCY>

Note Time Change – Live-streaming is for 8pm Mass

31st Dec 2022 "THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD"

<https://youtu.be/prHi2M9Djeg>

Parish of Baulkham Hills

- Sacrament of Reconciliation(2nd Rite)



The 2nd Rite (Communal Rite) of Reconciliation for the Christmas Season will be celebrated at St Michael's Church on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm.



A life changing opportunity for those considering becoming a Catholic Christian. The journey begins on 8th January 2023 in the Parish of Baulkham Hills.

If you or anyone you know is interested please contact Monica 9639 0598, Louise 9639 8385 or Brad 0418 619 510 by 19 December 2022.

Monica & Brad

It begins with an awareness...or stirring in one's heart for something more. It could be a curiosity or a sense of longing for fulfilment. Maybe it's God calling you to explore the life of faith, love, and justice within the community of the Catholic Church.



Support Donations

We really appreciate your continued support. To assist with the proper recording for the second collection, please include your envelope number if you have one or your name if you have no number.

For EFT to the First Collection - **supporting the priests**

BSB	067 950
Account No	000004265
Account Name	Diocesan Clergy
Reference	6001 your name

For EFT to the second (envelope and loose) Collection – **for support of the Parish**

BSB	067 950
Account No	000000214
Account Name	St Michael's Baulkham Hills
Reference	Envelope Number or Your Name

If you wish to pay by credit card, please use this link <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/stmichaelsparishbaulkhamhills>

**PARISH UPDATE – FRIDAY DECEMBER 9
A COVID SAFE PARISH**

Dear Parishioners,

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sat 24 Dec Christmas Eve	5.30pm	St Michael's	Family Mass
	6.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Family Mass

Children welcome to come dressed as one of the figures in the Christmas Story – cows included!

8.00pm	St Michael's
8.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes – livestream

Sun 25 Dec Christmas Day	Midnight	St Michael's – Carols Service commences at 11.30pm
	8.00am	St Michael's
	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes
	10.00am	St Michael's
	11.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes (Korean language)

There is no evening Mass on Sunday 25 December.

Reconciliation times

Second Rite	Mon 19 Dec 7.30pm	Second Rite (Communal) of Reconciliation at St Michaels
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First Rite (St Michael's)	Sat 17 Dec	9.30am to 11am; 4.15pm to 5.15pm
	Wed, Thu and Fri	after the 9.15am Mass
	Sat 24 Dec	9.30am to 11am – no afternoon confessions

First Rite (OLOL)	Sat 17 Dec	4.30pm to 5.30pm
	Thu & Fri	after the 9.30am Mass

All Maronite Liturgies are at Gilroy College. For times, please see Christ the Redeemer website (<https://ctr.org.au>) for details.

MOVEMENT AT THE STATION

Bishop Vincent has appointed Fr Andrew as Assistant Priest to Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish, Blacktown, and Fr Chadi Ibrahim SDB, currently at Blacktown, as Assistant Priest to the Parish of Baulkham Hills. Both appointments are effective from 16 January 2023.

RCIA PROGRAM

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a process of Christian faith formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic.

The initiation of new members is a gradual process allowing enquirers time to grow in faith and become full participants of the Catholic community. This program commences on Sunday, January 8. See full details in the Bulletin.

NEW WEBSITE

We expect the new Parish website to be active on Saturday. Thank you to Danny Liu, who has spent many hours working on this. Check it out at our website address, i.e. <https://parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au>

MASS LINK

The Mass link for this Saturday for **Third Sunday of Advent – Year A** (Sat 6pm) and available on YOUTUBE after that is <https://youtu.be/q22riuOFWaw>. Please copy the link into browser if it does not immediately work.

Mass is live streamed on Saturday evening at 6pm from Our Lady of Lourdes, and available for viewing afterwards via the link. We are also using FACEBOOK links via the Parish of Baulkham Hills FACEBOOK page. Thank you to Jim and Brian for your help with this every week.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2023

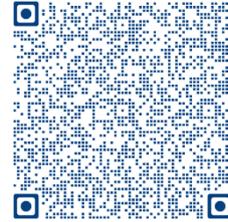
The Parish sacramental program for 2023 has been finalised, and details are included in this week's full bulletin. The preparation program for the three sacraments – Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist - will run at the same time for both communities.

POPE FRANCIS ON DISCERNMENT

Pope Francis continued his cycle of catechesis on Discernment, this week focusing on the theme "*Confirming a good choice*"

QUO VADIS PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Details of my proposed pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year are now available for download via [this link](#) or by via the QR code. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter.



If you are intending to join me, it would be appreciated if you could please contact Olive Tree Travel as soon as possible to indicate your interest.

Paper copies with booking forms are available in the Foyers of both Churches. Please feel free to forward these link to your friends or family.

CHANUKAH – The Jewish Celebration

Have you ever wanted to know a bit more about Chanukah, the Jewish celebration of light which usually occurs around the same time as Christmas. The Great Synagogue, 187a Elizabeth Street, Sydney is inviting you to come along and learn about the festival or attend the lighting of the Chanukah candles. Details at www.trybooking.com/CEIZA.

THE DECEASED

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested, especially for:

Recently deceased: Lean Docwra, Rodney McCauley, Kerry Dorahy

Anniversary: Helen Tarlinton, Det. Insp. Bryson Anderson, Cheryl Todd, Charles Boffa





St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal

Our Christmas Hamper appeal is well under way. Food has started coming in from the School as well as from the Church congregation. The grapevine is working with the word being passed around when particular food items are on sale in the shops.

We have just received notification of another 3 families in need of hampers from the Lisa Harnum Foundation. That takes our total number of families to 44 for this year. The additional 3 families add a further 7 children to our numbers, so there will be additional tags on the Christmas tree this weekend for presents for those children. Some tags will be added for the Saturday evening Mass and the remainder for the Sunday morning Mass. If you haven't already done so, please take a tag for a present for a child as detailed on the tag.

Donations for the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables are also well under way.

If you wish to make a cash donation, we have our trusty Vinnies collection buckets for the traditional exit collection as well as a Tap-n-Go machine outside after Mass to facilitate direct electronic donations. There is also a QR code on the Vinnies Christmas Appeal poster which will connect you to our OLOL Vinnies fundraising page.

If you are unable to make it to Church and wish to be part of our Christmas giving you may call Larry on 0409 347 309 and we will do our best to meet your request.

For those unable to get to the weekend masses, our OLOL Vinnies fundraising page is available at:

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/olol-baulkham-hills-2022-christmas-appeal>

A reminder - Presents with tags securely attached, and all food donations should be returned to the rear of the Church by Sunday 18th December at the latest (that is next weekend), to allow us to prepare the hampers and have them distributed prior to Christmas. If you have trouble returning your present to the Church, call Larry on 0409 347 309 and we will organise to have your donation picked up.

Baby Update

Regarding the young mother we are assisting, baby arrived safely on 29th November. Mother and baby are home and settling into a routine, but baby will need to undergo a number of medical tests over the next few weeks. Big sister is excited with the new addition to the family. Mother sends her sincere thanks for all the assistance provided by Our Lady of Lourdes Community.

Please continue to remember them in your prayers. God bless you and keep you safe.

Prayers & Sympathy



We offer our prayers and sympathy to Steve Dorahy and his Family on the recent death of their wife and mother, Kerry Dorahy .

May she rest gently in the loving arms of Jesus, the Good Shepherd & may her family find comfort in their God.

Please keep the Dorahy family in your prayers at this sad time.

Requiem Mass for Kerry will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Tuesday 13th December at 1.00pm.



Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Morning Tea



**Next Sunday 18th December
Following 9.30am Mass**

Come along and join us next Sunday morning, 18th December, for Christmas Morning Tea, following 9.30am Mass.

This is a time when we come together to bring Christ's love and peace to each other and to say "thank you" for making Our Lady of Lourdes such a special place to be.



Bring along a small plate of Christmas treats to share with us as we support each other in loving friendship and wish each other the joy of the Christmas Season.

Christmas Flowers



The gardens are beautiful at the moment with blue and white Agapanthus and Hydrangeas, Christmas bush and much red-tipped greenery. If you would

like to contribute flowers to decorate God's House for the Christmas Liturgies please leave them behind the Sanctuary on Friday 23rd December. They will be very much appreciated.

It would be great to have some extra help in a final clean up as we prepare God's house for the birth of His Son. Any time you can give will be very much appreciated. Details of time will be in next week's Bulletin.

Christmas Choir & Musicians

Are you a musician or singer?

All musicians and singers, young, old or in-between, are invited to join us as we **Prepare the Way of the Lord** and **welcome the Christ-child** this Christmas. Please speak with Deb after Mass.



Celebration	Date	Mass	Acolyte	Reader 1	Reader 2	EMC
3 rd Sunday of Advent	10 th December	Saturday Vigil 6.00pm	John Vassett	Lourdes Subijano	Jane Wilks	Nicole Whittaker
	11 th December	Sunday 9.30am	Ian Starkey	Frangee Ampil	Helen Thomas	Kay Bull Marlene Murrow
4 th Sunday of Advent	17 th December	Saturday Vigil 6.00pm	Roland Barros	Maureen Steele	Peter Steele	Sonia Tannous
	18 th December	Sunday 9.30am	Anthony Pope	Anne Mitchell	Nicole Christoy	Louise Ryall Madeleine Menasse

PARISH OF BAULKHAM HILLS

2023 Sacramental Programme Details for The Sacraments of Initiation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children of Catechetical Age who have been baptised.

St Michael's Church - 1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills
Our Lady of Lourdes Church - 1 Canyon Road, Baulkham Hills

School Term 1/2 **Sacrament of Confirmation**

~ children must be 10.5 years before the celebration

Online Registration : Friday 17 February to Friday 3 March

Parents' Information Evening : Monday 6 or Tuesday 7 March

Celebration at St Michael's : Monday 8, Tuesday 9, Friday 12 May at 7.00pm

Celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes : Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 May at 7.00pm

Term 3 **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Online Registration : Friday 16 to Friday 30 June

Parents' Information Evening : Monday 17 or Tuesday 18 June

Celebration : Monday 21 to Friday 25 August
(venue, dates & times to be advised)

Term 4 **Sacrament of Eucharist**

~ children must be 8.5 years before the celebration

Online Registration : Friday 1 to Friday 15 September

Parents' Information Evening : Monday 18 or Tuesday 19 September

Celebration at St Michael's :

Friday 10 November / 17 November ~ 7.30pm,

Saturday 11 November / 18 November ~ 2.30pm

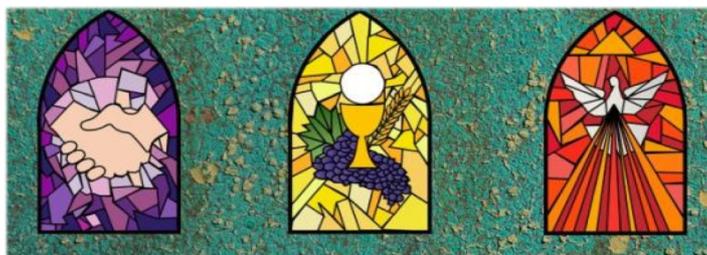
Sunday 12 November / 19 November ~ 12noon and 2.30pm

Celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes :

Friday 24 November ~ 7.30pm

Saturday 25 November ~ 2.30pm

Sunday 26 November ~ 9.30am





Diocese of Parramatta Notices

FirstCPR Training Expressions of Interest!

The Diocese of Parramatta is participating in a program called FirstCPR that involves education and training in responding to cardiac arrest in the community. The program will provide you with CPR accredited training to parish staff and volunteers and is free of charge. Sessions will be organised across the Diocese and require a minimum of 10 people per session. For more information, and to express your interest, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/>

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

The Diocese of Parramatta is heading to WYD23 in Lisbon

Bishop Vincent has announced a pilgrimage to the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from July 21 – August 11, 2023. Young people 16-35 and their families are encouraged to learn more at www.parrawyd.org. Express your interest in coming to Lisbon today! For all enquiries, contact James Camden, Head Mission Engagement – james.camden@parracatholic.org

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal is open

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta remains open and committed to assisting anyone with enquiries regarding marriage annulments. Please contact the Tribunal office on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.

Join the Catholic Bushwalking Club

The Sydney-based Catholic Bushwalking Club seeking new members to join their club. Membership is not restricted to Catholics, and is open to all who share an interest in bushwalking and the outdoors. Membership offers a choice of graded walks for a variety of fitness levels on most weekends, and some on weekdays. To learn more about the Club and to become a member, visit <http://www.cbcnsw.org.au/> or call Adriana on 0478 919 427.

Soul Food Podcast – Pastoral Formation

Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?

Pastoral Formation's Soul Food Podcast features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: <https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service.

No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, or at:

yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

or scan this QR code. Thank you stretching out your hand in compassion for our homeless community.



Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens Parish Carols by Candlelight: 17 December

St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens, invites you to their annual Carols by Candlelight evening on Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm in the grounds of St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 8883 5981.

Patrician Brothers College Blacktown Enrolment Opportunities

Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown, has a small number of vacancies for Year 7 2023 and is accepting early applications for 2024. Contact the College Enrolment Department for more information on (02) 8811 0300, email patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au or <https://forms.gle/ANccWVNQBZjQ4pSD6>

New Online Course for Parish & School Music Ministers!



LEARN + DISCOVER

Music Ministry in the Liturgy

THE WHY, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE & HOW
OF MUSIC IN THE MASS

Music is an integral part of parish and school Masses and other liturgical celebrations. Many volunteers and professional musicians serving in this vital ministry have never had the opportunity to access quality formation on the purpose, place and principles of music in liturgy.

Ensure ALL music ministers are serving from common principles and a shared vision!

Prepared and presented by expert professional liturgists and musicians, *Liturgy Brisbane's* new course, *Music Ministry in the Liturgy*, provides sound formation and practical guidelines for choosing and leading the liturgical song of the People of God.

Based in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, *Musicam Sacram*, and *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, course topics include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ⇒ Introduction to Liturgy | ⇒ Who are the Ministers of Music? |
| ⇒ Vatican II & Liturgy | ⇒ Choirs, Cantors & Instrumentalists |
| ⇒ Liturgical Participation | ⇒ Preparing Music Step-by-Step |
| ⇒ Principles of Liturgical Ministry | ⇒ Leading the Song of the Assembly |
| ⇒ Music in the Mass | ⇒ Music for Children & Families |
| ⇒ Which parts do we sing? | ⇒ Developing a Core Repertoire |
| ⇒ Four Judgments for Liturgical Music | ⇒ Copyright for Church Music |
| ⇒ Choosing Repertoire | ⇒ <i>and much more ...</i> |

Fully Online Multi-Modal Course

- Brief informative videos
- PDF readings & articles
- Short quizzes to reinforce key concepts
- Downloadable notes
- Certificate of Completion
- Study at your pace at times that suit you

Total Course time: approx 3hrs



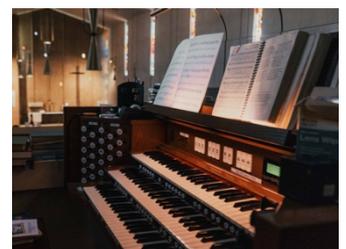
Course Cost

\$25.00 per course (+ GST if applicable)

Discounted pre-purchased multi-voucher bundles available for distribution to parish or school music ministers.

Bundle of 5 vouchers: \$110.00 (+ GST if applicable)

Bundle of 10 vouchers: \$200.00 (+ GST if applicable)

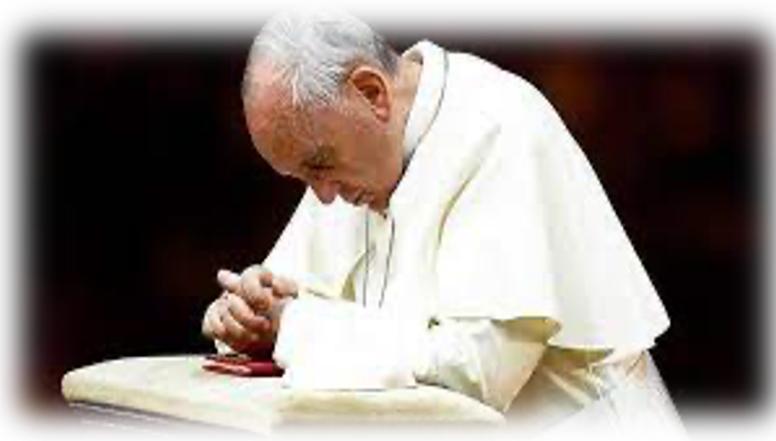


Online Shop: <https://shop.liturgybrisbane.net.au/collections/other-resources>

W: www.liturgybrisbane.net.au

E: liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au

T: 07 3324 3314



POPE FRANCIS ON DISCERNMENT

In his address in Italian, the Pope continued his cycle of catechesis on *Discernment*, focusing on the theme: “Confirming a good choice”.

*The fear of the Lord delights the heart,
and gives gladness and joy and long life*

*Those who fear the Lord will have a happy end;
on the day of their death they will be blessed...*

*The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom,
making peace and perfect health to flourish....*

*Those who are patient stay calm until the right moment,
and then cheerfulness comes back to them. (Bible reading: Sir 1: 12-13, 18, 23)*

Catechesis of the Holy Father

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the process of discernment, it is also important to remain attentive to the stage that immediately follows the decision taken, in order to either catch *the signs that confirm it* or those that disprove it. I have to make a decision, [so] I make the discernment, pro or con, my feelings, I pray... then this process ends, and I make the decision and then comes that part where we have to be careful, see. Because in life some decisions are not good and there are signs that disprove them, while on the other hand, good ones are confirmed.

Indeed, we have seen how time is a fundamental criterion for recognizing God’s voice amidst so many other voices. He alone is Lord of time: it is a hallmark of His originality, which differentiates Him from imitations that speak in His name without actually doing so. One of the distinctive signs of the good spirit is the fact that it communicates *a peace that lasts in time*. If you consider more profoundly, then make the decision and this gives you a peace that lasts through time, this is a good sign and indicates that the path was good. A peace that brings harmony, unity, fervour, zeal. You come out of the “deepening” process better than when you entered it.

For example, if I make the decision to devote an extra half hour to prayer, and then I find that I live the other moments of the day better, that I am more serene, less anxious, I do my work with more care and zest, that even relations with some difficult people become smoother... These are all important signs in favour of the goodness of the decision taken. Spiritual life is circular: the goodness of a choice benefits all areas of our lives. For it is participation in God's creativity.

We can recognize *some important aspects* that help us read the time after the decision as a possible *confirmation* of its goodness, because the subsequent period confirms the goodness of the decision. In some ways we have already encountered these important aspects in the course of these catecheses but now they find their further application.

A first aspect is whether the decision is seen as a possible sign of response to the Lord's love and generosity toward me. It is not born out of fear, not born of emotional blackmail or compulsion, but born out of *gratitude for the good received*, which moves the heart to live liberally in relationship with the Lord.

Another important element is having a sense of *one's place in life* – that tranquillity, “I am in my place” – and feeling that you are part of a larger plan, to which one wishes to make a contribution. In St. Peter's Square there are two precise points – the focal points of the ellipse – from which one can see Bernini's columns perfectly aligned. Similarly, a man can recognize that he has found what he is looking for when his day becomes more orderly, when he feels a growing integration among his many interests, when he establishes a proper hierarchy of importance, and when he is able to experience this with ease, facing the difficulties that arise with renewed energy and fortitude. These are signs that you have made a good decision.

Another good sign of confirmation, for example, is the fact of *remaining free* with regard to what has been decided, being willing to question it, even to give it up in the face of possible denials, trying to find in them a possible teaching from the Lord. This is not because He wants to deprive us of what we hold dear, but in order to live it with freedom, without attachment. Only God knows what is truly good for us. Possessiveness is the enemy of goodness and kills affection. Be attentive to this: possessiveness is the enemy of good, it kills affection. The many cases of violence in the domestic sphere, of which we unfortunately have frequent news, almost always arise from the claim of possession of the affection of the other, from the search for absolute security that kills freedom and stifles life, making it hell.

We can only love in freedom, which is why the Lord created us free, free even to say no to Him. Offering Him what we hold most dear is in our best interest, enabling us to live it in the best possible way and in truth, as a gift He has given us, as a sign of His gratuitous goodness, knowing that our lives, as well as the whole of history, are in His benevolent hands. It is what the Bible calls the *fear of God*, that is, respect for God – not that God frightens me, but a respect, an indispensable condition for accepting the gift of Wisdom (cf. Sir 1:1-18). It is the fear that casts out all other fears, because it is oriented to Him who is Lord of all things. In His presence, nothing can disquiet us. It is the wondrous experience of St. Paul, which he expressed in this way: “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:12-13). This is the free man, who blesses the Lord both when good things come and when not-so-good things come: May he be blessed, and let us go forward!

Recognizing this is critical to good decision-making, and it reassures us about what we cannot control or predict: health, the future, loved ones, our plans. What matters is that our trust is placed in the Lord of the universe, who loves us immensely and knows that we can build with Him something wonderful, something eternal. The lives of the saints show us this in the most beautiful way. Let us go forward, always trying to make decisions in this way, in prayer and feeling what's going on in our hearts, and going forward slowly. Have courage!

Parish of Baulkham Hills ~ Christmas Liturgy Times 2022

Reconciliation

†Communal (2nd Rite)

Monday 19th December 7.30pm St Michael's Church

Please Note: NO 2nd Rite at Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Why not take a little time out of the hustle and bustle of the commercial Christmas Season and prepare yourself for the Spiritual Christmas Season, a season that brings the most beautiful gift of the Christ-child and, with Him, an offering of loving peace and forgiveness? Why not make a date to celebrate the loving gift of our Saviour in the Sacrament of Reconciliation – a most worthwhile gift to yourself and to your family this Christmas?

†Individual (1st Rite)

Saturday 17th December	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Thurs 22/Fri 23	After 9.30am Mass – 10.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Saturday 17th December	9.30am – 11.00am	St Michael's Church
	4.00pm – 4.30 pm	St Michael's Church
Wed 21/Thurs 22/Fri 23	After 9.15am Mass – 10.15am	St Michael's Church

Christmas Mass Times

Vigil	Family Mass	6.00p.m.	Saturday 24th December	Our Lady of Lourdes
	Family Mass	8.00pm	Saturday 24th December	Our Lady of Lourdes
			<i>(Live-streamed)</i>	
Vigil	Family Mass	5.30p.m.	Saturday 24th December	St Michael's
	Family Mass	8.00pm	Saturday 24th December	St Michael's
Midnight Mass		Midnight	Sunday 24th December	St Michael's
			<i>(Carols commence at 11.30pm)</i>	
Christmas Day		9.30a.m.	Sunday 25th December	Our Lady of Lourdes
	Korean	11.30a.m.	Sunday 25th December	Our Lady of Lourdes
			NO 6.00pm Evening Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes on Christmas Day	
		8.00a.m.	Sunday 25th December	St Michael's
		10.00am	Sunday 25th December	St Michael's
			NO 5.30pm Evening Mass at St Michael's Church on Christmas day	

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

a festival evening at St Mary's

PRESENTED BY **paynterdixon**

8-25 DECEMBER 2022

We invite our parish families and all people of goodwill across Sydney to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Festivities begin at 7pm with:
Christmas market stalls, food,
fun activities for the kids and live
entertainment.



**paynter
dixon**

**PAYCE®
FOUNDATION**



Dear Friends,

It's only 10 days now until our 14th Annual Carols [CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY](#). This year's Carols Festival will be held on Sunday 11th December (4pm) at St Peter's Church, Surry Hills.

Tickets are strictly limited
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL [Here](#).

Accompanied by a Live Orchestra, Pipe Organ & Choir with over 45 musicians participating, this will be a truly memorable way to celebrate the Christmas season.

THE CAROLS: The Festival will include all your favourite Carols from *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* to the stunning *O Holy Night* and *Hallelujah Chorus* as well as fabulous arrangements of various Carols by John Rutter, David Willcocks and others.

This year we will also again be including Handel's magnificent *Zadok the Priest* as well as Tchaikovsky's beautiful *Crown of Roses*.

The full details for this event are:

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY (Sydney)

Date: Sunday 11th December (4pm)

Venue: St Peter's Catholic Church, Surry Hills

Address: 235 Devonshire St, Surry Hills

ENTRY: \$20 or by Donation ~ but seats are a STRICTLY LIMITED so
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL [Here](#)

This year's Carols will also be raising for the international charity **Aid to the Church in Need**.



Thank you again for your support for our work and we hope you are able to make it along for this very special Christmas event, which is proudly sponsored by **Campion College Australia**.

