



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10TH DECEMBER AND 11TH DECEMBER 2022—Year A

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 Secretary

Vanessa Quaratiello.....✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Barbara Howard.....✉ pa@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Council

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

St Columba's Catholic 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

✉ 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.



Fr Peter's weekly Podcasts of the Gospel are uploaded weekly onto the St Columba's website and Facebook page

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

From Fr Peter's Desk



A REED IN THE WIND

John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind. A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol of those who are easily influenced, who go along with whatever 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 the 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.



ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day Mass at 9am

Both the Christmas Eve mass and the Christmas Day mass will be held under the marquee on the school grounds

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

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:

Robert Lo Surdo, Margaret Downey, Frank Hodges, Silvana Cocilova, Kim Rowles, Mabel Winter, Dorothy New, Patricia O'Toole, 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

Bill Leis, Dan O'Brien, Doreen Campbell

Anniversary

Kathleen Hodges, Albina Francetich, Bea Guina, Barry & Helen Jones, Mary Flook, Laura Garrido Pena, Yvette Gerondeau, Annie Kent (Queenie), Gerome Chetcuti, Darryl Waters, Elio Quardascione, Sr Roma Reed, Betty Briggs, Bardiya McKinnon, Kathleen Foster & Ashley Pereira

Altar Servers



NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Fr Peter would like to invite children to become altar servers for the weekend Masses. Any student who has celebrated the Sacrament of First Eucharist is welcome to join this special ministry. Training will be provided. If your child is interested in joining the altar server's roster and you would like to receive further information, please write your details on the sheet at the back of the church or contact Barbara in the parish office on 9569 2267 or email pa@stcolumba.org.au

RECONCILIATION MASS

WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER
AT 7PM



There will be a Mass of Reconciliation on **Wednesday 21st December at 7pm.**
Everyone welcome



2022 VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL THANK YOU

St Columba's raised **over \$10,500** last weekend at the annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal which is AMAZING! Vinnies has reached out to say THANK YOU to St Columba's parishioners for such an incredible effort. Your generous contributions will help Aussie families who are struggling with the increased cost of living & help provide urgent relief for families this Christmas. Please remember to bring in your hamper items which need to be returned no later than 10am mass on Sunday 18th Dec as this is when hampers will be distributed. We appreciate your support.

There is a limited supply of St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas cards available at the back of the church available to purchase this weekend. Sales of the cards will support the 'good works' of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Please put your donation in the box next to the cards.



A REMINDER THAT THE REHEARSALS FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PLAY ARE **MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER AT 3.30PM**
TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER AT 5.30PM & SATURDAY 24TH DEC AT 5PM (1 hr immediately prior to mass)

REHEARSALS ARE IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE SEE BELOW IF YOU ARE KEEN TO BE INVOLVED THIS YEAR

CHILDREN IN YEARS 5&6 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have lots of younger children who are very excited to take part in our Christmas play however we do require some children in Years 5 & Year 6 to help narrate and also take part in the Nativity Play at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Please contact Barbara in the Parish Office on 9569 2267 or email pa@stcolumba.org.au





SOCIAL JUSTICE - ST COLUMBA'S

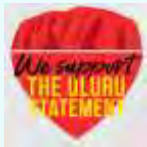
Our next Social Justice Group meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th February 2023 at 6.30pm** in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in being part of our group, you're most welcome to attend. Please contact Fay Hair fayhair11@gmail.com if you would like to come.

SUPPORTING JRS

**Targeted Grocery items for DECEMBER
NAPPIES Size 2,4,5 & 6 & OLIVE OIL (Max 1L bottle)**

Donations can be left in the basket at the back of the church

A big thank you to everyone for your continued support. To donate money to JRS, please go to the JRS website aus.jrs.net and hit the Donate button.



THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

"In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across the country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future."

This week we continue providing information about the Uluru Statement From The Heart and the Voice to Parliament. Besides a Voice to parliament, the Uluru Statement also calls for a treaty and for truth-telling via a Makarrata Commission. In other words, the reforms being called for are Voice, Treaty and Truth. At this stage the Australian people will be asked to consider enshrining the Voice in the Constitution in a referendum being held probably late next year. But we mustn't forget that Treaty and Truth-telling are equally important.

What is Makarrata?

Makarrata is a Yolgnu word meaning 'a coming together after a struggle.'

What would a Makarrata Commission do?

A Makarrata Commission would have two roles:

Supervising a process of agreement-making

Agreements between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Australian governments have been negotiated for many years in Australia, for example under native title and land rights legislation. The Makarrata Commission would allow these processes to be struck at a national level and regionally with First Nations, by providing support and momentum and helping the parties reach agreement.

Overseeing a process of truth-telling

Another function of a Makarrata Commission would be to supervise a process of 'truth-telling': a process that allows the full extent of the past injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be uncovered and revealed. **Such a process would allow all Australians to understand our history and assist in moving towards genuine reconciliation.**

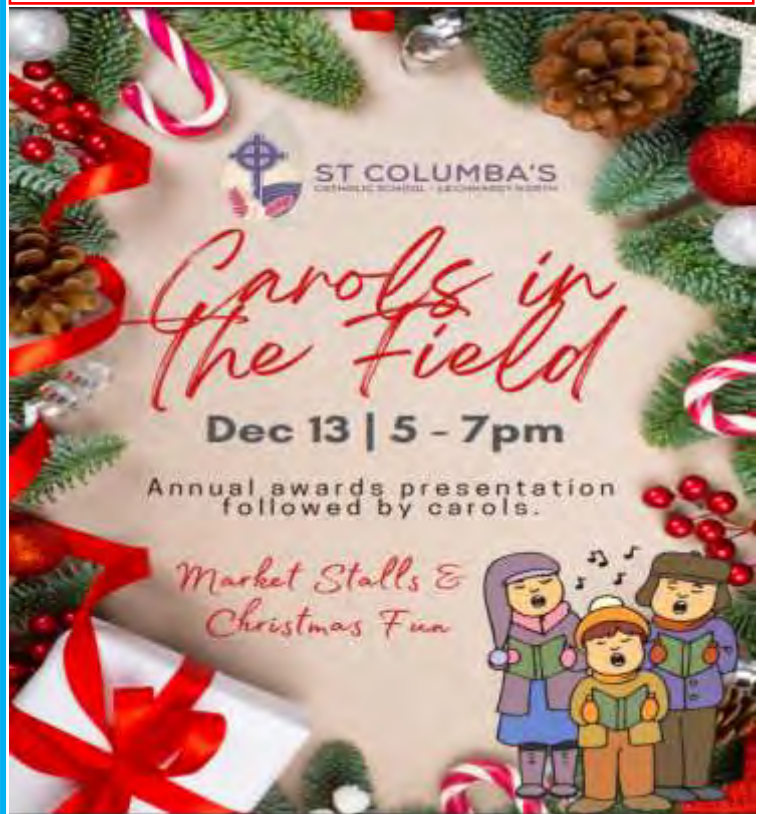
COMING UP

Coming up You may have seen the "Save the Date" notice in the Mass Bulletin about the Aboriginal Cultural Cruise next year. Here's some more information:

- Saturday 18th February departing from Circular Quay at 10:00am
- Duration 2 hours
- Learn about the history, lifestyle and culture of local Aboriginal people.
- Bookings open soon!



Parishioners are warmly invited to attend Carols in the Field over on the school playground on Tuesday 13th December at 5pm. See details below. We hope to see many of you there!



St Columba's Advent Peace Wreath

During Advent, we are called to be people of Peace. Take a gum leaf page from the church foyer, write a prayer for peace on the leaves, decorate, cut out and place it in the basket at the back of the church next week.

We will create an Advent Peace Wreath with the leaves.





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*
Barbara Howard - *Pastoral Associate*
Amanda Gardiner—*Family Educator*

David Hair—*Chairperson*
Jennifer Cheal
Therese Pacey
Ray Choi
Mirele Farina



Christmas Fundraiser

This Christmas we have a special Rocky Road for Refugees Christmas Fundraiser for Australia for UNHCR. As well as selling our Rocky Road Christmas delights, we will also be raising funds for Australia for UNHCR with an Art Show. Local artists are giving a percentage of their art sales to Australia for UNHCR so join us for a glass of bubbly and some Christmas shopping for a good cause.

When Saturday 10 December Exhibition opening @ 5:30pm
Sunday 11 December | 9:00am until 2:00pm

Where St Columba's Parish Hall Elswick Street North
Leichhardt

Contact Therese Briggs | 0409 560 232
Mary Lou Byrne | 0419 265 791



TRIBAL WARRIOR CULTURAL CRUISE SATURDAY 18TH FEBRAURY 2023

Parish cultural tour on the Mari Nawi (Big Canoe) learning about the traditional culture, history, and stories of one of the most beautiful harbours in the world. Hear stories of the Gadigal, Guringai, Wangal, Gammerraigal and Wallumedegal people of Sydney Harbour and learn the Aboriginal names and meanings of significant Sydney landmarks, before stepping ashore on Be-lang-le-wool (Clark Island). More details to come or please enquire at the Parish Office.

MASS VOLUNTEERS ROSTER

SAT 10TH DEC & SUN 11TH DEC 2022

HARD COPIES AVAIL IN CHURCH FOYER

| | WELCOME/ SETUP | READER | READER 2 | SPECIAL MIN |
|------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 5pm | Therese Pacey | Robyn Rodwell | Verity Suttor | Gail Herbert |
| 8am | Ann Coffey | Steve Rabbitt | A-M Whelan | Ann Coffey |
| 10am | Rosa Riotto | J Tarasenko | Ray Choi | Rosa Riotto |

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 11 December 2022
Matthew 11:2-11
3rd Sunday of Advent

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

JESUS BRINGS US JOY!

John the Baptist is God's messenger. He has been telling everyone about Jesus. Jesus is very special. He shows Jesus is special by what he does. Jesus brings life and goodness to everyone he meets.

Message in a bottle

We can be God's messengers. We can show everyone what God's love is like. We can help people, just like Jesus did.



Draw a picture in this bottle of you helping someone this week.

Happy

John the Baptist believes in Jesus. He is very happy. Jesus says everyone who believes in him is happy. Draw yourself next to John with a great big smile on your face too!



Desert maze

People went into the desert looking for John. They wanted to listen to him so that they could become better people. Can you help the people through the desert maze so that they can find John?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to make the world a better place just like you did. Help me to bring the message of God's love to the people I meet, through what I do as well as by what I say. Amen.

Miracles

Jesus helped lots of people. Answer the questions about his miracles to fill the gaps.

1. The dead have new?
2. Deaf people could?
3. Lame people were able to?
4. Those who were blind could?

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Sunday 11th December 2022
Third Sunday of Advent Year A

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.

1. May the Bishops of Oceania be optimistic as they prepare for their gathering next February, seeking the joy of the Spirit and learning from the wisdom of Pope Francis.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

2. May a sense of hope lift the hearts of people at this time, so that through the witness of Christians, a true joy transforms their very being.
Lord, have mercy **Lord, have mercy.**

3. May we bring the sick and dying to Jesus in prayer, seeking healing and peace, comfort and faith for them in their need.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

4. May peoples and nations seek a lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia and in places of civil war in Syria, Afghanistan, the Holy Land, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan,
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

5. May the departed come to Mount Zion and the Heavenly Jerusalem singing with joy.
We remember
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Father,
give to our world your justice,
to the needy your healing hand
and to all people true freedom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.