



Regents Park Catholic Parish

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2020

Parish Contacts

25 Vergulde Road, Regents Park
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 2:30pm

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Priests of the Parish

Parish Priest— Fr John Conway

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Associate Priest—Fr John Hong Nguyen

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Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer

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Finance Officer

Mrs Barbara Malicki

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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: 4th Sunday of Advent

Can it be so? That we have reached the fourth Sunday of Advent already. In a few short days, Christmas will be upon us once again, and we will find ourselves caught in those heady days and the hectic life of Christmas Masses, Christmas parties and Christmas lunches in the midst of family and friends.

This week is significant because it is at this time that Mary makes her first appearance in the Gospels. Until this time, we have shared the stories of John the Baptist, the one who had been sent by God to be the Voice crying in the wilderness—the one who had come to prepare the way for the Lord.

Now we enter into a new phase of the Christmas story as we encounter that moment of the Annunciation—that moment when the Angel Gabriel first appeared to Mary and called by to be the God-Bearer for the world. It is another step along the way of encountering the arrival of the child Jesus into the world. This happened because Mary would say YES to that call of God. In spite of her doubts and uncertainty, Mary would still accept the challenge of ministry in becoming God-bearer for the world as she would give birth to her Son and she would call him Jesus.

That will happen in a few days time, and we have these last few days to prepare for that event. May we be ready.

God Bless, Fr John

Please Remember in your Prayers

Those who are ill

Gerald Mangan

Recently Deceased:

Joyce Baxter, Joan Murphy, Dianne Goodwin

Anniversaries: Jean Gracias

Office Closure

Please note that the parish office will be shut from Wednesday 23rd December. We will reopen on Monday 11th January.

If you need a priest during this time, please call Fr John Conway on 0418 151 295 or Fr John Hong on 0422 571 482

You can book into Mass here
[Buy tickets | TryBooking Australia](#)

May your Christmas season be wonderful and with those you love the most.
Andrea, Barbara and Christy

RECONCILIATION RITUAL TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Please note the revised Reconciliation Times that are mentioned below.

First Rite Reconciliation Times (Individual Confession)

Every Saturday at St Bernardine's Church from 5:15pm—5:45pm

Weekday Reconciliation:

St Bernardine's Church Mon 21st Dec from 9:00am—9:30am

Wed 23rd Dec from 9:30am—10:00am

St Catherine's Church Tues 22nd Dec from 8:30am—9:00am

Second Rite of Reconciliation

(Communal Ritual with Individual Absolution)

St Bernardine's Church Mon 21st Dec at 7:00pm

Reconciliation is also available by appointment with one of the priests.

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel of the last Sunday of Advent highlights the role of Mary in the Incarnation in the Annunciation. At the annunciation, Mary is one who, like Moses, stands in awe of God's presence; like the prophets, she accepts a commission from God and lives out of faith in God's word: "Let what you have said be done to me." With the humble and heroic 'Yes' of Mary, the Son of God was born into the world.

We are now ready for Christmas. In spite of the Pandemic, I believe that we have made preparations for this special time of the year. We do have plans for Christmas celebrations in the parish, at home, at family gatherings, with colleagues, with relatives and friends. The joy and peace of Christmas, in one way or another, lead us to the true reality of the God coming to 'pitch his tent' among us. In the Incarnation, we can surely sense the Emmanuel, God-be-with-us.

Prophet Isaiah brings forth to us meaningful names of the Emmanuel: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace (the First Reading of the Midnight Mass of Christmas). While we are standing/kneeling before the crib this Christmas, we may explore more on God's love in the Incarnation. We may draw certain things necessary and good for our life journey. We may have our hearts open to the child Jesus with 'the manger' prepared for his birth. With his being born into our hearts, we can certainly feel good things for our Christian life. And we may have other reflections as well...We have every reason to celebrate Christmas. And we celebrate with the others, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray that the spirit of Christmas (the spirit of love, joy, happiness, peace, and so on) be always enlivened in our hearts.

He is born! Alleluia! Merry Christmas!!

John Hong.



Thank you to all our wonderful and generous volunteers. Without each of you, our Parish would not be such a welcoming, loving and beautiful place to worship and come together.
Thank you to our 'behind the scenes' volunteers who ensure the smooth running of our Masses. You are our backbone, without you we don't have a foundation. Thank you for always knowing and doing what is needed and never seeking recognition. Your faith is an inspiration.

Thank you to our readers who bravely and competently stand up each week to proclaim the Word of our Lord. Your gift enables us to sit, listen and take in the Word of the Lord, enabling us to deepen our faith.

Thank you to our ministers who every week volunteer their gift to ensure we all receive the Body of Christ. Your quiet passion and love is evident and essential to us all and to those unable to attend mass.

Thank you to the generous and gifted family who adorn our Church with the most beautiful flowers each week. The beauty of the flowers reflects your inner splendour and thoughtfulness.

Thank you to those talented parishioners who make up our music ministry. Your voices and instrumental abilities invigorate and add life to our Masses.

Thank you to our Youth. You are inspirational in the way you say YES, openly share your gifts and the life and energy you bring to our Parish. You are God's gift to your parents and to us!

Thank you also to those who donate to the Parish and to specific needs of the people in our community. Your quiet and unassuming qualities are so very treasured and have a significant impact.

To all of you, from all of us, a heartfelt thank you for being you and sharing your talent, time or treasure with us. Without all of you we are but single people, though together we are a beautiful family built on faith and love.

Thank You

Pastoral Thoughts

The fourth week of Advent is all about LOVE and honouring Mary and her role in our salvation. Mary gave Jesus to the world. As Christmas approaches we should ask ourselves if there is a special place in our hearts for the baby Lord Jesus. Please allow yourselves the time to reflect and truly appreciate the wonder, excitement and real meaning of Christmas. May we all open our hearts a little more as we welcome the baby Jesus into our lives, families and our world.

Dear Lord, as you found favour in the Virgin Mary, may you also help us live so that you find favour in our lives. Help us Lord to follow Mary's example of faith and trust. Help us to say "Yes God, I am yours". Holy Spirit, please inspire and help us to live every day as if Christmas is only a week away. Amen.

Sunday Readings

First Reading Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Responsorial Psalm For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Second Reading St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27
Gospel Luke 1:26-38



Booking into Masses

Masses are loaded into TryBooking for you to book to attend. 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 7:30am Mass only
St Bernardine's in Sienna Hall Carols 8:30 Mass 9:00am



Please note there are NO Masses on Boxing Day

Mass Times This Week

- 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 19th December	St Paul de Chartres Mass for Residents St Bernardine's Church	4:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 20th December	Our Lady of the Assumption Church St Bernardine's Church St Catherine's Church	7:30am 9:00am 5:30pm
Monday 21st December	Opal Green Fern Mass St Bernardine's Church Reconciliation (First Rite) St Bernardine's Church Reconciliation (Communal Ritual with Individual Absolution)	10:00am 9:00-9:30am 7:00pm
Tuesday 22nd December	St Catherine's Church St Catherine's Church Reconciliation (First Rite) St Bernardine's Church	8:00am 8:30-9:00am 7:00pm
Wednesday 23rd December	St Bernardine's Church St Bernardine's Church Reconciliation (First Rite)	9:00am 9:30-10:00am
Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve	St Catherine's Church—Carols at 5:30 with Mass at 6:00pm St Bernardine's Church—Carols at 5:30 with Mass at 6:00pm St Bernardine's Church—Carols at 11:30 with Mass at Midnight	5:30pm 5:30pm 11:30pm
Friday 25th December Christmas Day	Our Lady of the Assumption Church—Christmas Day Mass Only St Bernardine's Church—Carols at 8:30am with Mass at 9:00am St Paul de Chartres Home (Christmas Mass for Residents)	7:30am 8:30am 9:00am
Saturday 26th December Boxing Day	No Masses	—————
Sunday 27th December	Our Lady of the Assumption Church St Bernardine's Church St Catherine's Church	7:30am 9:00am 5:30pm

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