

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a

Next week The Epiphany of the Lord Yr B

Readings : 1st: [Is 60:1-6](#) [Psalm: 71](#)
2nd: [Eph 3:2-3](#), [5-6](#) **Gospel:** [Mt 2:1-12](#).

widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth,
and lived among us.

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



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 52 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (B) 20/27 DECEMBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

First Reading Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

'The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. (R.)

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

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
Mary Monaghan 9558 2960



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 morning

Make a Booking

COVIDSAFE church **COVID Rules**
Churches have now reverted to 4sq metre rule. So therefore numbers in the Churches have dropped back to 65 for St Bernadette's and 100 for OLOL. 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. **Note that singing is still not permitted in the Church.**

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



 **Healing Mass**
Next Friday 1st Jan 2021 at St Joseph's Church 126 Liverpool Rd Enfield. Rosary: 7.00pm, Reconciliation: 7.00-8.00pm, Prayer & Praise: 7.30pm, Mass: 8.00pm. Enquiries: Rose: 9642 2359 or (0412 115961).

Christmas Offerings
Envelopes for Christmas Offerings are available on the table at the Church Door. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas.

Calendars
Still available NOW Columban Calendars for 2021 @\$8 each. Place money in the poor box.

 **Go Make Disciples**
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has successfully launched 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.

Thank you
As the year draws to a close we take this opportunity to thank all the parishioners who serve our Parish in any way: Readers, Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Wardens, Greeters, Altar Society, St Vincent de Paul, Catechists, Banner makers, Church Cleaners, Gardeners & Lawn Mowers, Groundsman, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Musicians & Singers, PowerPoint Projectionists, Laundry, etc etc. May God bless you all.



 **Songs of Praise**
Each Sunday 11.30am - 12 noon ABC TV screens 'Songs of Praise' from around the world. At this time of year, there is some beautiful Advent & Christmas Music included.

Memorial Book
The Memorial Book in both Churches has been recently updated to include all Parishioners and Family Members who have died. If you have others you would like to include, there is a request sheet in the book which can be filled out and submitted to the Parish Office, so that additional names can be registered.

New Year's Day Mass
Fri 1st Jan 2021 (New Year's Day) while no longer a Holy Day of Obligation is nevertheless a lovely day to attend Mass. It is the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mass times will be:
St Bernadette's 9.00am
OLOL Earlwood: 11.30am



The Candy Cane Story
A candymaker wanted to make a candy that would remind people of the true meaning of Christmas; so he made the candy cane to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God. He then shaped his cane into the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus. If the candy is held upright it also represents the staff of the "Good Shepherd". Then the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.



 **Summer Nights 2021**
The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of COVID, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021. There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week):
Mon 11 - Wed 13 Jan (3pm to 9pm) &
Thurs 14 - Sat 16 Jan (3pm to 9pm)
COVID safe dinner is provided each day. For age 16-35 year olds.

The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer, Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day

Christmas Lights
Special thanks to Louie Arrivolo and his son Greg for assembling the lights at St Bernadette's. The lighted Cross is in memory of our dearly loved Parishioner Teresa Cimino, who died on 11th March 2015. *May she rest in peace.*



Wishing all Parishioners & Friends a Happy New Year May God continue to bless you all in 2021.



Please pray for the following:
Rec Deceased: Beresford D'Rosario (20/12, loving brother of Barbara Martin), Mark Calderwood (5/12), Robert Edward Thomas (7/12), Marcus Manning (13, beloved grandson of Ed & Joan Winters, 8/12), John Bourke, Anthony Zagame (30/10), Patricia Meleo.
Anniversaries Pasquale Puopolo, Joseph Merlino (7th, 4/12), Irene Duarte (6th), Maria Elias (20 mth), Dr John George 19/12), Jordão Nóbrega Franco (13/12), Brian Davies (5th, 15/12).
Also: Rita & William Bourke, members Nelson & Bourke families, Enrico Angelosnato, Jose Costa, Lurdes Ferreira, John Furey, John & Agnes McCarthy, Gesualfo Nigro, Elizabeth Rossi, James Roebuck, Peter Etheridge Carol, Francis & Ada Dalley, Dale, Mary & Lindsay Keane, Clarice Gorman, Jesie & Raymond Punt, Mary Ryan, Bill Walsh, Fred De Saxe, Brian Sully, Anne Mansfield, Victor Maxwell, Rita McMahon, Jay Prendergast, Mary O'Farrell, James O'Neill, Doris & Keith Allison, 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,, 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: Maria Cristovao & family, Jose Gomes & family, Sister Elana, Sanjogta Sabharwal Blessings
Sick: Alfonso Costantini, Michelle Mordocco, 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 Ferlaino, 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 Gilio, Patsy O'Connor, Gladys Richardson, Baby Sebastian Valens, Mary Carroll, Steve Channon, Betty McGee.