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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B

12TH & 13TH DECEMBER, 2020

COVID-19 AND CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas time is approaching and this is the time of year that attendance numbers for Christmas Masses are higher than normal. It is a time of coming together to celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

However, we need to advise that we are still limited by the government Covid restrictions that are still in place. Therefore with regret, we need to limit the numbers that are able to attend these Masses. If you wish to attend a Christmas Mass, you need to register by calling Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

Mass times for Christmas Eve are 6pm, 8.30pm and midnight and on Christmas day 9.30 am. If you wish to attend the 6pm mass, please note that this Mass will be held outside on the grounds of Corpus Christi Primary School to accommodate higher attendance. If you are attending this Mass, we kindly request that you bring your own chair.

In the interest of everyone attending, masks are required for all over the age of 12. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Again to confirm, registration is compulsory before attending any Christmas Mass.

We encourage you to arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass starts as the gates will be closed at the start of Mass.

We look forward to celebrating this special season together.

Corpus Christi Parish Pastoral Council

WEEKEND MASSES

You are invited to attend Mass every week at the time you were allocated by Fr Chris.

Online Masses are still available so if you are feeling unwell you are advised not to attend Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AT 9.10AM

You are welcome to attend any weekday Mass without a phone call or email invitation.

Fr Chris will record attendance at these Masses as per government guidelines.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact Fr Chris on his mobile 0415 505 594 to make an appointment.

*****PLEASE PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING
BEFORE, DURING & AFTER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.*****

**IN SPITE OF THE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS, THE NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS PER
MASS IN OUR PARISH HAS ONLY INCREASED TO**

110

As per government regulations, please observe the 2 square metre rule.



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Postal: PO Box 21
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

Fax: 4729 2989

Email: parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org

Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College - ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

**COMMUNAL SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION**
(*Second Rite with visiting priests*)
TUESDAY 22ND DECEMBER AT 7PM

****As there will not be a barrier when speaking to
the priest everyone must wear a mask.**

(*There will be no Adoration or Mass on that evening*)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NO PARISH MASSES
WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY EVENINGS
OF 15TH & 22ND DECEMBER.**

(*Fr Chris will be assisting with reconciliation at
another parish on 15th December*)

Children's Nativity Play

If you have already registered for the 6pm Vigil Mass and would like your child to be included in the Nativity play please put your name and contact details on the form in the foyer.



WEARING OF MASKS FOR MASS

**For your health and safety and for the health and safety
of others we strongly encourage you
to please wear a mask to Mass.**

**We sincerely thank you for understanding,
and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.**

A Message of Thanks...

*Thank you to all the wonderful Catechists & helpers for
your time & dedication to the Catechist ministry.*

May you all have a well earned break.

If anyone is interested in joining our team of Catechists please call the parish office to find out more.

Parish Office Hours

If you need to visit the office please call first to ensure that someone is there. Please leave a message if we don't answer and we'll get back to you. You are also welcome to email. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

At this stage the office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 3.30pm.

Break Open the Word for Readers

For any readers who would like a copy of Break Open the Word for Year C, they are now available in the Sacristy. The cost \$20 per copy. Envelopes for payment are also available in the Sacristy.

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Anniversaries:

Margaret & James Vella

And for those who are sick:

Leonard Ash, Pauline Rugg, Mary Pilley, Joan Schneider

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.

PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

PARISH	LOCATION	LINK TO LIVESTREAM
PADRE PIO PARISH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjip15JI6H8TrHkEB6lSdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/
THE GOOD SHEPHERD	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

Ministry Roster for Christmas

Please contact the parish office if you are able to help with the following ministries for the Christmas Masses.

Thank you!

We still need volunteers for the following:

8.30pm Mass: Acolyte, Data Operator

9.30am Mass: Data Operator

Ministry Rosters for January

The voluntary roster commences on

SATURDAY 26TH AND SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER.

If you are able to assist with the Ministry Roster from that date until the end of January, please place your name on the roster sheet in the foyer.

New Ministry Roster



A huge thank you to all who have supported our parish during 2020 by way of the various Liturgical Ministries. **Your care and commitment to our parish community is truly appreciated!**

We are about to get our information together to prepare a new Roster to cover the period 30th/31st January to 26th/27th June, 2021.

Would all those who are involved in rostered Ministries please check your diaries and let Marie know by either phone or email **prior to Friday 8th January of any non-availability during that period.**

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Advent

13th December, 2020

First Reading

Is 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, Freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *(R.)*

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. *(R.)*

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. *(R.)*



Second Reading

1 Thes 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about your-

self?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Living the Gospel – A Witness? Me?

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

Gospel Focus – Same but different

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John gospel's greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing.

As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist.

John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

For a Life of Prayer



We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why do you think the priests and Levites were concerned about identifying who John was?
- * How might John's followers have reacted to his announcement of the one who was coming after him?
- * In what ways is John the Baptist portrayed as a 'witness' to Christ?
- * Is there someone you know who witnesses to their faith through their actions? How do they do it?
- * How can you be a witness?

Questions for Adults

- * How is this week's gospel similar to / different from last week's account (Mk 1:1-8)?
- * Why do you think we have two accounts of the same event in the liturgy on consecutive weeks?
- * Is there someone you know who witnesses to their faith through their actions? How do they do it?
- * Are there forms of witnessing to faith that 'turn you off'?
- * How can you effectively witness to your faith?

This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * If someone asked you 'Who are you?' What would be your answer?
- * Was one of your answers 'I'm a follower or disciple or friend of Jesus'?
- * What are some of the ways we normally get ready for a birthday?
- * How is the celebration of Jesus' birthday different from a normal birthday?
- * What are some things we all can do to get ready for the celebration of the day Jesus was born?

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Prepare for the Lord Jesus

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B



Who is John the Baptist?

Indicate whether each answer is either true or false



The cousin of Jesus

☐ True
☐ False



A pharisee

☐ True
☐ False



Elijah

☐ True
☐ False



The son of Elizabeth

☐ True
☐ False



A preacher

☐ True
☐ False



The Messiah

☐ True
☐ False

Decipher the message that John the Baptist gave to the priests and temple helpers



The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday; the Sunday of Joy! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?

Three empty rectangular boxes for writing answers.



Two sets of dashed lines for writing answers.

Parramatta Diocesan News

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on the Diocese of Parramatta website (www.parracatholic.org), on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and on our Diocesan social media channels.

Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta!

Catholic Outlook Magazine Summer 2020/21 Edition

Look out for copies of the next edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine in your local Catholic Church, Catholic school or Catholic office from early December. Catholic Outlook is an A4 magazine published quarterly with a focus on Catholic faith formation, spirituality and a look at what is happening across the agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage 2021

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. From 2 – 9 January, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and spend time in prayer and fellowship. Limited overnight registrations are available, and day walkers are welcome. For more information and to register, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>



2021 Vacation Care places still available

There are still places available for January Vacation Care in 15 Catholic Out of Hours School Care centres throughout the Diocese. You may be entitled to up to 85% rebate. Lots of fun activities planned! Bookings close 7th December. Details <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/vacationcare>.

Life, Marriage and Family Office Marriage Preparation Courses

Dates for the Diocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office's in-person marriage preparation weekend courses in 2021 are now available, with the SmartLoving Engaged Online course another option to prepare for your marriage. For more information, or to book your course, visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460.

Welcome to The Well

The Diocese of Parramatta proudly announces its latest initiative – *The Well*. In what can be described as 'Netflix for Catholics', *The Well* is a new online platform that provides free, 'on-demand' inspiration for families, children, young people and faith communities. Explore fresh offerings every week on topical issues that inform, entertain and challenge. Check it out at www.thewell.org.au

Seeking New Enrolments for English and Citizenship Classes

Commencing on Tuesday 9th February 2021, located at Mamre House, CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, 181 Mamre Road, Orchard Hills. This is a program which supports Refugee Families. English classes run Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 2pm. Citizenship classes run Thursday 10am to 12pm. Free childcare is available for children aged 0 to 5 years of age. If you are interested in enrolling in English or Citizenship Classes and require childcare for your child/children at Mamre Crèche, please contact the Crèche Co-ordinator, Iolanda Martino on 8843-2506 or 0430 736 646 or Email Iolanda.martino@ccss.org.au

Catholic Youth Parramatta

Engaging Young People in New Ways

Catholic Youth Parramatta has established a dynamic schedule of networking opportunities, formation and resources to support ministry and engagement with young people of the Diocese in new ways. From inspiring quotes and scripture references on Mondays, to faith-filled live performances on Wednesday to launching new home-grown resources on Friday. Check out CYP's Facebook and Instagram pages and <https://www.parracatholic.org/cyp/> to download and share the resources.

Madonna Magazine –

a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year
Madonna magazine, published by Jesuit Communications, is an ideal spiritual companion – containing daily prayers, deep reflections and faith-focused articles. We invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one for only \$53 a year. You can find out more about *Madonna*, how to subscribe, purchase a gift subscription or donate a subscription on the website: www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions

Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre is taking bookings for 2020/2021

As a COVID-safe registered business, the Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, is once again available for personal or small group bookings to discern and plan for what the future might look like. They have also begun taking bookings for 2021, with numbers set to increase as restrictions return to normal. For more information, please call (02) 4773 8338, email info@schoenstatt.org.au or visit www.schoenstatt.org.au

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Remains Open

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta remains open and committed to assisting anyone who has questions regarding marriage annulments. Please direct all enquires to the Tribunal office on 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org. The office is open Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.


*With many thanks to all these local businesses
who support our parish throughout the year.
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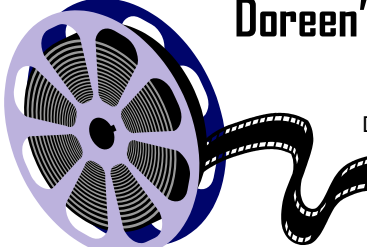
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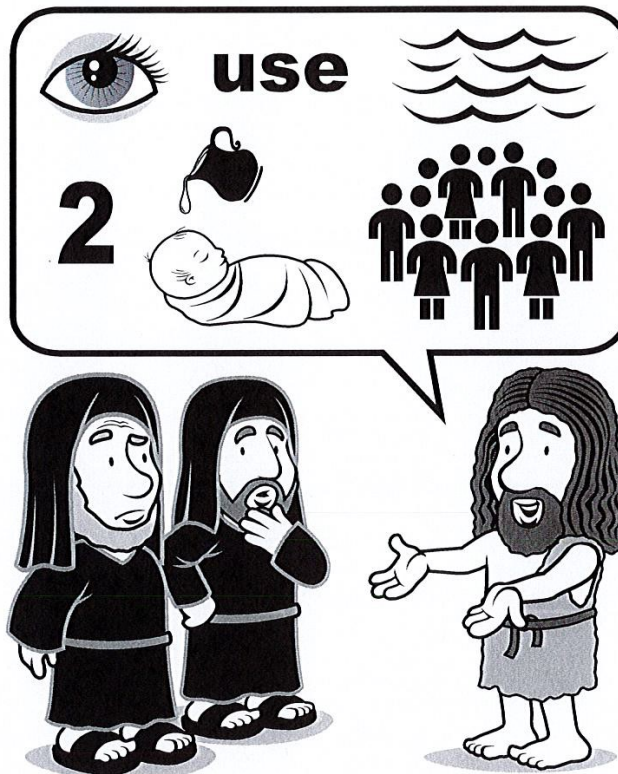
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Solutions

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Decipher the message that John the Baptist gave to the priests and temple helpers



**I use water to
baptise people**