



# ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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EMERGENCIES ONLY	0488 448 844		

**SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR A**

## ST. PADRE PIO CHURCH PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm  
Closed 12:00pm – 12:30pm

### SUNDAY

8:00am Mass  
10:00am Mass

### MONDAY

No Mass and Office closed

### TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

9:00am Mass

### SATURDAY

9:00am Mass  
Novena to St. Padre Pio  
9:30am Sacrament of Penance  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass

### BAPTISMS

11:30am 1st, 2nd, and 3rd  
Sundays. Please contact the  
Parish Office. Presentation and  
Baptism Information morning  
are held every 4th Sunday

### FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

8:00pm – 9:00am Saturday  
Mass 3:00am Divine Mercy  
Chaplet

### FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

9:30am – 11:30am 0-6 years  
Bethany Catholic Primary  
School Hall Contact Joanne  
D'Agostino, via the Parish  
Office.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

Christmas is around the corner.

Are we ready to welcome the Lord Incarnate?

The last minute shopping and preparations are going on. There is a Christmas frenzy! Christmas is a time of excitement and expectation. Also it can be taunting to some families and individuals. There is a substantial amount of pressure on the families to spend on gifts and gatherings. Families might go through a rough time financially during Christmas. Christmas is a family time.

The Holy Family of Nazareth had a tough time at the very first Christmas. It is not merely a financial issue but an element of doubt between Joseph and Mary. Joseph being the man of honour, he wanted to divorce Mary informally as she was found to be with Child before wedlock! Imagine the situation at the first century Judaistic culture. If he were to betray Mary, she could have been stoned to death as per the Jewish laws. His integrity results in clarification from God that the Child was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The mission of Angel Gabriel was to reveal the Will of God to Mary and announce the birth of the Saviour to Joseph. He plays a vital role between Mary and Joseph. He not only saved Mary from death but also saved their marriage. Their willingness to accept the Will of God in their lives results in the first joyful Christmas. Where there is doubt, there is fear and where there is fear, there is no faith and where there is no faith, there is no God.

The greatest gift of Christmas is, God-is-with-us. Immanuel – reminds us of God's love being manifest. It is made tangible. It is given. The gift of God is permanent and for life time. It is unlike other gifts that we receive in our lives. Christmas is a time to share the gift of God with one another.

Christmas is about giving rather than receiving. Let us give the gift of God to all. Let us spend our precious time with our family, friends and even those who are strangers to us. God changed the strange relationship into close relationship by His birth. We are no more alien to Him but His loving children.

May Immanuel, God-Is-With-Us be the focus of our Christmas.

God Bless..

Kind regards,

Fr. Suresh Kumar  
Parish Priest

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 25 DECEMBER



The Below is from: [ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/christmas-20423](http://ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/christmas-20423)

### Why is it called the Nativity?

The word originates from the Latin word “nativitas” meaning “birth,” and is used by the Church as a formal title of this day and its celebration.

### Why is the Nativity important?

God Himself became Man so that – through His death and Resurrection – we could then attain Heaven one day. When He entered into history, it was out of pure love for us.

In *Admirabile Signum*, Pope Francis said, “Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God’s tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.”

### What is the history of the Nativity scene or Creche?

According to St. Bonaventure’s book ‘The Life of St. Francis of Assisi’, the first Nativity scene was displayed in 1223 in the town of Greccio, Italy. St. Francis had recently made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where he had seen the location of Our Lord’s birth. This inspired him to renew the faith of the people in Greccio who had allowed gift-giving to overtake the true meaning of Christmas. Instead of merely telling the parishioners about the Christmas story, Francis, a deacon, wanted to show it to them.

Pope Honorius III gave Francis permission to display a Nativity scene with hay, an ox and a donkey in a cave in Greccio. Bonaventure said, “Then [Francis] preached to

the people around the Nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His Name for the tenderness of his love, he called Him the Babe of Bethlehem.”

Within 200 years, manger scenes had spread throughout Europe. The Italians continue this tradition with a particular fervor, with churches and towns making elaborate public nativities, and the Pope blessing the Bambinelli (Baby Jesus figures) on the Third Sunday of Advent. Children then place them in their family mangers when Christmas arrives.

### Is Christmas a Catholic holiday?

Christmas is one of the most significant Catholic feasts. This is when “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

### Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

We give gifts to important people in our lives because the Three Wise Men gave gifts to the Child Jesus, as we see in Matthew 2:1-12. In doing this, however, we should always keep in mind that we are the recipients of the greatest Gift, Christ Himself and the Salvation He provides.

### What's the last day of Christmas called?

The last day of the Christmas Season is the Baptism of Our Lord, when His hidden life ended and His public ministry began.

### What are the 12 days of Christmas?

While the Christmas Season doesn’t end until the Baptism of Our Lord, the Twelve Days between Christmas and the Epiphany complete the celebration of the Nativity and the events directly connected to it. During this time, the Lord is recognized by the shepherds and the Magi, after which Herod will seek to kill the Child and the Holy Family will flee into Egypt.

### What is the octave of Christmas?

This is the 8-day period that begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

**“Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.” - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

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**MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS: Deceased:** Helen Cauchi, John Mark & Luisa Gonsalves, Simon & Joanna Bhundoo. **Prayers for the Sick:** Farley Bartholomeusz, Frances Zappia, Lucy Marie Ciappara, Carey Weber, Georgina Rastegorac, Waled Hana, Maryrose Vella, John Vella, Catherine Vella, Lolyn Velayo, Normie Santos. *Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered for Recently Deceased, Death Anniversary, Prayers for the Sick, Thanksgiving.*

## ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

### A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- Bethany Catholic Primary School for the donations of hampers to assist families in the parish.
- To all who helped with the Second Working Bee.
- To all who have donated in support of the mentally disabled children in the Orphanage.

Your generosity is much appreciated. God bless you.

### CHRISTMAS FLYERS LETTER BOX DROP

You are invited to take the flyers from the table at the back of the Church and do a letterbox drop around Glenmore Park. Please mark the streets that you will be covering from the list of street names provided. Each pile has 50 flyers. Thank you.

**CHILDREN'S YOUTH GROUP** continues in the new year. Starting date will be advised later.

**FIRST FRIDAY ALL NIGHT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** resumes in February.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE** will be closed from 24 December and will reopen on 10 January.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2023** are 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. Dates are on the parish noticeboards. If you are interested, please contact Fr Suresh for a form.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES ROSTER

Many helpers are needed for the Christmas Masses. Please check the Roster on the Welcome Table and indicate where you are able to help.

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION 2023

The Parent Info Letter & Enrolment Form are now available on the Parish Website & Welcome Table.

**Sunday 18 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A**

**Wednesday 21 December: St. Canisius, Priest & Doctor**

### Please take note of the MASS TIMINGS FOR CHRISTMAS & DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Date	Event	Information
19-24 December	<b>ROOSTER MASSES (till 24 December) *</b>	5am Mass. NO 9AM MASS when Rooster Mass is on. *Except Saturday 24 Dec: Mass is at 9am.
20 December	<b>ROSARY PRAYER GROUP</b>	Mother Mary's Statue will be at the home of Brad & Natalie Wilkinson, 9 Dungara Cres GP
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 24/12</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.</b>	
	<b>CHILDREN'S MASS</b>	5.30pm: Carols, 6pm Mass. <b>Children are invited to dress up as a nativity character for this Mass.</b>
	<b>FAMILY MASS</b>	8.00pm Carols, 8.30pm Mass
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY 25/12</b>	<b>SOLEMN MASS</b>	11.30pm Carols, 12am Midnight Mass
	<b>MORNING MASS</b>	7.30am Carols, 8am Mass
	<b>MORNING MASS</b>	9.30am Carols, 10am Mass
27 December	<b>ROSARY PRAYER GROUP</b>	Mother Mary's Statue will be at the home of Matthew & Melissa Topp, 123 Garswood Drive GP
27 - 30 December	<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Church is closed</b>
31 December onwards	<b>ALL AS NORMAL</b>	

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE ROSTER FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES.**

### ST PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK ONE 2023 – 31 DECEMBER / 01 JANUARY

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
<b>COORDINATOR</b>	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Regina Rossetto
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Joe Badrov	Khalid Younan	Chris Hersey Manny Medel
<b>SENIOR SERVER</b>	Kylie Sultana	<b>help needed</b>	<b>help needed</b>
<b>READER</b>	1. Freeda Fernandez 2. Angelina Badrov	1. Trish Warda 2. Denise Robens	1. Zon Lupisan 2. Regina Rossetto
<b>MUSIC</b>	Mitchell's Group		Children's Choir
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>help needed</b>	Vera Daher	Deepa Cijo & Cijo Mathew
<b>CLEANING TEAM</b>	Doris Cutajar, Paula Harris, Mel Gaudoin, Josephine Caruana, Valeni Rodrigues, Meghan Warda		



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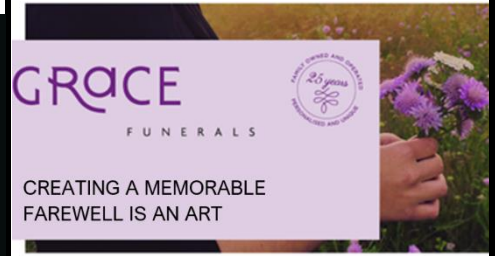
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**THIS IS A SMOKE FREE ZONE  
NO SMOKING ON CHURCH  
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**SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY**