



Regents Park Catholic Parish

Comprising of St Bernardine's Church, St Catherine's Church
and Our Lady of the Assumption Church

First Sunday of Advent 29th November 2020

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Priests of the Parish

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We the Catholic Communities of Regents Park Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit; commit to building a welcoming, inclusive, faith centred community grounded upon the Gospel values of leadership and service.

Ministry matters 'The Season of ADVENT 2020

This Weekend marks the Season of Advent, that time to prepare ourselves and to be prepared for the coming of the Christ Child into our lives at Christmas once again. We hear this week that call to stay awake for we do not know the hour of the day. So stay awake during this Season. Awake to the wonder and the power of our God who continues to break into our lives at unexpected moments in our lives, and it is only when we do stay awake, when we are aware of the sacred moments that fill our lives that we will hear God speak to us personally.

I was struck by something that Archbishop Mark has shared with the Church this week about prayer. He had been with the Carmelite sisters at Ormiston and this was his reflection after having shared so much with this sacred Sisters who devote themselves to praying for the Church. Archbishop wrote and said, '...nothing is more important as a reminder of what the whole Church is called to be – a community of disciples listening constantly to the voice of Christ who never ceases to speak and entering more and more deeply into friendship with him. **Christian prayer begins not with speaking but with listening to the God who speaks...** All the noise of the world has to be quietened for a silence of the heart to emerge; and true listening happens once the heart is quiet.'

I am sure Archbishop Mark will not mind my quoting his words of wisdom for all of us to share. It may be worthwhile for all of us to perhaps listen to what he has shared with us about that quiet heart, a heart that listens. It is a moment to us to find that place of stillness in the busy-ness of our lives, set our heart and our minds and our soul to quiet and listen. Listen to the quiet whisperings of our God As we enter into this Season of Advent—this Season of being prepared, perhaps the best way for us to be prepared for that moment of encounter with the Christmas Child is to be quiet and listen.

Lets have a party. I love a party!

Fri 11th Dec from 5:30pm at St Bernardine's Parish Centre. Food and drink will be provided (due to silly COVID we have to control what happens with food and drink).

So, I ask you to please complete the acceptance sheet that is **NOW** available at the doors of the Churches and place in the box or collection basket at the doors of our Churches or at the parish office. **RSVP— no later than Mon 23rd November.**

I think it is a great idea to end the year, especially this COVID Year with a bang. So let's party together. BUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING!!!

God Bless, Fr John

Please Remember in your Prayers

Those who are ill

Gerald Mangan; Ron Burgess, Judy McConville, Joan Murphy, Dianne Goodwin

Recently Deceased:

Terry Pigram; Justina Pornillosa, Mary Daphne Todd, Sam Leonardi

Anniversaries: Molly Tavale

Adore Prayer Group

Gathering together after 8am Mass on Tuesday's during Advent.

Each week after Mass at St Catherine's, members stay behind and participate in Rosary or Reading Reflections.

During Advent, they follow the Adore Daily Reflections. Please consider coming along.

If you would like more information, please call Lorraine on 5543 1831

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin the new Liturgical Year of 2021. The Sunday Readings are from cycle B and Weekday Readings from cycle 1. The beginning of the Liturgical Year leaves in us certain things to reflect and to think upon. There still remain the difficulties and challenges for life such as negative impacts from the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, we do trust in the love and mercy of God...

Readings from the Advent Season point to us certain things for reflection of which are the two realities of Christ's coming, the coming at the end of time and the coming which happened about 2000 years ago at Bethlehem when he was born into the earth to be human like us. The setting up of the Crib (the child Jesus is not there yet!) in the Church after Mass last Sunday, and some decorations, is surely good for our reflection about the coming of the Messiah born as a human being like us, and just for love...

About the readings of this First Sunday of Advent, a piece of reflection says that *"today's readings are also applicable to us today. We have all been given a task or mission in life that we call a vocation, be it marriage or religious life, priesthood or parenthood. God has assigned people to our care, be it family, neighbours, or needy citizens of the world. During Advent the Church asks us to pay a little extra attention to our obligations in preparation for Christmas, so that when Jesus comes he will truly find us watching in prayer and showing love for one another, just as he did in his lifetime."*

At the beginning of a new year, we usually have beautiful and shining hopes not only for us but also for the others. Let us hope that this New Liturgical Year be a significant and meaningful one for our parish, for our family and for each of us. Let us keep the spirit of Advent enlivened in our hearts with hope for the better, both for us and our brothers and sisters we have been encountering with, particularly the needy ones.

May the 2021 Liturgical Year be a wonderful and blessing year!

Happy New Year!!

John Hong

Thank You



Thank you to the strong men and women who helped us carry the crib up the hill and into the Church. Thank you also to those who stayed behind to help us decorate the Church and put up the Christmas tree.

*Your time and commitment to our Parish Community
is very much appreciated and valued.*

Pastoral Thoughts

This weekend marks the beginning of Advent, a time of waiting, preparation and expectation. May we gift ourselves the opportunity to contemplate the birth of our Saviour. May we use the four weeks of Advent to prepare ourselves to welcome the light of Christ into our lives and to make our hearts truly ready to receive Him.

Our wonderful volunteers who prepare our Churches have set up the Advent wreath and candles. The circular shape of the wreath is a visual reminder that God is eternal, without beginning or end. It also symbolises His unending love for us and our hope of renewal and eternal life.

The candles symbolise the light of God entering the world through the birth of Jesus and represents a period of waiting. The first candle, lit this weekend, symbolises HOPE and is called the "Prophet's Candle" as the prophets of the Old Testament waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

Whilst the light from the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, it also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's love and grace onto others. May we spend this week contemplating the birth of this promised baby boy because He is where the story of our hope begins and ends.

For those who would like to immerse themselves in an Advent journey from Eden to Bethlehem, Parousia Media are offering a free series of presentations starting this weekend. Click on this link to find out more.

<https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-advent-pilgrimage-a-journey-from-eden-to-bethlehem/>

Christmas Appeal 2020 SVDP Conference

Thank you for your donations. They are always gratefully received.

To get to the families in time, all donations need to be in by the weekend of 5/6 December. Thank you for your kind hearted generosity to make Christmas brighter for some families doing it tough. If you didn't bring it with you to Mass, please drop it into the office asap.

"Disclaimer: Photos and videos may be recorded at various parish community events and used in parish publications or social media. Please contact the parish office if you do not wish your image to be included."

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Booking into Masses

The extra numbers and need to book into Christmas Masses, means we need to change our sign in system for coming to Mass. From Monday 23rd November, Masses will now be able to be signed up via FIVE ways

QR Code, Try booking System, Tech Savvy Volunteer from your Mass Centre, ringing or emailing the office. The QR Code and the link are here, so that you can book in to any Mass including Christmas.

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/regentsparkcatholicparishmasstimesforadvent?embed=1>

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

St Bernardine's in Sienna Hall Carols 5:30pm Mass 6pm
St Catherine's in Emmaus College Hall Carols 5:30pm Mass 6pm
St Bernardine's in Sienna Hall Carols 11:30pm followed by Midnight Mass



Christmas Day

Our Lady of the Assumption Church 7:00am Carols followed by 7:30am Mass
St Bernardine's Church Carols 8:30 Mass 9:00am

Mass Times This Week

- If you didn't get notified by either, email, Facebook, or by a mobile text, please sign up to Communicate Email. This comes out weekly and is used to keep you in the loop with all the Covid changes.
- Please book each week for the Masses you would like to attend. Note the QR Code and new links above.
- You can email Christy at stbernardines@bne.catholic.net.au
- You can book in over the internet. [You can click here and go straight there now.](#)
- You can ring the office on 38847600. Christy is here every weekday, between 8:30 and 2:30pm. Please leave your name and telephone number if you leave a message so we can confirm your RSVP. We can't call you back if you don't leave a message.
- **Doing it the QR code way, means you can book into Mass and get a confirmation email right up until Mass starts.**

If you feel even a little unwell, we ask you to please stay home and take care of yourselves.

Date	Church	Time
Saturday 28th November	St Bernardine's Church	6:00pm
Sunday 29th November	Our Lady of the Assumption St Bernardine's Church St Catherine's Church	7:30am 9:00am 5:30pm
Tuesday 1st December	St Catherine's Church	8:00am
Wednesday 2nd December	St Bernardine's Church	9:00am
Thursday 3rd December	Our Lady of the Assumption Church—St Francis Xavier	6:00pm
Friday 4th December	St Paul de Chartres—St John Damascene	9:00am
Saturday 5th December	St Bernardine's Church	6:00pm
Sunday 6th December	Our Lady of the Assumption Feast of St Peter and Paul St Bernardine's Church St Catherine's Church	7:30am 9:00am 5:30pm

Sunday Readings

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8
Responsorial Psalm Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Second Reading St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Mark 13:33-37



My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)

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The Claudia Escobar Team

CONTACT OUR TEAM ON 0416 240 271