



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18TH AND 19TH 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.



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

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

From Fr Peter's Desk



Christmas Mass Times

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 19th December

8:00am and 10:00am

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.

Please note: There will be no Saturday evening Mass on Christmas Day

May the birth of the infant Jesus continue to be a source of hope, wonder and peace for each of you.



Wishing everyone at St Columba's Parish and their families a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2022!

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

Today's Liturgy

Entrance Antiphon: *Isaiah 45:8*

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

1st Reading: *Micah 5:1-4*

Out of you will be born
the one who is to rule over Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 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: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 1:38*

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 1:39-44*

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a
visit from the mother of my Lord?

Communion Antiphon: *Isaiah 7:14*

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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: Stephanie Schneeweis
Giuseppe & Angela Amendolia
Vincenzo Giuseppe*



"This Christmas,
let us ask
Mary, Mother
of Jesus and
our Mother,
to help us see
in our neighbor
the face of
Jesus, God
made man."

POPE FRANCIS

Christmas celebrations
are often full of sound.
It would be good for us
to make room for
silence, to hear the
Voice of Love.
- Pope Francis

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day Mass
Services

Important
Message

Please email Nicola if you can assist
pa@stcolumba.org.au

THANK YOU



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.



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/>

Email: info@brucedownes.org

COVID SAFE REMINDERS

UPDATE ON FURTHER EASING OF RESTRICTIONS – from 15 December 2021



- **QR check-ins are still required** at high-risk venues, including places of worship. Prior to entering St. Columba's, please use the Service NSW check-in process with your mobile phone, otherwise our ushers will happily assist to register your details manually.
- **Masks are no longer required** for entry to St. Columba's. NSW Government Department of Health strongly encourages masks in settings where you cannot 'social distance'.
- Density limits have been removed (previously one person per 2sqm).

Please continue to observe the following Covid-Safe measures:

- Please use hand sanitiser before entering St Columba's.
- Please maintain 1.5m social distance recommendations where possible inside the church.
- Please do not join us if you have any Covid-19 symptoms: High Fever (37.5 degrees or higher), a Cough, a Sore Throat, Shortness of Breath (Difficulty Breathing), Loss of Taste/Smell – Thank you.

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 & 10am.**

USHERS: 2 per Mass – to assist with seating, QR check-in process and to check mobile phones, and to assist those who require a manual check-in record.

CLEANERS: Spray the Church pews and high-touch surfaces with Glen20 disinfectant spray after every Mass.

READERS: 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)





"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

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



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

Ann Coffey
David Hair
Jennifer Cheal
Therese Pacey
Tino Mian

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

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.

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.

LOOK

Sunday 19 December 2021
Luke 1:39-45
4th Sunday of Advent

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Jump for Joy

Arthur is really happy and is jumping for joy! What makes you really happy? Draw yourself jumping for joy next to Arthur.



Mary rushes to meet her cousin, Elizabeth. They are both expecting babies and are really happy to see each other.

Mary and Elizabeth

Here is a picture of Mary meeting Elizabeth. They are really excited and pleased to see each other. Put a big smile on their faces to show how happy they are.



Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby was very special. Even the baby in Elizabeth's womb knew the baby Jesus was very special. He jumped for joy!

Hail Mary

Elizabeth's words to Mary have become part of a special prayer. We know this prayer as the Hail Mary. Can you fill in the missing words?

grace

Jesus

Amen

pray

Mother

Mary

fruit

Blessed

I want to jump for joy when...

Hail, full of, the Lord is with thee
art thou among women and blessed is the of thy
womb, Holy Mary, of God, for us
sinners now and at the hour of our death:

A PRAYER TO SAY

Mary, you are very special. You said "yes" to God and showed us how to love. Help me to say "yes" to God so that I can bring love into the world and spread joy too! Amen.

Welcoming Heart

Elizabeth welcomed Mary when she came to visit. Is my heart ready to welcome Jesus?

How many hearts can you find on this page?



Answers: 9 Hearts.

Sunday 19th December 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, on this 4th Sunday of Advent the Church reflects on Mary as she prepares to give birth to her Son, Jesus with great charity toward her cousin Elizabeth.

May the people of our Archdiocese who will gather to celebrate the approaching festival of Christmas pray with gratitude, and may those denied freedom on religion carry Christ in their hearts.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the people of the small rural and outback towns of Australia be proud of their communities and receive blessings as did the people of Bethlehem long ago.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May every place experiencing conflict and violence and tension, especially on the Russian/Ukraine border, in Cameroon and Yemen be changed by the desire for peace through diplomacy.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May mothers carry the child in their womb with love, as did Mary and Elizabeth, and be supported by their husbands and partners.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the many who died through the tornados in the United States, and the asylum seekers killed in the bus crash in Mexico, find eternal peace from the Good Shepherd.
We also remember *Betty Briggs, Stephanie Schneeweis, Giuseppe & Angela Amendolia and Vincenzo Giuseppe.*
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: O Shepherd of Israel,
Come to our help,
Look down from heaven,
Visit and protect us.
Through Christ our Lord.

