



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11TH AND 12TH DECEMBER 2021, YEAR C

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.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respectfully advised that this publication/production may contain the words, voices, names, images and /or descriptions of people who have passed away.



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

Parish Details:

📍 213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040

☎ (02) 9569 2267

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

🌐 www.stcolumba.org.au



www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/

Office Hours:

9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and 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

Bernard Driver.....✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Associate

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

Pastoral Council

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

St Columba's School

Principal: Debra Galofaro.....☎ (02) 9569 1270

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday.....5pm

Sunday.....8am and Family Mass at 10am

Weekday Services:

Friday.....9:15am

Reconciliation:

By appointment

Marriages:

By Appointment, please email Bernard,

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au to arrange.

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving, please speak to Fr Peter. Also, a form can be emailed to you. If you would like to arrange a one off direct deposit donation, please contact the office for banking details.

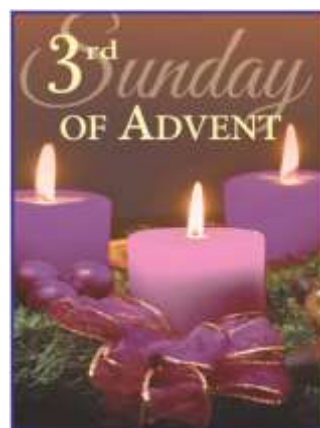
From Fr Peter's Desk



John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind. A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol of those what are easily influenced, who go along with what ever is popular, and who have no convictions of their own. But the humble reed can teach us something. The fact that it is light means that it is at the mercy of every wind that blows.

But it has great strength too. The greatest storm cannot uproot it. Even when giant oaks come crashing down, the slender reed still stands secure.

Lord, teach us that there is strength in weakness and suppleness, and give us the wisdom to know when to bend and when to stand firm.



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

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

Live Masses can be found on
www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/

Today's Liturgy

Entrance Antiphon: *Philippians 4:4-5*

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

Indeed, the Lord is near.

1st Reading: *Zeph 3:14-18*

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Responsorial Psalm: *Isaiah 12: 2-6*

Cry out with joy and gladness:

For among you is the great and Hold One of Israel.

2nd Reading: *Phil 4: 4-7*

The Lord is near

Gospel Acclamation: *Isaiah 61:1*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring

Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: *Luke 3: 10-18*

What then must we do?

Communion Antiphon: *Cf. Isaiah 35:4*

Say to the faint of heart:

Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come,

and he will save us.

We pray for all those who are sick, including:

Maria Jenkins, Leane Garner, Silvana Cocilova, Emma Vassallo, Kim Rowles, Marica Popovic, Elizabeth Sedgwick, Silvana Cocilova, Bill Leis, Mabel Winter, Sylvia Gallagher, Dorothy New and Patricia O'Toole, Roisin Smith and Family, Suzanne Campbell, Dan O'Brien, Sharon Weetman, 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:

Betty Briggs (mother of Therese)

*Anniversary: Bardiya McKinnon
Kathleen Foster Ashley Pereira*

First Holy Communion Masses 2021



This weekend is the final week of our First Holy Communion celebrations.

We wish to congratulate the candidates who received their First Holy Communion at the weekend Masses last weekend and those who will receive communion for the first time at the Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 10 am Masses this weekend.

Reader, Usher and Cleaning Roster Saturday 11 December and Sunday 12 December

	Ushers	Reader	Cleaner
5pm	Jennifer Nicola	Therese Mc *Students to read Prayers of the Faithful	Jennifer
8am	Ray Nicola	Elizabeth M	Ray
10am	Therese Nicola	Elizabeth D Amanda S	Nicola

Christmas Mass Information

Vigil Mass Christmas Eve: 6pm

Christmas Day Mass: 9am

Both services will be held outside in the school playground.

Please bring your own chair or rug - we will have a few chairs available for those who need.



Social Justice - St Columba's

The next Social Justice Group meeting will be on Wednesday 2 February 2022. Please contact Fay Hair fayhair11@gmail.com if you would like to come. All welcome!



Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

As we said in last week's Mass Bulletin, we are now delivering grocery donations to JRS again. For December, we're collecting basmati rice (1Kg bags) and/or toothbrushes or soap. Please leave in the basket at the back of the Church.



Also, if you're in a position to donate money to JRS, go to the JRS website - aus.jrs.net - and hit the Donate button.

Drop the Prosecutions update from Sr Susan Connelly

As reported in this week's Justice and Peace Office newsletter, Sr Susan Connelly has provided an update on the prosecution of Bernard Collaery. In short, the outcome of the hearing of December 3 – where the Attorney-General made further representations even after the Court of Appeal gave a judgment in Bernard Collaery's favour – was to have been handed down on 8 December 2021 after having been postponed. There will be another hearing, Number 60, in Canberra on 16 December. As Sr Susan says, the time to sign the Drop the Prosecution petition has been extended, given the huge amount of interest in it (73,000+ signatures so far).

If you wish to sign it, go to Change.org - Drop the Prosecutions, and sign. It's not possible to sign the petition twice, so if you're not sure if you've done so, just go ahead and sign. You'll be blocked if you've already done so.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

THANK YOU to all participating in the appeal to prepare a hamper!

Please ensure your hampers are returned after mass on **19th December**

If you are attending 5pm Mass on the 18th, you can drop your hamper off in the hall

Thank you for your support!!



COVID SAFE REMINDERS



Keeping with in the guidelines from NSW Health - A reminder of guidelines to follow when attending Mass at St Columba's

* Everyone must check in using the Service NSW **QR code before entry to St Columba's**. If you do not have a mobile phone, ushers can register your details directly.

* Masks are a condition of entry to St Columba's, with the exception of children under 12 years and those with a medical exemption.

* Please use hand sanitiser before entering St Columba's
* The 1 person per 4 square meter rule applies to St Columba's. Only one house hold per pew (households may include 1 person, 2 people or a family etc)

* Please only sit in that are marked with a number & tick
* Please adhere to social distancing regulations before, during and after mass. Please do not mingle outside the church before or after mass

Once we reach capacity you will not be able to enter St Columba's Church

Volunteers Requests

If you would like to volunteer at St Columba's, please use this [link](#), phone the office OR write your name on the list in the foyer.

We are requesting the following volunteer positions at each Mass: Saturday 5pm and Sunday 8am and 10am

USHERS: 2 per Mass: 1 person to keep count using clicker; 1 person checking peoples phones for QR code Adding people who don't have phones manually as dependents.

CLEANERS: Spray the Church with Glen20 after every Mass

READER: First, Second Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and Prayers of the Faithful.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at **St Columba's**

[CORONAVIRUS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney \(sydneycatholic.org\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/ArchdioceseofSydney/sydneycatholic.org)

Advent 2021 with Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy

You are invited to 'Expect the Unexpected' this Advent. Join me each day for a short, free Advent Daily Devotional Video that will guide you on a life-changing journey.

Starting November 28th you'll receive short inspirational videos each day from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be!

Register now or for more information: <https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent/>



"This appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese to work through its agencies and partners to provide pastoral care, education, health and welfare to Afghan families arriving here in coming weeks"
- Archbishop Fisher OP

ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
APOSTOLICAL PLACE OFFICE

Archbishop's Appeal for Afghan Refugees
Donate today- www.ourfaithourworks.org/ara/

A Message From:



'That Catholic Shop' stocks a



great supply of Christmas items to decorate your house or to gift to family and friends. The proceeds of your purchases go to support persecuted and suffering Christians throughout the world!

Visit: www.thatcatholicshop.com/christmas

ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence. This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens. To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal

This month **can you provide Transport for Pastoral Care in Malawi?** Your support will help priests and religious to visit their people and aid their ministry to administer the sacraments and to keep the Faith alive. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

Are you Ready for Tennis?



Saturday lessons for adults and kids are recommencing at the church tennis court! Please contact James to inquire on 0449 693 745 or

jmurphysports@gmail.com



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.



Registration for the Campion College Summer Program is now open!

If you know a 16-20 year old with an interest in history, literature, philosophy and theology, encourage them to sign up

for one of the immersive four-day programs in January 2022. **Attendance is fully funded** but spaces are limited!

Find out more and register on the Campion College website: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program

Members of the Pastoral Council are:

Fr Peter Smith - *Parish Priest*
Debra Galofaro - *Principal*
Nicola Connors - *Family Ed.*
Renata Popovic-Tomac - *Chairperson*

Ann Coffey
David Hair
Jennifer Cheal
Therese Pacey
Tino Mian

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 12 December 2021
 Luke 3:10-18
 3rd Sunday of Advent

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

What must we do?

John told the people how to live as God asks. Find some words that describe how God wants us to live. Start with **L** and choose every other letter.



The people asked John the Baptist how to do what God wants. John the Baptist tells them to be fair. God wants us to share our things.



Share!

Here is a plate with ten biscuits. You would like some and your friend would like some.

How can you share them fairly? Draw biscuits on your plates.



Pointing to Jesus

Everything John the Baptist does and says is pointing to Jesus. We can point to Jesus by the way we live. Draw yourself in this hand doing something kind or helpful today, or use the back of this sheet to draw.

"I can point to Jesus today when I..."

A PRAYER TO SAY

Please help me, Jesus, to share. Help me to welcome you by treating everyone with kindness. Amen.

Become better

People ask John the Baptist what they should do in order to be better people. Translate John's words so that you can be a good person too!



Sunday 12th December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent Year C

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, this Sunday is infused with hope and joy at the nearness of Jesus, who transforms us in grace to be a Christian people.

May Pope Francis, celebrating his 85th birthday next Friday, receive the blessings of health of body, wisdom of mind and peace of heart. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May we be a tolerant people, confident in God's care in the midst of our worries, and praying always with thanksgiving. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May those in authority, in the Church and in society, never intimidate others, and be ready to share what they have with the poor and needy. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May those works of the Church and in society which relieve hunger, bring, in these weeks before Christmas, nourishment, respect, joy and hope to those most in need. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the departed exult in joy as they enter the new Jerusalem, where they are renewed in God's love.

We remember Betty Briggs, Bardiya McKinnon, Kathleen Foster and Ashley Pereira.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Father, as we face life's difficulties,
give us the grace to cry out with joy and gladness,
for among us in the great and Holy One of Israel,
who is Christ your Son, who lives and reigns
forever and ever.

Amen

