



# ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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**SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR C**

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

### SUNDAY

8:00am Mass & 10:00am Mass

### MONDAY

7:00pm Mass

### TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

9:00am Mass

### WEDNESDAY

7:00pm Mass (every First  
Wednesday includes Novena to  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help)

### SATURDAY

9:00am Mass  
Novena to St. Padre Pio & Blessing  
with his Relic  
9:30am Sacrament of Penance  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass

### RECONCILIATION (Confession)

#### Tuesday – Friday

Before & after Mass (*depending on  
priests' availability*).

### BAPTISMS

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays. Minimum  
booking time: two months in  
advance.

### FIRST FRIDAY MASS & ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

7:00pm Mass, Adoration starts  
3:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet  
9:00am Saturday Mass

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Every Wednesday, 7pm Mass,  
then YA meeting for 18-35yrs.

### FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

Contact the Parish Office.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

## CHRISTMAS

### Why Is Christmas Celebrated?

The Church celebrates the “marvelous works of God” through public worship, or liturgy, commemorating the great events in salvation history.

The Nativity of Our

Lord celebrates the point in history when the Son of God became Man for our Salvation – an act of loving obedience to the Father, and saving love for us, that will culminate on the Cross.



Philippians 2:5-8. *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.*

### Where is Christmas in the Bible?

While the name Christmas comes from the fact that the Church celebrates the day with a special Christ Mass, the event itself is recounted in the Infancy Narratives of the Gospel of Matthew, esp. 1:18-25, and the Gospel of Luke, esp. 2:1-20.

Each account is unique in its details. Matthew, whom scholars believe was a Jew writing for Jews, provides his readers with the prophetic preparation for Christ. Whereas, Luke, a Greek physician, writes to give an accurate account (Lk. 1:1). The many details of the angelic announcement, visitation to Elizabeth, birth and early years are believed to have been obtained by interviewing the Blessed Virgin.

### What is the Christmas Season?

The greatest feasts, like Christmas and Easter, have liturgical seasons dedicated to them. Christmas is preceded by the Season of Advent, a time of preparation, and the celebration of the Nativity itself is extended in the Christmas Season. This season begins on Christmas Eve, as Catholics

rejoice in the Lord's Birth on December 25th, and extends to the Baptism of the Lord, on the Sunday after the Epiphany.

Beginning on Christmas Day, eight days are dedicated to an Octave of Christmas, after the Jewish pattern for the greatest feasts. During this octave the Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated, and it culminates in the honoring of Mary as the Mother of God on January 1st.

This title was first given to her by the early Councils, as a defense of her Son's divinity against those who argued He was not God, or not eternally so.

The cost of salvation and discipleship is never out of sight, however, during the Octave. The Church recalls the Holy Innocents, killed by Herod in a frantic search for the Messiah, and the proto-martyr Stephen, killed as Saul, later St. Paul, encouraged it.

Finally, the Christmas Season concludes by looking forward to the Public Life and Ministry of Jesus, with the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. These events, which mark "manifestations" of Christ's divinity, serve as bookends to His hidden life from infancy to the inauguration of His public ministry.

#### **Why was Jesus laid in a manger?**

In his apostolic letter *Admirabile Signum (On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene)*,

Pope Francis said,  
Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as "the bread come down from heaven" (*Jn 6:41*). Saint Augustine, with other Church Fathers, was impressed by this symbolism: "Laid in a manger, he became our food" (*Sermon 189, 4*). Indeed, the nativity scene evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus' life and brings them close to our own daily lives.

Article from: <https://missions.ewtn.com/seasonsandfeastdays/christmas/>  
Picture from: <https://au.pinterest.com/pin/a-very-merry-christmas--332281278747022506/>

## **IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY/FILMING AT THE NATIVITY CHRISTMAS PLAY**

**Parishioners are requested not to take photos/videos of the children during the Nativity Play on Christmas Eve. Parents of the children are allowed as long as they focus the camera on their own children, keep photos/video for own family use and be mindful what to upload. Strictly no uploads of images of other children.**

**Thank you for your co-operation!**

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

*You are cordially invited to join Fr Johnson, Fr Sheldon & St. Padre Pio Parish Catholic Community at Christmas celebrations.*

**NINE DAY CHRISTMAS NOVENA – ROOSTER MASSES**  
**Monday 16 December – Tuesday 24 December 5:00am**

**Other Masses as usual.**

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Tuesday 24 December - Children's Mass**

5:30pm Nativity Play & 6:00pm Mass

*The children are invited to dress as a nativity character for this Mass.*

**Tuesday 24 December - Family Mass**

9:00pm Mass

**Wednesday 25 December - Solemn Mass**

12:00am Mass

**Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day Mass**

8:00am Mass & 10:00am Mass

*Please note: No 7pm Mass on Christmas Day*

**Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation and Catholics are expected to attend Mass on this day.**



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## ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

**CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS** If anyone knows of a family who might need some support with food for the Christmas period, **please let the parish office know asap.** All information will be held confidentially.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS** - before and after Masses from Monday 23 December. Please make use of this Sacrament to prepare for the coming of Christ this Christmas.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION AND MASS**  
End the year and start 2025 with Jesus in Adoration and Mass!  
When: Tuesday 31 December, Adoration from 11pm-midnight, then Mass.  
Please let others know about it.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE**  
The office will be closed from Christmas Day and reopens on 21 January 2025.

**Men, are you looking to break out of unhealthy and unholy habits?**  
**Exodus 90** offers a realistic way to discover greater freedom in Jesus Christ through daily prayer, sacrifice, and fraternity. For 90 days, we will read from the Book of Exodus and focus our attention more fully on God and our families, pulling back from the distractions of technology, alcohol, and our general busyness.  
Exodus 90 has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of men throughout the world. It's time to take a leap of faith to follow the Lord more fully in our lives, entering more fully into the great adventure God has planned for our lives. **Beginning on 20 Jan.**  
To sign up or for more info, visit [exodus90.com](http://exodus90.com).

**Sunday 22 December:** Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

**Monday 23 December:** St John of Kanty

**Wednesday 25 December: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD-HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Thursday 26 December:** St Stephen

**Friday 27 December:** St John

**Saturday 28 December:** Holy Innocents

**NEXT SUNDAY: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR C**

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14, Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:41-52

**ROSARY PRAYER GROUP**

**Date:** Tuesday 24 December

**Place:** Mathew & Melissa Topp

**TRAVELLING TO ITALY?**

If anyone is travelling to Italy this month or early next month, please contact Fr Johnson.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS & ALL-NIGHT ADORATION**



**When: Friday 03 January 2025**

7pm: Mass followed by the All-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

3am: The Divine Mercy Chaplet

9am: Mass & Novena to St. Padre Pio.

*Come and spend time with Our Lord.*

*The sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table.*

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION 2025**

The Parent Information Letter & Enrolment Form are now on the Parish Website & Welcome Table for children in Yr 3 (in 2025) and above who have received the Sacrament of Baptism. *Enrolment forms need to be in to the parish office by 18 February.*

**PARISH INCOME & EXPENSES** sheet for November can be found on the Parish Noticeboards.

**MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS:**

Thanksgiving to God-Birthdays. **Recently Deceased:** Dorothy Fenech. **Prayers for the Sick:** Steve Eggleton, Molly Poulouse, Kyla Aggar, Richard Daher, Eric Norman Santos, Jimmy Zacharias, Mario Cauchi, Alona Alcaraz, Adrienne Auld, Trent Moore, Ernesto Modelo, Joselito Canaria, Lynn Navarro, Kim Baluyot, Jasmine Arada, Maricris Palencia, Yvonne Videla, Alejandra Modelo, Emily & Danilo Rosales, Georgina Rastegorac, Maryrose Vella, Catherine Vella. **Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered.**

### ST PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK FIVE – FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 28/29 DECEMBER

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Maz Lirio	Help Needed	Help Needed
ACOLYTE SENIOR SERVER	Billy Layug Lya Layug Kylie Sultana	Khalid Younan Gilbert Grech	Chris Hersey Dit Almer
READER	1. Help Needed 2. Help Needed	1. Trish Warda 2. Liam Warda	1. Deepa Cijo 2. Mel Almer
HOSPITALITY		Help Needed	Help Needed
CLEANING TEAM	Volunteers after 9:00am Mass		

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

### **First Reading** Micah 5:1-4

#### **A reading from the prophet Micah**

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend  
his power  
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** Hebrews 10:5-10

#### **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for  
sin; then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the  
Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the  
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the  
sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them;  
and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey  
your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it  
with the second. And this will was for us to be made  
holy by the offering of his body made once and for all  
by Jesus Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation** Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel** Luke 3:10-18

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?'  
he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share  
with the man who has none, and the one with  
something to eat must do the same.' There were tax  
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said  
to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them,  
'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked  
him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'  
He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be  
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,  
who were beginning to think that John might be the  
Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise  
you with water, but someone is coming, someone  
who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to  
undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with  
the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his  
hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the  
wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire  
that will never go out.' As well as this, there were  
many other things he said to exhort the people and to  
announce the Good News to them.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**