



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

Parish Office: 34 - 38 William Howell Drive (PO Box 8037), GLENMORE PARK NSW 2745

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SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

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 mornings
are held every 4th Sunday.

FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

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

CHILDREN'S YOUTH GROUP

For children: Year 1 to Year 8.
Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
4.30pm-5.30pm in school hall

FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

9:30am – 11:30am 0-6 years
Bethany Catholic Primary School
Hall. Contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

John the Baptist – the voice that cried out in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord is very much needed to the world of today. Secularism, modernism, wokeness and death culture are creeping into our society and diminishing the human civilisation and all that we built up for centuries. John the Baptist was not only a voice but also a warning. The world is gradually becoming very selfish and self-centered. Faith, family values and truthfulness are being massacred right in front of our eyes. Ideological differences have divided the whole world.

John the Baptist is inviting us to join him in the efforts of re-building the world. It is not an easy task and we may have to pay a hefty price for it but so be it. His voice was the only voice at that time for truth and justice. Given the situation, we need many voices today to speak for truth and justice. Our voices may be silenced but the truth will not be silenced.

John the Baptist was unique in his own way. Living in the wilderness and eating locusts and honey and wearing camel skin etc. makes him very unique. He was chosen by God to prepare the way for the Lord and to make His paths straight. Many prophets spoke of him especially the prophet Isaiah. His voice was very much needed at that time of the society. He began His ministry with the call to repentance along with the call to be baptised. Many people believed in him and responded positively to be baptised. Jesus Himself was baptised by John the Baptist.

Jesus recognised him as the greatest human being ever born of woman! Jesus has never given such a recognition to anyone else. Though John was recognised in that way, he humbled himself by saying, "I am not worthy to undo the strap of His sandals". The mutual recognition of Jesus and John the Baptist inspire us to stand for truth and justice as these two greatest personalities stood for.

The season of Advent invites us to repent and believe in the Gospel. These days of waiting and expectation should enable us to change our lives towards Christ who is the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end.

Let the Advent season bring us a step closer to God and one another. Let us not decorate only our homes and businesses but also our hearts for Christ.

St. John the Baptist, Pray for us.

God Bless..

Kind regards,

Fr. Suresh Kumar
Parish Priest

ADVENT

(continued from last week's bulletin)

How do you observe Advent?

Advent is considered the Little Lent, as it begins by recalling that Christ will come at the end of the world as Judge, a reminder of the holiness with which we should be prepared to greet the Lord. Thus, although not strictly a penitential season, the faithful should turn their hearts toward Jesus in prayer, almsgiving, and sacrifice. In the last part of Advent, we look forward with anticipation and joy to His First Coming, in Bethlehem. One way to do this is to meditate on the O Antiphons used in the Mass, each of which represents a messianic title of Christ from the Old Testament.

What are the Advent symbols?

There are many symbols for Advent: the Advent calendar, Advent wreath with candles, the Jesse Tree, and the Crèche - with the Baby Jesus absent until Christmas Eve. Each of these can be the basis of a family tradition, especially to teach children how to prepare for Jesus' Birth.

Why is purple used in Advent?

The liturgical year has different colors for the different seasons. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (No. 121) says, "The purpose of using different colors is to express the specific character of the various mysteries. The use of the diverse colors is both pedagogical and symbolic of the various liturgical feasts and seasons."

Violet or purple, a symbol of suffering and penitence, is therefore the liturgical color used in Advent and in Lent.

"In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes towards the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion His birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib." - Pope Benedict XVI

Above excerpt is from: ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/advent-14416. Above picture is from: pinterest.com.au/pin/index-of-affiliatesales-pics--554646510350861062/

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

*You are cordially invited to join Fr. Suresh & the St. Padre Pio Parish
Catholic Community at Christmas celebrations.*

NINE DAY CHRISTMAS NOVENA – ROOSTER MASSES

Saturday 16 December 9:00am **Sunday 17 December** 8:00am
(Novena & Sunday Mass), 10:00am (Sunday Mass)

Monday 18 December – Friday 22 December 5:00am

Saturday 23 December 9:00am **Sunday 24 December** 8:00am
(Novena & Sunday Mass), 10:00am (Sunday Mass)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Children's Mass Sunday 24 December
5:30pm Carols - 6:00pm Mass
The children are invited to dress as a nativity character for this Mass

Family Mass Sunday 24 December
8:00pm Carols - 8:30pm Mass

Solemn Mass Monday 25 December
11:30pm Carols - 12:00am Mass

Christmas Day Mass Monday 25 December
7:30am Carols 8:00am Mass
9:30am Carols 10:00am Mass

A black silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. It features a central stable with the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus. To the left, a camel and a man are shown. To the right, a man with a staff and a donkey are depicted. The scene is set against a background of a starry sky with a prominent star above the stable.

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

MASS COUNT

There will be a Mass count this and next weekend as a requirement by the Diocese.

PARISH WORKING BEE FOR CHRISTMAS

Date: This Saturday 16 December, after the 9am Mass

This Working Bee is to clean the Church and its surrounds in preparation for Christmas. It would be appreciated if many parishioners could lend a helping hand. Please enter this date in your diaries.

ROOSTER MASSES - NINE DAY NOVENA

This Novena will begin from this **Saturday 16 December to Sunday 24 December**. Some Masses will be at a different time. Please see the **Advent & Christmas Mass timetable** found on the second page of the bulletin & Noticeboards.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPRATION FOR CHRISTMAS

When: every Saturday after 9am Mass. Please make use of this Sacrament to prepare for the coming of Christ this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



One of the best ways to celebrate Christmas is by sharing with the less fortunate. The stars on the Christmas Giving Tree represent the mentally & physically challenged children in India who

need our help this year. Please take a star and bring back a donation of \$60 to provide a child with Christmas lunch and new clothes. They pray for us all each day and are very grateful for our help. If you would like to contribute, please give the donation to Fr Suresh or the parish office. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

There are boxes outside the parish office for donations of **non-perishable food** to support families in our community this Christmas. Please sort your donation into the correct box. Canned & baking goods, snacks, condiments, drinks, pasta, sauce, sweet treats & miscellaneous (no chocolate or toys). *Thank you!*

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION 2024

This is for children in Yr. 3 (in 2024) and higher classes who have been baptised. The Parent Info Letter & Enrolment Form are available on the Parish Website & Welcome Table.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES

The courses are for anyone interested in serving within the Church either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. The dates are on the parish noticeboards. If interested, please see Fr Suresh.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Date: Tuesday 12 December.

Place: Evelyn & Virgilio Cobol, 11 Dara Cres, GP

Date: Tuesday 19 December.

Place: Brad & Natalie Wilkinson, 9 Dungara Cres, GP

Sunday 10 December: Second Sunday of Advent Yr. B

Monday 11 December: St. Damasus I, Pope

Tuesday 12 December: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday 13 December: St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Thursday 14 December: St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

NEXT SUNDAY is the Third Sunday of Advent Yr. B: Is 61:1-2, 10-11. Ps- Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. 1 Thess 5:16-24. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28.

CHRISTMAS FLYERS LETTER BOX DROP

Assistance is needed to distribute the Christmas flyers in letterboxes. The flyers are on a specially marked table at the back of the Church. Each bundle has 20 flyers. Please highlight the street/s you will be covering and any extra flyers, please return them to the parish. Thank you.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND PRAYERS WERE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS: Recently Deceased: Christian Velayo. **Prayers for the Sick:** Emily & Danilo Rosales, Maribelle Harina, Joselito Canaria, Angelo Ninni, Georgina Rastegorac, Maryrose Vella, Catherine Vella. *Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 16/17 DECEMBER

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Regina Rossetto
ACOLYTE	Joe Badrov	Khalid Younan	help needed
SENIOR SERVER	Kylie Sultana		Tracy Amituanai
READER	1. Rolajne Vibar 2. Angelina Badrov	1. help needed 2. Ajumol Alexander	1. Jason Ball 2. Noel Xavier
MUSIC	Our Daily Bread		
HOSPITALITY		help needed	Connie Hyland
BAPTISM			No Baptisms
CLEANING TEAM	Working Bee		



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THIS IS A SMOKE FREE ZONE
NO SMOKING ON CHURCH
OR SCHOOL GROUNDS

SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY