



# ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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<b>SUNDAY 08 DECEMBER 2024</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>YEAR C</b>
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**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.

## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### **Why do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception?**

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, on December 8 (this year, the Church celebrates it on 9 December, since the 8<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday). In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception:

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the very first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin." (*Ineffabilis Deus*, Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX on the Immaculate Conception)



Thus, the Church teaches that the Blessed Mother was redeemed by Her Son, just as we are, but by a Divine anticipation of the merits of the Word-made-flesh. Like Eve before her, she was not subject to the Fall and thus to the prince of this world. However, unlike Eve, she would never surrender that freedom which God's grace provided her.

### **What is the difference between the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth?**

The Immaculate Conception indicates that Our Lady was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception.

The Virgin Birth means that Jesus was conceived and born, not of man, but by the Holy Spirit.

### **How do we know Mary was Immaculately Conceived?**

The Church teaches us that Mary was immaculately conceived.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states,

To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace." In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

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Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception.

That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." (CCC 490-491)

#### Who is the Immaculate Conception and why?

Mary, the Mother of God, is the Immaculate Conception. This is because she was chosen by God and given the grace of being preserved from original sin.

Pope St. John Paul II said,

Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sm 16:7). And Mary's heart was fully disposed to the fulfilment of the divine will. This is why the Blessed Virgin is the *model of Christian expectation and hope...* In her heart there is no shade of selfishness: she desires nothing for herself except God's glory and human salvation. For her, the very privilege of being preserved from original sin is not a reason to boast, but one for total service to her Son's redemptive mission.

#### Why did God choose Mary?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (paragraphs 492-493) teaches,

The "splendor of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son." The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love."

The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Panagia), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature." By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long. (Picture from: [au.pinterest.com/pin/173459023118349110/](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/173459023118349110/))

Above article is from: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/immaculate-conception-20466>)



## ST. PADRE PIO PARISH 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

**Tuesday 24 December - Family Mass**

9:00pm Mass

**Solemn Midnight Mass 12am**

**Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day Mass**

8:00am Mass & 10:00am Mass

*The children are invited to dress as a nativity character for the Christmas Masses.*

***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

<p><b>SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY:</b>  <b>THIS MONDAY 09 DECEMBER</b> Since the 08 December is a Sunday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on this Monday 09 December, 7pm Mass.</p>		<p><b>Sunday 08 December:</b>                  Second Sunday of Advent Year C  <b>Monday 09 December: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b>  <b>Tuesday 10 December:</b> Our Lady of Loreto  <b>Wednesday 11 December:</b> St Damasus I  <b>Thursday 12 December:</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe  <b>Friday 13 December:</b> St Lucy  <b>Saturday 14 December:</b> St John of the Cross</p>
<p><b>ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP</b> Come and prepare for the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus.  <b>When:</b> every Tuesday in Advent, 7pm-8pm in the Church. All welcome!</p>		<p><b>NEXT SUNDAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C</b>                  Zephaniah 3:14-18, Is 12:2-6 R. v.6,                  Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18</p>
<p><b>WORKING BEE, CHURCH DECORATIONS &amp; PUTTING UP OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:</b>                  Volunteers are needed <b>this Saturday 14 December</b>, after 9am Mass to clean and decorate the inside and outside of our Church. Please bring gloves, cleaning items, etc. for the working bee. Please come &amp; help to make the Church ready for Christmas.</p>		<p><b>ROSARY PRAYER GROUP</b>  <b>Date:</b> Tuesday 10 December  <b>Place:</b> Evelyn &amp; Virgilio Cobol  <b>Date:</b> Tuesday 17 December  <b>Place:</b> Brad &amp; Natalie Wilkinson</p>
<p><b>CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS</b>                  If anyone knows of a family who might need some support in regards to food for the Christmas period, please let the parish office know. All information will be held confidentially.</p>		<p><b>PIETY SHOP</b>                  There are many beautiful gifts for Christmas in the piety shop located at the back of the Church. Please take some time to have a look.</p>
<p><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>When:</b> before and after Masses from Monday 23 December. Please make use of this Sacrament to prepare for the coming of Christ this Christmas.</p>		<p><b>LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES</b>                  The courses are for people 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 noticeboards. If interested, please see Fr. Johnson.</p>
		<p><b>PLANTS FOR SALE</b>                  There are succulents for sale at the back of the Church. The money raised will go for the needs and maintenance of the Church.</p>

**MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS:**

Tarcisio & Helen Cauchi, Anna Portelli. **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 THREE – THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 14/15 DECEMBER**

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
<b>COORDINATOR</b>	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Tracy Amituanai
<b>ACOLYTE SENIOR SERVER</b>	Billy Layug Lya Layug Kylie Sultana	Khalid Younan Gilbert Grech	Chris Hersey Dit Almer
<b>READER</b>	1. Rolaine Vibar 2. Trudi Almeida	1. Sue Guy 2. Ajumol Alexander	1. Katie English 2. Noel Xavier
<b>MUSIC</b>	Our Daily Bread		Modern Harmony
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>		<b>monthly help needed</b>	Connie Hyland & Rosie Bartholomeuz
<b>BAPTISM</b>			<b>Help needed</b>
<b>CLEANING TEAM</b>	Susan Guy, Anna Roberts, Aiman & Maria Jajo, Johan, Melissa Bowden		

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

**First Reading** Baruch 5:1-9

**A reading from the prophet Baruch**

*Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation  
under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour through  
devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:  
see your sons reassembled from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has  
remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,  
with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you  
like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level  
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.  
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade  
for Israel at the command of God;  
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory  
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 125. R. v.3

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled  
with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of  
Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,  
remembering how you have helped to spread the Good  
News from the day you first heard it right up to the  
present. I am quite certain that the One who began this  
good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day  
of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all,  
loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your  
love for each other may increase more and more and  
never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your  
perception so that you can always recognise what is best.  
This will help you to become pure and blameless, and  
prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the  
perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the  
glory and praise of God.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 3:1-6

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

*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when  
Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of  
Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea  
and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the  
pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came  
to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went  
through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of  
repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in  
the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

