

Cared for by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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**Third Sunday of
Advent
Year B
12th/13th
December 2020**

In a nutshell

John is baptising and proclaiming the imminent coming of the Messiah. He declares emphatically that he is not the Christ; he is a light showing the way.

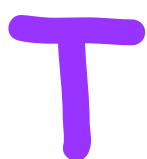
John is led by the Spirit to prepare the minds and hearts of the people, so that they will recognise Christ when he comes.

This Advent may we have open hearts and open minds to see Christ and give him welcome.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8.19-28

I exult for joy in the Lord
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me



Today's gospel tells us that John the Baptist was born into the world for a singular purpose, "to testify to the light." And not just any light, but "the light of the human race" (John 1:4;), "the light (that) shingles in the darkness," that he darkness can never overpower (1:5). One of the reasons the feast of Christmas was originally placed on December 25 was to highlight the symbolism of celebrating the birth of the one who proclaimed himself "the light of the world" (John 8:12) during the darkest days of the Northern Hemisphere's winter.

Whether we find ourselves in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere on this Sunday, there is plenty of darkness to be encountered: poverty, war, violence, hatred, greed, and all manners of evil. When we turn our gaze to our own suffering and that of others, it is easy to become discouraged. How can any light possibly brighten this darkness?

As Christians, we could say that we have all been born into the world with the same vocation as John the Baptist: to testify to the light, to be hope in the world by fully living our belief in and relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the source of our gladness, and the reason St Paul urges all of us to "rejoice always." As the feast of Christ's nativity draws nearer, we pause to ask ourselves, How do we live our vocation to joy? How are we being called, at this moment in human history, to testify to the light that no darkness can overcome?

Living Liturgy, 2020

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

Response to the psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

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

<p>Readers</p> <p>Saturday Vigil December Sr Jan O'Neil (Coordinator) Chelsea Albert</p> <p>Sunday 7.00 am December: Peter Frost (Coordinator) Gerry Walker, Charlie Robinson</p> <p>Sunday 9.30 am December 13th Adele Cornale (Coordinator) Mark Woolford</p> <p>Church Cleaners Paula O'Connor and other volunteers.</p> <p>Money Counters—Parish Office December 13th Group 4 December 20th: Group 1 December 27th: Group 2 January 3rd: Group 3</p>		<p>Ministers of Communion</p> <p>Vigil 5pm December Sr. Gabriel (Coordinator) Michael Zador & others</p> <p>Sunday 7.00 am December Peter Frost (Coordinator) Gary Keating</p> <p>Sunday 9.30 am December: Adele Cornale (Coordinator) Pilar Ovelar, Phil Docherty.</p> <p>Sunday 6pm Andrew Poidevin Paula O'Connor.</p> <p>Sacristy & Altar Pilar Ovelar & Carol Miller</p> <p>Altar Flowers Nobuko Konda & Margaret Betros</p> <p>Piety Stall (5pm Vigil Mass) Carol Miller</p>	
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Mass Offerings:	<i>Your prayers are requested for the following:</i>
Recently Deceased:	Margaret Carr, Paulette Joseph, Maureen Kerridge, Nonie Nagle (<i>Co, Clare Ireland</i>) , Lynne Sweeney.
Deceased:	Muriel and Bill Knight, Toni Barry, John Vonwiller.
Anniversary:	Yolande Miller, Jacinta Bowler Kordner, Russell Byrne
Sick:	Janet Neenan, Goretti McMonagle Anna Zabourek, Hayley Connery (<i>Ireland</i>), Rob Williams, June Ferguson, Fay Wilcox, Chris Simpson, Alex Campbell, Paula Hudson, Anne Stirling, Neil Thornton, Marian Moreno, Tony Cruikshank, Diane Gordon, Chris Schneider, Therese Warfield, Paul Evans, Owen O'Conner, Margaret Mary Foody, Trish Shadwick, Michelle Thornton, Justin Wood, Joan Edwards, Judy Chock, Fay Mather.



Communal Advent Celebration of God's Mercy & Forgiveness

(Also opportunity for individual sacramental confession, if desired)

Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm

St Brigid's Parish Information	
Mass Times	Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm, Sunday 7.00 am, 9.30 am and 6.00 pm
Morning Tea	Sundays after the 9.30 am Family Mass (NOT during Covid19)
Weekday Masses	Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9.30 am
Reconciliation	20 Minutes before Saturday Vigil Mass
Sacrament of Anointing	During 9.30am Mass, 2nd Thursday of each Month
Baptisms	By appointment, on the first and third Sundays of each month, <i>after 9.30am Family Mass.</i>
Marriages	Saturdays, by appointment, arranged at least six months in advance.
Parish Office:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9am to 3pm. Phone 9315 7562. (For pastoral emergencies, contact Fr Phil 0420 329 731)

St Brigid's This Week & Beyond

This Sunday 13th is our last Children's Liturgy for the year (@9.30am Family Mass).

We congratulate and welcome the following children who will be baptized this weekend after our 9.30am Family Mass :

Baptism this weekend - We congratulate and welcome the following children who will be baptised this weekend after our 9.30am Family Mass : Florence Olivia Foster and Jessica Frances McGarry.

Social Justice thank you - St Brigid's responded in grand style. Fifty bags of groceries and toiletries have been delivered to the Asylum Seekers Centre. We have collected \$2,455 for Lebanon and \$175 for the Asylum Seekers Centre, plus donations for the tap machine; the total is \$2,835. Thank you from Di Mullin and all.

This weekend it is our St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. (Returned envelopes can be placed on any weekend collection.)

Sunday 10th January 2021 there will be a special Mass at St Brigid's at 11am—to honour the centenary of the death of **Eileen O'Connor**. This Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher. **If any parishioners would like to attend—it is essential to contact the Parish Office, to receive an official invitation.** Participation is by invitation only. The parish will also have our own celebration on July 4th—9.30am Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady.

Forever Johnno will hold their annual 'Presents for sick kids'—if you would like to donate please drop into The Coogee Bay Hotel this Sunday 13th December 1.30pm-4pm.

Fr Phil

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve (Thursday) at 5PM 7PM 9PM

Christmas Day (Friday) AT 7AM & 9.30AM

Also, Bishop Terry Brady will celebrate Mass for our Irish Community at 11am on Christmas Morning.

(Please register for Christmas Masses through the parish website)

www.stbrigidscoogee.org.au

Many Australian families will be spending this Christmas in poverty

Many people are facing hardship for the first time and have suddenly found themselves frightened about how they will keep a roof over their head and put food on the table let alone celebrate on Christmas Day.

Vinnies is taking pressure off families who are at breaking point by providing food hampers, emotional support, and help with essentials.

Our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held this week-end.

Donation envelopes are attached to our newsletter this week. (due to covid restrictions).

Christmas cards will be on sale from this weekend at all Masses. We appreciate your support, *Gerry Walker*





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A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sex 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 and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@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.

St Brigid's Parish Coogee Safeguarding Officer is Sharon Waller.