

Parish Link!

Sunday 28th November 2021

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

On sale this weekend and the following two weekends. The prizes on display in the Parish Centre include a wooden inlaid Lazy Susan and a wooden inlaid Chopping Board both crafted by Fr Januario. **Tickets \$2.00 each or a Book of 6 for \$10.00. All proceeds go towards fees for our four Scholarship Students in East Timor.**



MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Your family can remember a loved one in perpetuity, by purchasing an inscribed plaque and placing it in the memorial garden. Many parishioners have found this a source of great comfort over the years. Sample plaques are on the parish centre notice board. Prices start at \$440 (including GST). Plaques must be paid for when ordering. Allow 8 weeks from the date of application to placement in the Memorial Garden. Contact the Church Office if you are interested.

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTERS!

READERS & COMMENTATORS: 5th December 2021

MASS TIME	READER	COMMENTATOR
Saturday 6.00pm	Vanessa D'Souza	Judy Barden
Sunday 8.00am	Jeanne Mendis	Joshua Angelo
Sunday 10.00am	YOUTH MINISTERS	
Sunday 6.00pm	Carmel Ruddy	Mark Attwood

READERS & COMMENTATORS PLEASE NOTE!

A number of Ministers of the Word are either not attending their rostered reading times, or very late in arriving. If you are not able to commit to this role, please advise the parish office and you can either be moved to another more convenient mass time or removed from the roster.



'An Attentive Heart'



Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. Its depiction of global devastation has a particular resonance in a post-industrial world faced with the effects of climate change. Some may be tempted to interpret "apocalyptic" events of today as the judgement of an interventionist God. This is far from the truth. Our mindless exploitation of planetary resources has brought its own judgement and we must struggle together to save our planet from further destruction.

Advent and Christmas are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would soon return and bring everything to completion. Some decades after Jesus' death, Luke's community had come to realize that the "final" coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that desensitize the heart or the human spirit. For Luke, an attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes is the proper stance for the Christian believer. An attentive heart will be attuned to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court are located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event, not just a once-off event limited to one place and one time.

We might do well to read this gospel passage against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship". Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation.

Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the plight of the earth itself and the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression. We might remember those seeking asylum among us and those who have been granted refugee status yet still await the justice of resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas



**COLUMBAN CALENDARS AND
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CHRISTMAS CARDS— ON
SALE THIS WEEKEND!**

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS:

2nd Sunday of Advent Yr C
1st Reading: Baruch 5: 1—9
2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 4—6, 8—11
Gospel: Luke 3: 1—6



**Vinnies Support Centres are still available to
those in need**

St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call one of the Support Centres in Blacktown (8861 9777), Harris Park (8861 9757) or Penrith (8861 9770). To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross is a national organisation of Catholic laymen who operate with the support of the Australian Bishops. Autonomous Branches of the Order operate in each Australian State. The Order strives to serve the wider community and support those in need. The Knights have been in Australia since 1917, and are currently looking to re-establish branches across western Sydney, beginning with Parramatta. Membership is open to any Catholic laymen living in western Sydney, not just Parramatta. Anyone interested can contact Nicholas Cole at nicholasjcole@outlook.com or phone 0421 989 740

Holy Hour for Vocations

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth invite you to participate in their monthly Holy Hour for Vocations, held on Thursday 2/12/21 at 6pm at the Polish War Memorial Chapel, 116-132 Quakers Rd, Marayong. The prayer will also be livestreamed to the Sisters' Facebook page (facebook.com/csfnaustralia) for those who would like to

Promises, Promises

When we read end-of-the-world passages in Scripture, we usually focus on destruction unleashed on the unsuspecting world. “Apocalypse now” sounds really scary - and it’s supposed to. But not to us believers. *Be not afraid* is one of the most oft-repeated pieces of advice in the New Testament. If you’re with Jesus, there’s nothing to fear, even when the boat is rocking in a violent storm.

CHURCH CLEANING The next Church Cleaning day will be on this coming Thursday 2nd December after the 9.00am Mass. Pauline could always do with some helpers. So if you can spare an hour or so, please consider giving Pauline and her small but enthusiastic team a hand.

Some may die of fright when disaster strikes, whether it’s apocalyptic or a mere crisis of modern living. We all know people who die a thousand deaths when the bank account is overdrawn. Fearful living is not faithful living. For believers there’s no disaster large enough to be bigger than God’s sovereignty. And though at first glance it seems strange to begin Advent and the new church year on such a note, on further examination it is the perfect place to start. We know we’re not really waiting the coming of the Christ child but rather the coming of Christ the King (remember, last Sunday?) Redemption is at hand. We have nothing to fear.



- from GPBS eNews (with permission)

In Loving Memory

Recently Deceased: Mary O’Keefe, Theresa Macwan, John Bishop, Baby Mary Joseph, Margaret Machado, David Williams, Linda Weatherall, Mr & Mrs Leon Cruz de Pereira, Annette Pereira, Linda Weatherall, Those who have lost their lives to Covid 19

A Little Zen

We didn’t know we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun. - Winnie the Pooh

Be as you wish to seem. - Socrates

Remember that sometimes not getting what you want is a wonderful stroke of luck. - Dalai Llama

Other Intentions

Thanksgiving: In Honour of Infant Jesus, In Honour of Our Lord & Blessed Mother, Mary

Special Intentions: Noel D’Souza (Birthday)

Feast Days this Week

- Monday:** Bls Denis & Redemptus
- Tuesday** St Andrew
- Wednesday:** Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia
- Thursday:** St Bibiana
- Friday:** *St Francis Xavier
- Saturday:** St John Damascene
- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent

