

not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Go Make Disciples

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan **Go Make Disciples** on 12 December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. In the weeks and months ahead we hope you will join us in an Archdiocesan-wide prayer campaign, calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Vatican Christmas Tree & Nativity

Since 1982, during the tenure of Pope St John Paul II, the Vatican has erected a gloriously lit tree in St Peter's Square. This year's



Christmas tree is a spruce, provided by the government of Slovenia to honor the 30th anniversary of the country's independence. The spruce comes from Kočevje, a town on the Rinža river, in a region called Kočevsko that is 90% covered by trees. Standing at 20 meters high, the 75-year-old Christmas tree weighs 7 tons and has an impressive diameter of 67 cm. The Christmas tree will be inaugurated alongside this year's Nativity scene on December 11 at 4:30 p.m. This year's Nativity was donated by the Italian town of Castelli, the center of the ceramics industry since the

16th century. The ceremony will be in compliance with anti-COVID-19 regulations. The Holy Father said: "No pandemic can turn off the light of Christmas"

Family Drug Support

This is a caring non-religious organization which provided non-judgmental, non-directive support and information to families and friends of drug users across Australia. Telephone Support Line 24hrs/7day a week: 1300 368 186. Please see brochures in the Church foyer.



Lights of Christmas

Celebrate the 11th Anniversary of the Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral starting Thursday, 10 December with the Lights Display from 8.30pm to 11pm, concluding on Christmas Day.. Some COVID restrictions will be applied.

Christmas Remembrance Service

Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria warmly invites you and your family to join them at the annual Christmas Remembrance Service 2020, at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 13th December 2020 at 7:30pm.

Next week 4th Sunday of Advent Yr B

Readings : 1st: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12, 14, 16 Psalm: 88
2nd: Rom 16:25-27 Gospel: Lk 1:26-38.

A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church: 280 Homer St, Earlwood, NSW. 2206

St Bernadette's Church: Corner William St & Bexley Rd.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School: Ph: 9559 2556 Principal: Dermott O'Neill

Society of Our Lady of Lourdes: Ph: 9559 2171 (Mon & Fri 9am to 1pm)

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LOURDES PARISH



EARLWOOD

Fr. Patrick Njenga Parish Administrator Fr. Miguel Perez Campos Assistant Priest
Fr. Adrian Pittarello Italian Chaplain Ph: 80681595
Office Hours: Temporarily Mon & Fri 8.30am to 12noon
Cinzia - Tues to Thurs 9am to 1pm Maria - Tues to Wed 9am to 2.30pm
Parish Office: 9558 1254 Email: secretary@lourdesparish.com.au

WEEK 50

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

12/13 DECEMBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading Is 61:1-2, 10-11

'The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10
(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and

Mass Weekends:

Saturday 5.00pm OLOL, 6.30pm Bernadette's
Sunday 8.00am Bernadette's, 9.30am OLOL
Children's Liturgy: during 9.30am Mass
10.45am (Italian). 6pm Maronite Mass in English.
Reconciliation: Saturday 4- 4.45pm OLOL

Mass Weekdays:

St. Bernadette Tue 6.30 pm, Fri 6.30am
OLOL: Wed 8.30am, Thurs 8.30am, Friday 9am
Baptisms: 12noon 2nd & 4th Sundays at OLOL
11am 3rd Sunday at St Bernadette's
Reconciliation: Saturday 6 - 6.20pm St. Bernadette's

Rosary Statue

Paulette Mardini 0466 961 804



Grotto Rosary

Rosary every Mon & Fri at Grotto at 10am.

Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Rosary

Please join us for **Holy Hour on Fridays 6:30-7:30pm at Our Lady's Church**. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mt. 26:41)

Booking Continues

Booking for weekend Masses is still necessary but some permanent bookings have now been taken. You need to book in by ringing the Parish Office on 9558 1254 on Tues, Wed or Thurs mornings.



COVIDSAFE church COVID Update

In a welcome step forward for our churches in the lead up to Christmas, NSW Health has announced that from Monday 7 December, churches will be able to have unlimited numbers at all religious services, as long as a two square metre rule is observed. This means St Bernadette's can have 100 people while OLOL can have 230. You'll find more information here: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/> Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass..

Third Sunday of Advent - Rose Sunday

Today is Rose Sunday when Rose coloured vestments are worn as a symbol of REJOICING in this Advent Season as we wait, like Mary, with great expectation for Jesus to be born. Today we light the third candle of the Advent Wreath which is pink (rose) in colour and represents Mary who was filled with joyful expectation at the coming of the Christ Child.



That Catholic Shop

That Catholic Shop is an exciting development for *Aid to the Church in Need* Australia. This year do

some Christmas shopping on the online store and support the works of ACN to keep the faith alive. Please visit www.thatcatholicshop.com



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Important Notice

NSW Health Department and NSW Police have recently visited a number of parishes in the Archdiocese

to review the parishes' place of public worship COVID-19 Safety Plans and protocols. It is important for parishes to be aware that the NSW Health Officials and NSW Police may make future unannounced inspections and they will collect personal details. Failure to adhere to the NSW Public Health Orders can result in penalties including fines assessed against the parish priest and in serious cases Churches could even be shut down. We ask for your assistance in this matter.

Piety Store - Envelopes etc

Please note that all handouts and envelopes (SVPD, Catholic Weekly etc) can no longer be left out on the tables in the foyer at Earlwood. If you require anything please ask for the Piety Store to be opened.



Thank You from St Vincent De Paul

On behalf of all those whom we are privileged to serve may we thank you for your extraordinary generosity in providing so many (well over 100) Christmas Hampers this year. After accommodating our local needs we have arranged to provide the remaking hampers to Conferences in the surrounding areas (Kingsgrove - Bankstown). Again, a truly heartfelt thanks. Michael Price Conference President Earlwood Clemton Park

First Friday Mass at Grotto

There will be Mass on New Years Day - 1st January 2021 - at the Grotto at 10.30am. The Rosary will be said from 10am. All welcome.



Youth Leaders Evangelisation School

I would like to extend an invitation to any young adult or leader in your parish you might be interested in sponsoring to attend our annual **Youth Leaders Evangelisation School (YLES)** from January 16 to January 23, 2021. There is a flyer with more details on the Notice Board and further information can be found here - <https://www.sydneycatholicyouth.org/yles>

Wanted - Baby Jesus

We still need 1 more baby to portray Baby Jesus at the St Bernadette's Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00pm. We also need Mary & Joseph as well. If you can help ring 0414 851 143.



Loving Sympathy

We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Ed & Joan Winter's grandson, Marcus Manning aged 13. Marcus had been very sick for some time & died in Westmead Hospital on Tues 8th Dec. All our love & prayers to Ed & Joan at this very sad time. *May he rest in peace.*



Confirmation 2020

THIS Sunday 13th December the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on 42 children at the 12.15pm & 2.15pm Masses at OLOL Church by the Bishop Richard Umbers DD. Congratulations to these children and their families:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Gabriel Andreopoulos | Sebastien Martino |
| Jack Awad | Samuel Marto |
| Liam Lopes Batista | Brianna Merlino |
| Santiago Montoya | Cara Mirco |
| Sophia Bozicevic | Kaileigh Nascimento |
| Lucinda Cicco | Stella Nigro |
| Issabella Coelho | Ella Novak |
| Ruby Coelho | Mary Rahme |
| Zackery Coelho | Zachary Renshaw |
| Benjamin Coxhill | Rafael Ricardo |
| Daniel Cuciti | Francesco Romeo |
| Jermaine David | Josephine Romeo |
| Jessica Direse | Savannah Rose |
| Sasha Dueza-Civici | Lucia Salvato |
| Isabelle Duffy | Maddison Sinacori |
| Diana Dulis | Alannah Solidarios |
| Alinta Eleftheriou | Jayda Taliulu |
| Sebastian Espina | Marco Tozzi |
| Gia Gaudiello | Ivana Vaccaro |
| Gabriella Georgoulas | Edward Villiers |
| Denny Ledru | Guy Witt |
| Marcel Ledru | Adrian Wong |
| Alana LoGiudice | Isabelle Wong |

Come Holy Spirit

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me,
use me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*



Please pray for the following:

Rec Deceased: Marcus Manning (13, beloved grandson of Ed & Joan Winters, 8/12), John Bourke, Anthony Zagame (30/10), Patricia Meleo George Hill, Clare Boulos, Mark Costa, Joe Tourna (29/9), Antonio Ronquillo (24/9, Philippines), Joe Bartolo, Maria Lourdes de Gois.

Anniversaries Brian Davies (5th, 15/12), Redman Tabarias, Edmund O'Shea (1st, 8/12), Nicolina & Lupo Cicchiello, Herbert Chapman (30/11), Mary Keane (10/12).

Also: Elizabeth Rossi, Joseph Auilina, Neena Zahra, members McAleer & Butler families, Enrico, F & Rina Angelosanto, Alam & Thelma Lenon, F Bianco, Doreen Quinn, Delores Barakat, Annette Gatto, Derek Gilbert, Babs & Terry Rodrigues, Monica Brewer, Gillian Sofatzis, Pierino, Pasquale & Roberto Stanghieri, Vincenzo Zaccardelli, Mary & Karam Elkhouri, David Staunton, Regina & Katharina Liebig, Carmel Henwood, Sebastiano Salvato, Manuel De Nobrega, Carlo Favorito, Celie Channon, Dorothy Price, Joan Ashton, Giovanni & Maria Corrente, Giacomo Rosanella, Athol Cullen, Corrado Ardizzi, Antonio Camara, Sinacori & Salvato families, Spinola Family, Brian Davies, Michael & Flora Vartuli, Tony Miller & Maria Fung, Helen & Frederick Seeto, Joy Hockings, Anthony & Therese Bonnici, Joseph Sparrow, Lucy Elizabeth Sparrow, Christine Margaret Mary Sparrow, Edward Sparrow, John Sparrow, Pat & Lex Yule, Lillian Weaver, Ruth Yule, Frank & Kathleen O' Donoghue, James & Lesley Dalley, Nora & Joseph Collins, Andrea Canu, Domenico Antonio Mazzù, Sebastiana (Nella) & Francesco Di Stefano, Holy Souls. **May they rest in Peace.**

Special Intentions: Thanksgiving for favour granted, Larrie Palac Tan, Michael Kenny, Maria Cristovao & family, Jose Gomes & family, Sister Elana, Sanjogta Sabharwal Blessings

Sick: Alfonso Costantini, Thomas Hunter, Colin McKinnon, Peter Dalley, Mary (Penny) & Max Houteman, John Shanahan, Fred & Doris Mordocco, Shirley Rait, Kristian Seric (little boy hit by car), Maria Camara, Maria Porcu, Maria Robson, Dick & Judy Poole, Kiani & Tasha, Berry D'Rosario, Ema Halangahu, Joyce Cutuli, Emilio Canteli, Joseph, Mercedes & Teresa Artigas, Carlos Vivero, family & friends Artigas & Canteli Families, Fr Colin Mason, Jess Harrison, Lenny Parisi, Kiani & Malik Hage, Salvatore D'Amico, Sarah Maria Robin, Domenico Guarnieri, Giuseppe Ferlano, Marina Beeby, Rosina Cimino, Melanie Reardon, John Kellert, John O'Neill, Maria Amorin, Mark & Joe Borg, Maureen Nuttal, Johanna Banaghan, Trent, Rosa Maria Santos, Nicole Camara, Elaine Rowda, Sr Catherine Carroll, Val Crawford, June Lynch, Ida Gillo, Patsy O'Connor, Gladys Richardson, Baby Sebastian Valens, Mary Carroll, Steve Channon, Betty McGee.

