



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 28TH & 29TH NOVEMBER 2020, YEAR B



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE STAND. WE WALK ON A LAND ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE GADIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION, WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR OVER 30,000 YEARS.
MAY WE CONTINUE TO LOVE AND RESPECT THE LAND AS THEY HAVE.

Parish Details:

📍 213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040

☎ (02) 9569 2267

📠 (02) 9569 5381

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

🌐 www.stcolumba.org.au

📺 FOLLOW US ON facebook www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/

Office Hours:

9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

All bulletin notices to be in by 12pm Wednesday

(Please email or leave under office door and write your message clearly).

Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Smith.....✉ pp@stcolumba.org.au

Parish Office Administrator

Marcia Droguett.....✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Nicola Connors.....✉ pa@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Council

Secretary.....✉ secretary@stcolumba.org.au

St Columba's School

Principal: Bernard Ryan.....☎ 9569 1270

**EVERYONE MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR MASS
USING THIS GOOGLE FORM**

<https://forms.gle/vzWNENLvBYNZWZDFA>

**OR PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT
HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, YOU WILL
STILL HAVE TO FILL OUT A FORM BEFORE MASS**

Sunday Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil.....5:00pm

Sunday.....8:00am

Sunday Family Mass.....10:00am

Weekday Services:

Friday: 9:15am

Reconciliation:

By appointment

Marriages:

By Appointment, please email Marcia,
admin@stcolumba.org.au to arrange.

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving please speak to Fr Peter, pick up a form in the Church foyer or contact the office.



From Fr Peter's Desk....

*It is said that while there is life there is hope.
This has an even deeper meaning in reverse:
while there is hope there is life.*

Hope is strength.

Hope sheds light into despairing hearts.

It inspires the will to live.

It is the doctor's most powerful ally.

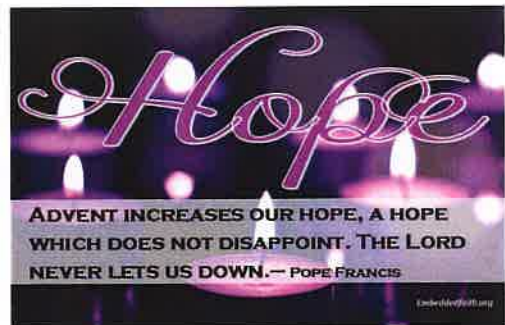
It is shield against defeat and failure.

It revives ideals and renews dreams.

As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible.

Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

In the final analysis, he is our hope.



For our Readers, Thank you for giving up your time to read at our Masses. Please find your new copies of 'Break Open the Word 2021' books in the sacristy for collection.

**Please keep up to date on our website and Face Book page
Live Masses can be found on
www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/**



Fr Peter's weekly Podcasts of the Gospel are uploaded weekly onto our website and Face Book page.

<https://scln1.podbean.com/>

TODAY'S LITURGY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Psalm 24:1-3
To you, I lift up my soul,
O my God. In you, I have trusted;
let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let no one who hope in you be put to shame.

1ST READING: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8
Oh, that you would tear
the heavens apart and come down.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
The revelation we looked for,
Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Psalm 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 13:33-37
Stay awake! You never know |
when the Lord will come.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Psalm 24:13
The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

Please note:

*Names will be removed from the sick list
after 2 months, unless parish office is notified.*

We pray for all those who are sick, including:

Dan O'Brien, Sr Alice Sullivan rsj, Sharon Weetman,
Carmella Scarpellino, and all those at The Marion
Aged Care and Lewisham Nursing Home



*We remember and pray for all our deceased,
Relatives and Friends*

*Recently Deceased: Yvette Gerondeau,
Anniversary: Annie Kent (Queenie), Gerome
Chetcuti, Elio Quardascione, Sr Roma Reed*



As you know, one of the most significant changes, since
resuming Masses is our ushers and *cleaners at each
weekend Mass. At the moment this is being done by the
Pastoral Council and a couple of wonderful Volunteers.

**IF YOU ARE ABLE HELP WITH EITHER OF THESE
ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE
VIA EMAIL OR PHONE, THERE IS ALSO A SIGN UP
SHEET IN FOYER.**

****Readers are always needed as well****

(*Cleaning is at the end of the Mass you have attended, wip-
ing down pews and lectern approx 15mins)
We have proper weekly cleaners for the whole church.

During this uncertain time,
Clergy and faithful are
encouraged to download the
CovidSafe App and abide by the
latest public health advisories.



The NSW Government has recom-
mended parishioners wear face masks
when attending religious services as
an additional safeguard to help com-
bat the spread of COVID-19.

ST COLUMBA'S MASSES—COVID-19 SAFE

EVERYONE MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND MASS

Please use the following google form to register for the Mass
you would like to attend by **Wednesday evening each week.**

<https://forms.gle/vzWNENLvBYNZWZDFA>

**Every one needs to PRE REGISTER to attend Mass.
You will need to complete a new google form every week or
a paper version upon entering the Church.**

**We are only able to accommodate 38 people at
St Columba's adhering to social distancing of 4m square.**

**If your Mass registration request was successful, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not
have access to the internet, please phone the Parish Office to register for Mass.**

*** PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS If you or any member of your
house hold are unwell or exhibiting common symptoms of COVID-19.**

(fever 37.5 ° or higher, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell or loss of taste)

***PLEASE ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REGULATIONS WHILST ATTENDING MASS.**

***PLEASE SIT IN YOUR ALLOCATED PEW FOR THE DURATION OF MASS.**

ONE HOUSE HOLD PER PEW (HOUSEHOLDS MAY INCLUDE 1 PERSON, 2 PEOPLE OR FAMILY).

PLEASE VISIT SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE www.sydneycatholic.org AND NSW HEALTH
www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19 For up to date regulations regarding COVID-19



Social Justice - St Columba's

Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service



Gift vouchers for Christmas...

Would you like to help make Christmas a little brighter for refugee families this year? This year, JRS is collecting gift vouchers to enable families to buy their children presents. Maybe you are in a position to help?

Gift cards of \$20 or \$50 from the Coles group, Myer or Westfield are the most helpful.

Please leave in an envelope in the JRS basket, or with Marcia in the Office by Monday 7th December. Many thanks!



Grocery collections are also continuing. Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support.

Making masks for JRS

Mask Making Kits
NOW AVAILABLE

Thank you for all your support in this. People to sew masks are still needed. **We have ready-to-sew kits that we can deliver to you.**

Please contact Fay: fayhair11@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

This is a good time to reflect on aspects of modern-day slavery and how it's being addressed.

There's been a lot in the media lately about how much the price of fruit and vegetables will soon rise. This is because much of the current crop will be left in the ground or in the trees due to COVID-19 restrictions leading to a lack of pickers. Politicians in Canberra and some farmers' groups have been trying to blame unemployed Australians for this situation, accusing them of being too lazy to do farm work. But, perhaps Australian citizens are too aware of their rights to put up with being paid below-award rates and being forced to live in expensive substandard accommodation? Indeed, many ads for pickers stipulate backpackers only.

To me the take home message from all this is that we should all be prepared to pay more for our fruit and vegies so that those who do the harvesting receive a decent (legal) wage.

At the time a lot was made of the Commonwealth and NSW anti-slavery legislation that passed in 2018. Both Acts require companies above a certain income threshold to report on the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains, and to say what actions they have taken to minimise these risks, and what the outcomes have been. The Federal Act is similar to the UK Act of 2015, which, according to The New Daily, has been a failure because a large percentage of companies have not reported as required.



Australian companies have not yet had to report but a similar outcome is to be expected here because neither Act includes any meaningful sanctions for non-compliance. At least the NSW legislation provides for a penalty of up to \$1.1 million.

It is, however, a concern that the NSW Government will review the Act and "introduce necessary amendments ... to complement the Commonwealth Act and ... [that are] not inconsistent with it." In other words, the NSW Act will no longer include penalties. I think it's time we contacted our politicians to say we want this problem of modern-day slavery fixed properly. More information on modern slavery:

<https://acrath.org.au/>

Thursday, December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

A time to celebrate the achievements and contributions, as well as increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance, of people with disability.

The 2020 theme is **"Not all Disabilities are Visible"**.

It focusses on spreading awareness and understanding of disabilities that may not be immediately apparent – like mental illness, chronic pain, sight or hearing impairments, diabetes and learning differences.

- According to the WHO World Report on Disability, 15% of the world's population, or more than 1 billion people, are living with a disability.
- Of these it's estimated that 450 million are living with a mental or neurological condition. More information: <https://idpwd.org/>

The 2020-2021 Catholics Bishops Social Justice Statement focusses on mental health. It encourages faith communities, governments and individuals to make mental health a priority. What we can do... We can show understanding, kindness and encouragement, we can encourage inclusion and we can advocate for improved service provisions, housing stability and financial support. 2020-2021 *Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement 2020-2021*

Spotlight on Aboriginal issues: Address of John Paul 11 at Alice Springs

On November 29, 1986 Pope John Paul II met with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Alice Springs. Below is an excerpt of his speech.

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a great joy for me to be here today in Alice Springs and to meet so many of you, the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders of Australia. I want to tell you right away how much the Church esteems and loves you, and how much she wishes to assist you in your spiritual and material needs.

At the beginning of time, as God's Spirit moved over the waters, he began to communicate something of his goodness and beauty to all creation.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CONTACT: SECRETARY@STCOLUMBA.ORG.AU

VISION STATEMENT

To witness to the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the eternal love of Christ; by building and sustaining an open, welcoming and friendly community in which people grow in their relationships with God, each other and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council is to:

- welcome and embrace new parishioners;
- support and direct the work of the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate, and parish groups;
- support and encourage the people of St Columba's parish;
- provide vision and direction to the people of St Columba's parish;
- collaborate with the parish school;
- give members of our parish community a voice; and
- empower people to lead and make positive contributions to our parish and the wider community.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- see;
- judge;
- act; and
- review.

WE, AS A GROUP, ARE FUNDAMENTALLY COMMITTED TO:

- prayer and reflection;
- our shared Catholic faith;
- bringing Christ's love and grace to Leichhardt and the broader community;
- acting co-operatively as a group based on participation and consensus, not factions or parties; and
- facilitating the spiritual growth of all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL ARE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fr Peter Smith <i>Parish Priest</i> | David Hair |
| Bernard Ryan <i>Principal</i> | Jennifer Cheal |
| Nicola Connors <i>Family Ed.</i> | Therese Pacey |
| Renata Popovic-Tomac | Adrian Overs |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | Tino Mian |
| Vasile Tiano <i>Secretary</i> | |

When God then created man and woman, he gave them the good things of the earth for their use and benefit; and he put into their hearts abilities and powers, which were his gifts. And to all human beings throughout the ages God has given a desire for himself, a desire which different cultures have tried to express in their own ways.

As the human family spread over the face of the earth, your people settled and lived in this big country that stood apart from all the others. Other people did not even know this land was here; they only knew that somewhere in the southern oceans of the world there was "The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit".

But for thousands of years you have lived in this land and fashioned a culture that endures to this day. And during all this time, the Spirit of God has been with you. Your "Dreaming", which influences your lives so strongly that, no matter what happens, you remain for ever people of your culture, is your only way of touching the mystery of God's Spirit in you and in creation. You must keep your striving for God and hold on to it in your lives".



The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) November Appeal envelopes will

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

be available in the foyer till Early December. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our local Aboriginal community, as well as single mothers facing homelessness, people struggling with mental health issues and many others. Special envelopes are available in the foyer of the Church and can be placed in the donation box. Alternatively, you can learn more and donate securely at www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



The St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal will be held on the weekend 6-7 December.

This year for convenience we have access to a EFTPOS machine. To avoid crowding we will be available before and after mass for the three weekends 28-29 Nov, 6-7 Dec and 13-14 Dec.

Envelopes if preferred will be available.

The conference once again thanks the community for its generosity.

Gifts of \$2 or more to the social work of The Salvation Army in Australia are tax deductible.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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.

Sunday 29th November 2020
First Sunday of Advent Year B

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,
on this First Sunday of Advent,
in this time of the Covid 19 pandemic,
we cry out to God with the prophet Isaiah
to tear the heavens open and come down
and save our world.

1. That Pope Francis will lead us into this new year in the life of the Church,
with simplicity of heart, showing us the way to hope and believe.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. That no Christian will be *without any of the gifts of the Spirit*,
during this Advent Time, and as a witness to God's mercy, be steadfast to
living a life shaped by charity. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. That every effort will be made to help the people of Ethiopia and Yemen
suffering from widespread famine, to bring the war between Armenia and
Azerbaijan to an end, and to assist the American people experience a
smooth transition of Government. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. That the victims of present wars will enter into the fulness of joy and
peace, along with *Yvette Gerondeau, Annie Kent (Queenie), Gerome
Chetcuti, Elio Quardascione, Sr Roma Reed* . Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear
our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hands,
fashion in us the image of your Son, Jesus,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



St Columba's Christmas Masses

We will have more information in the coming weeks

*As restrictions have eased for out door gatherings,
we can confirm* at this stage:*

Christmas Eve Vigil, Thursday 24th December @ 7pm

Vigil will be held on the school play ground.

Christmas Day Mass 25th December - TBC

**This will change and be communicated if restrictions
change again closer to the 25th December 2020*