

Catholic Parish of St Patrick Guildford

Rev. Fr. Peter Blayney - Parish Priest
Rev. Fr. Treesen Silva - Sri Lankan
Chaplain and Assistant Priest
Sr. Helen Cunningham OP - Pastoral
Associate

Parish Office: 32 Calliope Street
Guildford NSW 2161
Parish Office Telephone: 9632.2672
Email:
admin@guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au
Website:
www.guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au
Manning Foundation: 0497 973 311

Est. 1933



To Live, Love and Act
Like Jesus

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 3:00pm
Friday: 8:30am to 2:00pm

Closed daily: 12:30pm to 1:00pm

St. Patrick's Primary School
Principal: Mr. Steven Jones

Phone: 8728.7300

Email:

stpatsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website:

www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au

16 & 17 December 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent — Year B

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am and 10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 9:15am
Wednesday: 9:15am
Thursday: 9:15am
Friday: 9:15am

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday: 4:30pm to 5:15pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: After the 9:15am Mass, for one hour,
concluding with Benediction



Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office by telephone (9632.2672) to arrange a Baptism. Baptisms are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15am, or during any Sunday Mass, to be negotiated with the Parish Priest. Baptism Preparation will be explained when you contact the Parish Office.



Mass Intentions



Recently Deceased:

Jim Eves, Eileen Nash, Telesia Luliuifenua Selui, Ana Kikanoi, Soane Mauvaka, Paula Mohu'onalea Kaviki, Rosa Bova

Anniversaries:

Joe Nasr, John & Dean Lane, Gwerter Sual, Thomas Lay, Dyan Rivai, George Ghosn, Gertrude Santa Maria, Anoir Khoury

Deceased:

Mary Jane Axiak, Rima & Bassima Hanna & Family, Peter, Janette & Eid Majed & Family, Eelis Jamil & Family, John Violet, Joseph Kusitino Tukana & Family, Tokavahua, Falaeo & Faupala Families, Kathleen Lea'Kina Fatu, Holy Souls in Purgatory



PARISH PRAYER

Loving God we thank you for being with us always. Open our hearts to hear your voice.

Help us, Lord, to make this Parish a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, respected, forgiven and encouraged.

In your love and wisdom, help and guide all of us to be good ambassadors for Christ, both in service to others and in proclaiming the Gospel.

Send your Holy Spirit among us Lord so that we may be filled with your grace and peace as we go about our lives in this world.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B



1ST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-2,10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness
waits, truly my hope is in you.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R.**

2ND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the
Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all
things give thanks to God, because this is what God
expects you to do in Christ Jesus.
Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of
prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything
- hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy;
and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit,
soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

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!

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask
him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he
declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,'
they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are
you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to
him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to
those who sent us. What have you to say about
yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:
a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'
Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and
they put this further question to him, 'Why are you
baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and
not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water;
but there stands among you unknown to you the one
who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his
sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far
side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



**Be happy
at all times;
pray
constantly;
and for all
things give
thanks to God,
because this
is what God
expects you
to do in
Christ Jesus.**

PARISH NOTICES

PARRAMATTA MEN'S ROSARY MOVEMENT:

As of last month a number of men who met at the Parramatta Diocese Synod have gotten together to begin a Men's Rosary Movement. The initiative is an independent gathering which takes place every first Saturday of the month and is dedicated to offering reparations for the blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our goal is to unite men in prayer, fostering a deep sense of devotion and commitment to our Blessed Mother and in turn ignite the hearts of men to grow closer in union with her Son our Lord Jesus Christ. **Date:** Every first Saturday of the Month. **Time:** 10:30am. **Location:** Prince Alfred Square (opposite Parramatta Cathedral). For additional information, please feel free to contact Antonio Serbati on 0424 629 366.



THANK YOU FOR GIVING COMFORT, FAITH AND HOPE TO DISTRAUGHT PEOPLE THIS CHRISTMAS: Fr. Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care

thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised \$1,965.20, which will provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to people in times of darkness. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

MANNING FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

Once again Christmas is almost here, and as always, it is a special time for families. This, therefore, is your opportunity to help others in our parish who are in need. One way is by bringing food donations to Mass during Advent and placing them in the baskets under the Christmas Tree. **Some examples of food items are:** breakfast cereal, long life milk, tinned fruit/vegetables/soup, pasta, rice, jam, honey, coffee, tea, sugar, etc. Please check that the items you donate are in date. Due to health regulations please **NO ITEMS THAT CONTAIN NUTS OR TRACES OF NUTS.** *"The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you"* (Luke 1:28).

"TAP & GO" DONATION POINT: The opportunity is now available for parishioners and visitors to donate to St. Patrick's Parish using a credit or debit card. The majority of parishes in the Diocese now have this facility. Following advice from both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to install this donation point, it is available for use at the weekend Masses. The donation is pre-programmed for \$5.00 per tap of the card over the tap symbol. If you wish to donate more than \$5.00, tap again. It takes a few seconds to record your donation. The Diocese's encouragement to use this facility is a response to the trend where most people carry little, if any, cash these days. The donation point does not take the place of the First and Second collections or the weekly envelope offerings. St. Patrick's is very grateful for your donations, however you wish to make them.
~ Fr. Peter Blayney

FORMER STUDENT OF ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, GUILDFORD: Diya Badawi from Cerdon College achieved First-in-Course for Italian in the HSC. There are so many lovely quotes from the former student. **See the full story at:** <https://parra.catholic.edu.au/2023-WestSydHSC>.

CHURCH PARKING: The teacher's car park behind the school will be open until Christmas Day.

MASS INTENTIONS: To prevent confusion and assumptions, could parishioners clearly identify if a Mass intention, for publication in the Bulletin, is either **Recently Deceased, Anniversary or Deceased.** It would also be helpful if names were printed clearly on the envelope. Printed envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Thank you for your co-operation.

ST. PATRICK'S SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB is for anyone over 55. We meet every two weeks in the Parish Hall at 9:30am. All welcome. For more information, please contact Keith on 9632.5379.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, GUILDFORD

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - 2023

Christmas Eve - Sunday, 24 December

5:30pm Vigil Mass

PLEASE NOTE: NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Day - Monday, 25 December

8:00am and 10:00am

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR CHRISTMAS 2023

Saturday 23 December
9:30am-11:00am and
4:30pm-5:15pm

THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FROM TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER 2023 TO SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2023.

NO WEEKDAY MASS, COMMUNION SERVICE OR CONFESSIONS BETWEEN TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER 2023 AND SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2023.

NORMAL MASS TIMETABLE RESUMES AT 5:30PM ON SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2023.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE LAUNCHED: The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS | SUMMER 2023 CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE OUT NOW! The Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition features reflections on Mary's journey into the dark night, how our communities celebrate Christmas, our four new leaders in the Diocese, a handy Christmas Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from the back of the Church today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine.

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS - 10 FEBRUARY 2024: A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11:00am on Saturday, 10 February 2024 at St. Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org.

MUSIC FOR LENT WORKSHOP - 12 FEBRUARY 2024: Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on Monday, 12 February 2024 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. To RSVP, please contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org by 5 February 2024.

BE PART OF OUR SYNOD JOURNEY - DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT NOW AVAILABLE: The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15 October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>.

ST. BERNADETTE'S LALOR PARK WEDNESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONS: St. Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm with Adoration and Rosary and special prayers, followed by Mass at 7:00pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the Parish Office on 9672.4037 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au.

2023 DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTA 2024: Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2-9 January 2024). Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St. Finbar's Glenbrook. **For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit:** www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2024: The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to enrol: www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES IN 2024: Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Marisa on 0412 280 017.

QUAKERS HILL PARISH PERPETUAL NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP: Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill-Schofields celebrates a Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Church. All are welcome to join. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9626.3326 or parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au.

FREE ENGLISH AND CITIZENSHIP CLASSES: Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Road, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on 8843.2506 or Nepean Community College 4724.9000.