



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17TH DECEMBER AND 18TH 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



CHRISTMAS EXPECTATIONS

As Christmas approaches, people's hopes soar. However, the substances of these hopes is often dictated by commercial interests. Little wonder, then, that when the sun goes down on Christmas Day, many feel disappointed.

Those who pin their hopes on what the merchants promise will always be disappointed, not because they promise too little, but too much - of the wrong thing.

What our hearts long for is a taste of what the angels announced to the shepherds: "Behold, I bring news of a great joy; today a saviour has been born to you." This joy is the real hope of Christmas. Let us open our hearts to receive it.



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

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter: he is king of glory.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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:

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, Joan Karam

Anniversary

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, Giuseppe & Angela Amendolia, Stephanie Schneeweis, Vincenzo Giuseppe & Christine Dearden

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** 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 **TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER AT 5.30PM & SATURDAY 24TH DEC AT 5PM (1 hr immediately prior to mass)**
REHEARSALS ARE IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

Wishing everyone At St Columba's Parish and their families a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. May you all have a safe holiday season full of Joy & Peace. The Parish Office will be closed the week of Monday 26th December 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 9.30am. Thank You.



SOCIAL JUSTICE - ST COLUMBA'S

Our next Social Justice Group meeting will be held on **Wednesday 8th 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 JANUARY

Toiletries, especially toothbrushes (single and multipacks) and toothpaste

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.

Looking back on 2022... some highlights

The Parish Refugee Week

What a great community night it was! A middle eastern feast using recipes handed down through the generations... cooked and served by chefs from House of Welcome. And, all proceeds went to support people seeking asylum through House of Welcome.



Care for Creation month...

A time for us to appreciate the gift of Creation and the beauty of the natural world. It was also a time for us to take action to preserve it for future generations. Nature has the power to heal... but we need to do our bit and start healing nature!



Promoting First Nations issues

Through links like NATSICC and From The Heart we've started our journey in understanding the Uluru Statement from the Heart and how the Voice could be instrumental in bringing about positive changes to the lives of our Indigenous brothers and sisters.



A big thank you to the Parish Craft Group!

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, there are many aspects of life that are important. Especially at the end of life, there is a need to share stories through verbal, written and artwork forms, a desire to reconnect with land and a need to ensure that cultural needs are considered. In many cases simply staying warm in a location that is very different from their community is important. NATSICC is helping fill these needs through their palliative care packages.

And this is where the Parish Craft Group has been a great help. They've got behind the NATSICC call out and knitted (and crocheted) rugs and beanies. Such seemingly small things can make a big difference.



These blankets and beanies are now off to NATSICC. Many thanks.

Coming up

Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Cultural Cruise

What a fun morning it promises to be! Sailing around the Harbour while learning about the culture and traditions of local Aboriginal communities. You'll learn about life pre-colonisation, coastal lifestyle, traditional fishing methods and food gathering techniques. Highlights will be a cultural performance and tour of a National Park Harbour Island. A great outing for friends and family!

The core of Tribal Warrior's work revolves around:

- Mentoring young members of the community and their families
- Sharing and practising culture
- Providing employment pathway opportunities

Come along on **Saturday 18th February** and support this social enterprise initiative – an informative, fun time is guaranteed! See flyer over page for more details and how to purchase tickets.

A final word for 2022...Thank you everyone for your generosity in supporting all these initiatives. We are very lucky to be part of this community. We wish you, your families and loved ones a Christmas filled with love and joy!





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

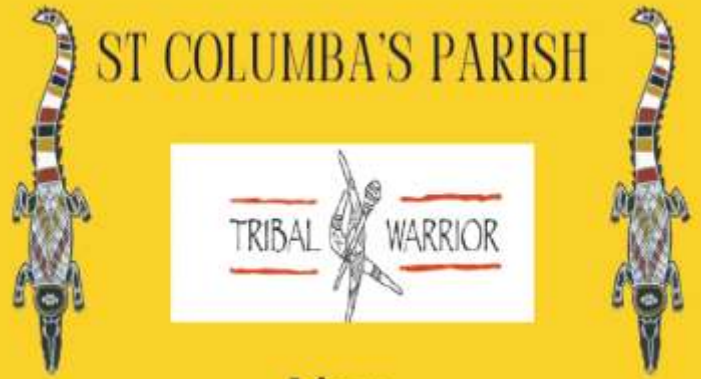
We, as a group, are fundamentally committed to:

- 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



ST COLUMBA'S PARISH

TRIBAL WARRIOR

Join us...

**Sydney Harbour Aboriginal cultural
 cruise with
 Tribal Warrior**

**Learn about the history, lifestyle, &
 culture of local Aboriginal people....**

Saturday 18 February 2023

Cost: Adults \$70

\$49 student/ concession

\$45 child

**Departs: 10:00 am from
 Circular Quay**

Duration: 2 hours

Register via this link:

**[https://www.eventbrite.com.
 au/e/488281722777](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/488281722777)**

MASS VOLUNTEERS ROSTER

SAT 17TH DEC & SUN 18TH DEC 2022

HARD COPIES AVAIL IN CHURCH FOYER

| | WELCOME/ SETUP | READER | READER 2 | SPECIAL MIN |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 5pm | Jen Cheal | Therese McGarry | Verity Gilbertson | Therese McGarry |
| 8am | Therese Briggs | M-C Turnbull | Margaret Perry | Margaret Perry |
| 10am | Rosa Riotto | A Sapienza | Elizabeth Day | Gordon Burke |

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 18 December 2022
 Matthew 1:18-24
 4th Sunday of Advent

In the GOSPEL TODAY

DON'T BE AFRAID!

An angel tells Joseph in a dream not to be afraid. Mary's baby is the saviour! Joseph has a special job now. He is going to look after Mary and the baby – and they will call him "Jesus". Jesus will be "God-with-us"!

Break the angel code

Find out what the angel said to Joseph.



3 10 9 14 2 4

1 5 12 1 7 3

8 10 13 4 11 6!

Good dad award

Joseph did what God wanted and looked after Jesus. What do you think makes a good dad? Draw or write your ideas on this award. You could award the rosette to Joseph or cut it out and give it to your own dad or a man who cares for you.



Find the way

Joseph is taking Mary to his house to look after her.

Help him find the way and get her there safely.



CODE:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| A | B | D | E | F | H | I |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| J | N | O | P | R | S | T |

A PRAYER TO SAY

Jesus, help me not to be afraid. Help me to trust you and know that you are always with me, just like Joseph did. Amen.

Word search

Can you find these words?

JOSEPH **MARY**
FATHER **DREAM**
KIND **ANGEL**
CARE **GOD**

There will be five letters left. Put them together in the right order to make a very special name.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | N | G | E | L | F |
| K | I | N | D | U | A |
| J | M | A | R | Y | T |
| J | O | S | E | P | H |
| E | S | C | A | R | E |
| G | O | D | M | S | R |



Answers: The angel code: Don't be afraid, Joseph! The special name: JESUS

Sunday 18th December 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: On this last Sunday of Advent
 the Church always directs our attention to Mary
 who, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 conceived Jesus, the Son of God.

1. May every member of the Church
 find in the faith, courage and tenderness
 of Mary and her husband Joseph
 grace to welcome Jesus with complete trust.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

2. May we, in this last week of Advent,
 not look down on anyone,
 but see each person an image of Jesus,
 God-among-us.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

3. May Bethlehem and all of the Holy Land
 be at peace and her peoples live in safe houses,
 growing in respect for each other, Jew, Muslim and Christian.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

4. May God's will for justice and mercy
 be realised in Ukraine and in every place
 destroyed by continuing violence, remembering
 especially the increasing murders of Christians in Nigeria..
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

5. May all whose lives are impacted by the floods along the
 River Murray in South Australia, as well as in the Eastern States,
 receive the support they need.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

6. May those who volunteer at this time of the year to provide Christmas hampers and
 Christmas lunches to those in need, as well as those who, in many other ways, support
 people and respect their dignity, be rewarded for their acts of charity and justice.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

7. May our relatives, friends and parishioners who have died receive the fulness of
 God's grace and peace.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: **Father,**
 we celebrate the trust which Mary and Joseph
 placed in your will as their welcomed your Son
 into their lives. As Christmas approaches grant to us
 that same grace.
 Though Christ our Lord.
 Amen