



Regents Park Catholic Parish

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

Second Sunday of Advent 6th December 2020

Parish Contacts

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

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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

'Archbishop Mark and the Archdiocese Plans for 2021

I received some correspondence from Archbishop Mark during the week outlining the challenges that our Church faces at this time. It is to do with the declining numbers of Catholic who come to masses on a weekend. There is about 8-10% of the 700,000 Catholics within the Archdiocese come each weekend and perhaps the time has come for ALL of us to do something about it.

As we all are aware, it is a challenge that has faced our Church for a good many years, but now somehow Archbishop Mark through EB (Evangelisation Brisbane) is developing plans to endeavour to address this unfortunate situation that faces us today. There is a copy for the Letter from Archbishop mark on the noticeboards at each of our Churches, and I ask you to have a look at the plans for 2021, when Christmas and New Year have become a distant memory once again. It will be the 7th February on the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time that the push will begin.

So 2021 will be the Year perhaps of living dangerously as we all play our own part in reaching out to invite parishioners back to Church. Imagine, welcoming 20% back or even 30 or even 50%. Our Churches could be filled once again and the world as we know it would be so different. 2021 is the Year. Let us join with Archbishop Mark and EB and try and make a difference as we reach out to others.

God Bless, Fr John

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).

Thank you to all those who have sent in RSVP's. It will be wonderful to see you all on Friday night.. I think it is a great way 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!!!

Please Remember in your Prayers

Those who are ill

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

Recently Deceased:

Ellen Anderson; 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

Special Masses

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Tuesday 8th December
8am at St Catherine's Church
7pm at St Bernardine's Church
(there will be no Light and Presence)

Dear Parishioners,

Readings of the Second Sunday of Advent echo a call from both Prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, "**Prepare a way for the Lord.**"

Isaiah preached to the Israel People during the exile in Babylon the message of hope, joy and peace, that God had forgiven the people and the time of deliverance would be coming. He called the people of Israel to "prepare a way for the Lord."

In the Gospel, John the Baptist, the wild, ascetic prophet, summons people to a baptism of repentance, a symbolic washing that signals a new way of thinking. 'Repentance' with its overtones of sorrow, contrition, and 'purpose of amendment,' disguises the rich nuance of the Greek *metanoia*, which rather suggests a 'second look,' 'taking stock,' 'recollection and renewal.' Such repentance leads to forgiveness of sin with overtones of pardon, release from captivity, and cancellation of punishment. Jesus himself will leave the desert to begin his ministry by joining a call for *metanoia* to the joyful proclamation of the Good News and of the nearness of God's reign.

The preparation for the Lord's coming does not end at the time of Jesus. It is rather the ongoing one to be ready for the coming of the Lord into our life. Saint Peter (Second Reading) reminds of the reality of "*the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home.*" He continues: "*So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.*"

The Lord was coming, is coming, and will be coming. Let us, while journeying to Christmas, make good preparations for His coming, not only for us but also for the others, responding to the call of John the Baptist: "**Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.**"

May God bless us all!!

Fr John Hong.

Baptism Celebrations



This weekend, we are celebrating the baptism of **Jacob Grande** at St Bernardine's Church. Please pray for him as he celebrates his baptism with us and we ask you, our Community to pray for him as he continues to grow in faith.

We will be holding our next Baptism Preparation Session, on Monday 1st February. Please RSVP to the office on 3884 7600 if you would like to attend.

Pastoral Thoughts

Let us **PREPARE** for the birth of Christ.

This week, as we light the Second Advent candle, may we contemplate how we can prepare ourselves for the coming of our Saviour. May our thoughts, reflections and prayers become more focused on the coming of Christ and may our sense of expectation increase this week as we joyfully and prayerfully await His coming.

We ask the Holy Spirit to move us to action, so that we can prepare ourselves for both His coming at Christmas and also His Second Coming that will bring justice and peace to our world.

May the lighting of the second candle help us recognise the fact that we need to prepare and re-focus our hearts and minds on the Saviour of the world and all the love, mercy and forgiveness that He symbolises.

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 this weekend.

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 in Sienna Hall 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 5th December | St Bernardine's Church—Youth Mass | 6:00pm |
| Sunday 6th December | Our Lady of the Assumption Church St Bernardine's Church St Catherine's Church | 7:30am 9:00am 5:30pm |
| Tuesday 8th December | St Catherine's Church—The Immaculate Conception St Bernardine's Church—Mass in lieu of Light and Presence. | 8:00am 7:00pm |
| Wednesday 9th December | St Bernardine's Church | 9:00am |
| Thursday 10th December | Our Lady of the Assumption Church—St Francis Xavier | 6:00pm |
| Friday 11th December | St Paul de Chartres—St John Damascene | 9:00am |
| Saturday 12th December | St Bernardine's Church | 6:00pm |
| Sunday 13th 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 40: 1-5;9-11**
Responsorial Psalm Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
Second Reading **Second Letter of St Peter 3:8-14**
Gospel **Mark 1: 1-8**



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

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