

# WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

2 & 3 December 2023

## Weekday/Weekend Mass Timetable:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am  
Tuesday - Friday 9:15 am  
Saturday: 9:15 am

Reconciliation - Saturdays from 9:45 am  
Baptisms, marriages and funerals, by appointment only.

## SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8  
St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 3-9  
Mark 13: 33-37

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate that this land is of the Wangal people of the Darug nation on which we are gathered. We commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation, justice and peace.



## Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!



**FOR OUR DEAD**  
Please remember those who have gone before us:  
Tony Bou-Chahine  
Patricia  
Marion Kelly

**ANNIVERSARY**  
Anthony Herbert

**SICK:**  
Sharon Holliday

**SPECIAL INTENTION:**  
Healing and strength and God's blessings for illness

## THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent is the beginning of the Liturgical Year and is a time for anticipation, preparation, joy and hope. Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of how God's plan has been revealed in Christ, is now revealed in every Mass we celebrate, and that Christ will be revealed in his glory when he comes again at a time we do not know.



For each Sunday of Advent, we take our focus for the Advent Wreath from our Advent traditions. Like the people of the Old Testament, we live in hope for the fullness of the revelation of Christ the Messiah when he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

The Advent Wreath Responsory often replaces the Penitential Act and therefore leads into the Opening Prayer.

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023 FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation will be celebrated at St Anne's Church on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm. The last session of the program will be on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 9.00 am**. We look forward to celebrating the next steps on your child's journey of faith.

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

Administrator: Father Jacek Cichy  
Deacon: Rev Mr Constantine Rodrigues  
11 St Anne's Square  
Strathfield South NSW 2136  
Phone (02) 9642 1523  
Email: [stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com](mailto:stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com)



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Townsend  
St Anne's Square  
Strathfield South NSW 2136  
Phone: (02) 9642 6149  
Website: <https://www.stastrathfield.catholic.edu.au/>

## FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK

### THANK YOU



A special thank you to Fr Pat Hurley for looking after the Parish while I was on annual leave. Thank you also to the parishioners for making Fr Pat feel welcome.

### PARSH ADVENT PRAYER GROUP



The Parish Advent group meets every Tuesday night at 7 pm in the Presbytery. A sign-up sheet can be found on the back table in the church. Consider joining the group and creating a space to prayerfully prepare for this season of hope, joy, and peace as we approach Christmas.

### AN OCCASION OF COMMON LAMENTATION AND PRAYER FOR PEACE

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Bishop Michael McKenna, Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Dialogue invites you to ***An Occasion of Common Lamentation and Prayer for Peace***

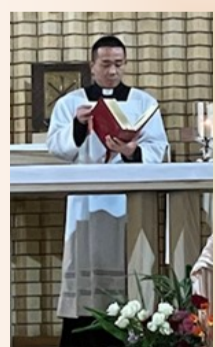
**Date:** Wednesday 6th December      **Time:** 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

**Location:** St Mary's Cathedral

### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

The 8<sup>th</sup> of December is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States. 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 Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 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." —Catechism of the Catholic Church.

### DIACONATE ORDINATION – JOSEPH YUANYUAN LI



The Diaconate Ordination of Joseph Yuanyuan Li (Seminarist from the Good Shepherd Seminary) will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 6.00 pm, at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Weston St Fairfield by The Most Reverend Bishop Danny Meagher for ministry in Weinan Diocese, China. Please keep Joseph in your prayers.

### MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND THOSE HOPING TO CONCEIVE

All expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive are warmly invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 10 December, with an opportunity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Richard Umbers with relics of St. Gerard Majella and St. Gianna Molla.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

**Priest:**

*The Priest blesses the wreath and the assembly with the sprinkling of holy water, using these or similar words:*

May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism.

During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds.

May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord.

*The Priest, or an assistant, lights the first candle, which is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.*

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed to the people that we are the work of God's hands; we are the clay and he is the potter (First Reading).

**R. Come, Lord Jesus.**

V. Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul declares that the Spirit will keep us steady until the last day (Second Reading).

**R. Come, Lord Jesus.**

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory.

You ask us to 'stay awake!' (Gospel).

**R. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Priest: [Collect: First Sunday of Advent]**

Grant your faithful, we pray, Almighty God,

the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ

with righteous deeds at his coming, so that gathered at your right hand,

they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom, Through our Lord

Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the

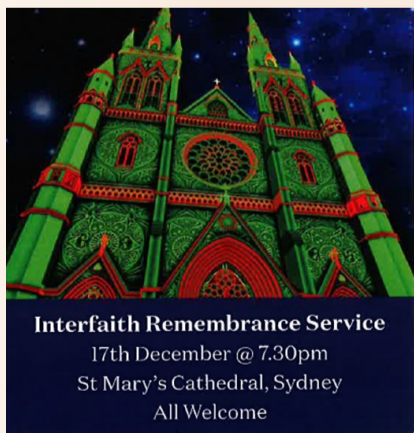
unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**R. Amen**

## CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Parishioners are invited to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Twelve Days of Christmas at the Cathedral begins on the 14th of December and concludes on the 25th of December. Festivities begin at 5.30 pm each evening with market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids, and live entertainment. Visit the Sydney Archdiocese website at [christmasatthecathedral.org.au](http://christmasatthecathedral.org.au) for more information.

## CHRISTMAS INTERFAITH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2023



Catholic Cemeteries + Crematoria warmly invites you and your family to join us for our special Interfaith Christmas Remembrance Service to remember those we have lost in 2023.

**When:** 7.30pm at Sunday 17th December, 2023

**Where:** St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

**Presided by:** Most Reverend Terence Brady Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Sydney

Live music performances - **ALL WELCOME**

Dear Parishioners, Parents and Carers,

Each year in Term 4 our students from Year 2 through to Year 6 undertake achievement tests in Mathematics and Reading. These are known as PAT Tests. This stands for Progressive Achievement Tests and the assessments are designed by the Australian Council for Educational Research. These days the tests are online and adaptive. This means that if a student is having trouble, they will be asked easier items while a student who is succeeding will be presented with more difficult questions. These assessments are valuable because we get to know what students know and what they don't know. At Friday's assembly the students who came first, second or third in these tests received an award.



The Parents and Friends meeting this week highlighted the great contributions the P & F have made to our school this year financially and socially. As a result of the efforts of the P & F our school is a more engaging place for our students in the playground and in the classrooms. The students make use of the playground and sporting equipment every day and the teachers love the teaching and learning resources that have been provided.

We are looking forward to our Year two students making their First Reconciliation this week and our Christmas celebration on Friday evening.

Warm regards  
Phil Townsend

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL 2024 COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

St Vincent de Paul 2024 Columban Calendars are now available for \$10 each. Put your money in the envelope provided and put on 2nd collection plate.

### **LISTEN TO THE WORD: PREPARE FOR HIS BIRTH-ADVENT COMPANION 2023**

The beautiful Season of Advent is here. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to prepare for the coming of Jesus. This free Advent Companion contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas, and spiritual reflections by Christian Stephens, Rachel Vala, Milad Khalil, Sr Anastasia Reeves OP, and Fr Matthew Meagher. Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online. We have a limited amount of copies available for parishioners to take home. These are available from the table at the back of the church or visit [www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)

### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS CARDS**

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding an Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**Website:** [Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection](http://Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection)

