





O Mary,  
conceived without sin,  
pray for us who have  
recourse to thee. Amen

### Recently Deceased

William Clements, Anne Boylan, Breda Reddy

### Anniversaries

Beatrice Riley, Leo Riley, Helen Colette, Fe Biason, Nemesio Biason, John Ivan Radic, Ramiro Fonseca Useda

### Prayers for the Sick

Ben Hall, Sr Mary Bohan, Ricardo Perez, Nicola MacGregor, Fr Pat Keenan, Lolita Herrera, Robert Da Costa

### Special Intentions

Da Costa-Allen Family, Sadek Family

### This Week's Mass Intentions

**Sun 14 Dec:** 8:00am Sr Mary Bohan  
10:00am Pro Populo  
5.00pm Special Intention

**Tues 16 Dec:** Holy Souls

**Wed 17 Dec :** Holy Souls

**Thurs 18 Dec:** Holy Souls

**Fri 19 Dec:** Holy Souls

**Sat 20 Dec:** Holy Souls

**Sun 21 Dec:** 8:00am Pro Populo  
10:00am Holy Souls  
5.00pm Special Intention

### Accommodation

From time to time the office receives requests to find rooms to share or offers of rooms available. We have several requests from young Catholic men and women looking for flatmates at the moment. Please contact the office if you have a room or are looking for a room and we will try to put people in touch with each other.



### Parish Primary School

Galilee Catholic Primary School  
60B Blair Street, North Bondi  
Ph: 9130 7082



### Reflection on the Third Sunday of Advent by Father Gabriel of St Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

Come, O Lord and save us (Is 3 5:4)

By the Third Sunday of Advent the Liturgy is dominated by the thought of the near approach of Christmas, which gives it a festive tone. In fact Christmas, the commemoration of the incarnation of the Son of God, marks the beginning of salvation: mankind sees the ancient promise fulfilled and has its Savior. Today's readings are a message of consolation and comfort: "Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not. Behold your God . . . will come and save you.'" Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Is 35:4-6). The words of Isaiah were directed toward comforting the exiled people of Israel, but can equally be applied to all who want to be more deeply converted to God, yet feel incapable of breaking the bonds of sin and mediocrity and worldly vanity; all are encouraged to have confidence in the Savior.

He will come to give strength and to sustain the weak, healing the wounds of sin and bringing salvation to all. With the coming of Jesus, prophecy was literally fulfilled, and he himself made use of it to prove his Messiahship. The Baptist has been following Jesus' movements from the prison where Herod imprisoned him; he knows Jesus is the Messiah, yet his behavior, so different from what had been foretold had perhaps confused him; besides, John's disciples need enlightenment; so he sends them to ask the Lord: "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Mt 11:3). In answer Jesus points to the miracles he has worked: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them" (ib. 4-5).

The fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy is evident. But Jesus continues: "Blessed is he who takes no offense at me" (ib. 6). Jesus accomplishes his work as Savior without any ostentation, simply and humbly; he does not present himself as a conqueror, but rather as one who is meek; as a poor man who has come to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the sick, and to save sinners. His manner might scandalize those who were looking for a powerful and glorious Messiah, but it brought great encouragement to those who felt themselves poor, little and sick, in need of salvation. Hearts swelled with hope before the Savior's kindness and meekness. All this is reinforced in the second reading: "Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (Jas 5:8). The sentiments of faith with which we prepare for Christmas are identical with those which should dispose us for the glorious return of the Lord when he will come not only as Savior, but also as Judge.

While waiting we need to practice his commandment of love which will make us well-disposed and merciful toward all; we should "take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord . . . as an example of suffering and patience" (ib. 10). Just as the prophets kept their eyes constantly turned toward the promised Redeemer, so ought we live with hearts turned toward the coming of Jesus, renewing this disposition every day through grace and the Eucharist, and deepening it into greater intimacy through the devout celebration of Christmas, until it becomes final and beatifying on the last day.



# Christmas

## Mass Times

Christmas Vigil: 24th  
December

6pm at St Anne's

(There will be no 7.15am Mass)

Christmas Day: 25th  
December

8am at St Anne's

10am at St Patrick's

(There will be no 7.00pm Mass &  
Adoration)

Friday 26th December  
9.00 am Mass at St Anne's



## Christmas gifts for the Sudanese Catholics



Each year our parish generously collects gifts for the needy which are distributed to the St Bakhita Centre, the Archdiocesan charity which supports the Catholic Sudanese Refugee community in Sydney. These people have suffered terribly for their faith and have sought a new home in Australia, but come here without anything.

Please bring along a wrapped gift if you can for the poor refugees, remembering to include a label to tell if the gift is for an adult or a child, a boy or girl, man or woman as necessary. Please place this gift under the Christmas tree.

God bless you all at this generous season of the year.

Archbishop  
Anthony Fisher OP  
invites you to

## CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

*a festival evening at St Mary's*

17-25 DECEMBER

Celebrate the season  
with market stalls, delicious food,  
live entertainment and projections  
illuminating the cathedral.

[CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU](http://CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU)



## BONDI CATHOLIC

9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER



## BIBLE STUDY

7- 8.30 PM

ST ANNE'S  
CHURCH  
MEETING  
ROOM



"MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE,  
BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD"





*Madonna and Child with the Young Saint John the Baptist ..of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen.*

### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father; through him all things  
were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was  
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and  
became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and  
was buried, and rose again on the third  
day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father. He will  
come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead and his kingdom will  
have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father and the Son, who with the  
Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the  
prophets.

I believe in one, holy, Catholic and  
apostolic Church. I confess one  
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection  
of the dead and the life of the world to  
come.

Amen

### Entrance Antiphon

**Philippians 4:4-5**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

### First Reading

**Isaiah 35:1-6, 10**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**James 5:7-10**

**A reading from the letter of St James**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.  
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for  
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had  
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too  
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because  
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make  
complaints against one another, brothers, so as  
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the  
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.  
For your example, brothers, in submitting with  
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the  
name of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Matthew 11:2-11**

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

John in his prison had heard what Christ was  
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are  
you the one who is to come, or have we got to  
wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go  
back and tell John what you hear and see; the  
blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are  
cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are  
raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed  
to the poor; and happy is the man who does not  
lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to  
talk to the people about John: 'What did you go  
out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying  
in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to  
see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those  
who wear fine clothes are to be found in  
palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a  
prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a  
prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:  
Look, I am going to send my messenger before  
you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell  
you solemnly, of all the children born of  
women, a greater than John the Baptist has  
never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of  
heaven is greater than he is.'

### Communion Antiphon

**Cf Isaiah 35:4**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not  
fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save  
us.