



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 17 DECEMBER 2023

THIRD 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,

All of us have a purpose in our lives. To discover what that purpose is and fulfilling it in our lives is the greatest achievement. It takes years for one to discover the purpose of life. At times, one may never discover it but go with the flow. Once we know what the goal of our life is, our life seems worth living and we do our best to live it well. No one can say that they don't have a purpose though they might have not discovered it.

The life purpose of the prophets is to speak on behalf of God. They revealed God's plan of salvation to the people and guided them for centuries. Many prophets spoke of the coming of the Messiah, but it was John the Baptist who pointed out the Saviour, the Lamb that was to take away the sins of the world. People wondered who this person John the Baptist was. Though they liked to listen to him and heed to his message of repentance, many of them failed to see what he saw in Jesus.

A VOICE THAT CRIES IN THE WILDERNESS – that is how John was referred to by prophet Isaiah. A voice that called people to repent and amend their way of life. John prepared and straightened the way for the Lord. He knew that people had been waiting for centuries to welcome the Saviour, yet the path of the world was crooked. John didn't want to take any claim of being a prophet though his message was very prophetic.

Christmas 2023 – we feel the need to have more and more John the Baptists. In every nation, culture, lifestyle and situation, there is a need for a John the Baptist. People are afraid to speak and to stand for Truth. They are afraid that their lifestyle will be challenged by Truth. Opinions are respected these days more than Truth itself. At times, the Truth has to be suppressed in order to make place for opinions. John was ready to give witness to the light. He was willing to lay down his life for the sake of the light and truth. This very act of courage and wisdom made him be remembered forever.

As we prepare for Christmas in 2023, let us be courageous enough like John the Baptist to be a witness. He was the voice that cries in the wilderness, let us be voices that cry in the cities, in towns and in the world. May John the Baptist strengthen us in our resolve to stand for Truth.

God Bless..

Kind regards,

Fr. Suresh Kumar
Parish Priest

Haven't Been to Confession in Years? A Priest Provides 3 Great Ways to Prepare Your Heart This Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," St. John the Baptist said as he repeated Isaiah's words. (*Luke 3:4*). John the Baptist calls us to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord and to be ready for Christ's arrival, not only in a general way into the world, but also in a particular way into each one of our hearts.

This voice crying out in the wilderness is telling us to be alert, ready, and prepared—to make straight our paths, for the Lord is coming, the Lamb of God is coming, Christ is coming! The best way to prepare for Jesus' coming is to take advantage of the sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent season. This is something we are all called to do.

If you feel that calling and desire to go to Confession during this Advent season, it's important to prepare for receiving this wonderful sacrament. Here are three ways in which we can do that:

1) Be prepared before going into the confessional.

Central to our preparation before going to confession is an examination of conscience. In other words, we reflect on how long it's been since our last Confession and what kind of sins we have committed during that time. Don't worry, you are not the only sinner out there! Every one of us struggles with temptation and sin.

As a newly ordained priest and confessor, I have learned that many people struggle with the same kinds of sins.

One of the devil's tactics in keeping us in our sinful ways is making us think that we are alone. But this is a lie. We are not alone in our fight against temptation and sin. All of us are called to examine ourselves and see where we have failed to do the Lord's will in our lives.

2) Be prepared during confession. As we enter the confessional and begin the sacrament, we can prepare ourselves by opening our hearts to God's love, mercy, and grace that He pours upon us through His priest.

In his book *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales wrote about the importance of listening to the priest in the confessional: "Go to your confessor; open your heart to him; reveal to him all the recesses of your soul, and accept the advice he [the priest] gives you with the utmost humility and simplicity.

"God has infinite love for obedience. He often makes profitable the counsels we take from others, especially [from] those who guide our souls [our priests]."

In this way, we can be ready to be formed by the priest's advice and by the Holy Spirit working in our hearts in that sacramental moment.

3) Be prepared after Confession

How can we be prepared after our Confession? We can prepare to do penance and understand that we are strengthened to turn away from sin. It is important to do the penance the priest gives us (like praying so many Our Fathers or Hail Marys)...penances help us to make satisfaction for our sin and help us to re-establish good, holy habits. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1494*)

In addition to penance, God gives us the grace in this sacrament not to sin again. While this sacrament is about confessing our sins and offering our failings to God, it's also about receiving the strength and the grace to be better Christians, to be better followers of Christ. And of course, we are imperfect human beings, who will eventually fail again and again. But we have God's constant love, mercy, and forgiveness to help us along our spiritual journeys.

Preparing for confession can help us prepare for Christ's coming this Christmas season...

Above excerpt is from: churchpop.com/havent-been-to-confession-in-years-this-priest-provides-three-great-ways-to-prepare-your-heart-this-advent/

ST PADRE PIO PARISH

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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 Vigil Mass 5:30pm

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, Vigil Mass 5:30pm

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



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

MASS COUNT

There will be a Mass count this weekend as per the requirement from the Diocese.

THANK YOU

-To all who helped in the Working Bee to prepare the Church and its surroundings in preparation for Christmas.
-To the teachers and families of Bethany Catholic Primary School and to all who donated non-perishable food in support of needy families in the parish.

ROOSTER MASSES - CHRISTMAS NOVENA

The Rooster Masses Novena have begun and will continue till **Sunday 24 December**. Please see the **Advent & Christmas Mass timetable** printed on the second page of the bulletin & Parish Noticeboards.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



THANKS to all who donated to support the mentally & physically challenged children in India. If anyone has taken a star home and have not returned the \$60 donation, please do so as soon as possible. We intend to provide each child with Christmas lunch and new clothes. They pray for us all each day and are very grateful for our help. Thank you!

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

When: Every Saturday after 9am Mass. Let us prepare ourselves by going to Confession.

CHRISTMAS FLYERS LETTER BOX DROP

Assistance is needed to distribute the Christmas flyers in letterboxes. 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.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION & CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATION

Sundays and Christmas are Holy Days of Obligation and Catholics are expected to attend Mass on these days.

Please note that the normal Mass times on Sat: 5.30pm Vigil and Sunday 8am & 10am cover the Sunday Obligation. The Christmas Mass times from the 6pm Children's Mass onwards cover the Christmas obligation.

NEW ITEMS IN THE PIETY SHOP

The Piety shop has many lovely gifts for Christmas including 2024 Religious Calendars, Christmas cards and other Christmas items.

WEEKDAY MASSES after Christmas

There will be no Masses from 26-29 December. Weekend Masses are as usual. Weekday Masses will resume from 02 Jan, 9am.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed for Christmas holidays and reopens on 30 January 2024.

FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION will be on 02 February 2024.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Date: Tuesday 19 December.

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

Date: Tuesday 26 December.

Place: Matthew & Melissa Topp, 123 Garswood Dr, GP

Sunday 17 December: Third Sunday of Advent Yr. B

Thursday 22 December: St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Saturday 23 December: St. John Kanty, Priest

NEXT SUNDAY is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr. B:**

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29. Rom 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND PRAYERS WERE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS: **Death Anniversary:** Lucio Apawan, Tarcisio & Helen Cauchi. **Thanksgiving:** David Freitas. **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.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 23/24 DECEMBER

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Cristina Cignarella	Lynn Young	Regina Rossetto
ACOLYTE	Joe Badrov	Khalid Younan	Chris Hersey
SENIOR SERVER	Kylie Sultana		Tracy Amituanai
READER	1. Cristina Cignarella 2. Reginald Vibar	1. Trish Warda 2. Jacinta Rastegorac	1. Eric Ruiz 2. Zon Lupisan
MUSIC			Pio's Voices
HOSPITALITY		Warda Family	Jonielyn Yuzon
BAPTISM			
CLEANING TEAM	Helen Sipeli, Rebekah Gomesz, Marlene Schoebel, Joseph Gomes, Johan		



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NO SMOKING ON CHURCH
OR SCHOOL GROUNDS**

SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY