

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

23 & 24 December 2023
4th 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 Luluiifenua Selui, Ana Kikanoi, Soane Mauvaka, Paula Mohu'onalea Kaviki

Anniversaries:

Joe Nasr, John & Dean Lane, Gwerter Sual, Thomas Lay, Dyan Rivai

Deceased:

Les Romero, McMilliam Family, Dominic Tran Dinh Tin, 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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B



1ST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

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.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
 through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
 Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
 that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn to David my servant:
 I will establish your dynasty for ever
 and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
 my God, the rock who saves me.'
 I will keep my love for him always;
 for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

2ND READING: ROMANS 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith.

This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

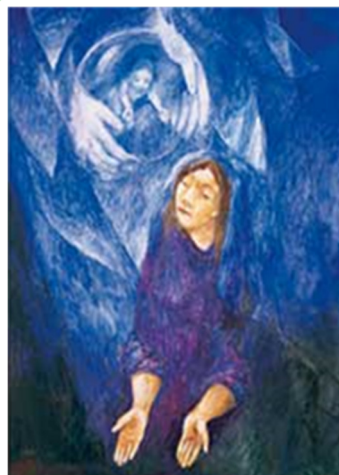
I am the servant of the Lord:
 may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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



***'I am the
 handmaid
 of the Lord',
 said Mary
 'let what you
 have said be
 done to me'.***

PARISH NOTICES

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: We are pleased to be able to share Bishop Vincent's Christmas message for 2023. It can be viewed online at: <https://youtu.be/T7Rn2GyHVis>.

BENEDICTION AND MASS FOR MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD — SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER 2023-MONDAY, 1 JANUARY 2024: Benediction will commence at 11:30pm on Sunday, 31 December 2023 followed by Mass at Midnight for Mary, the Holy Mother of God. All welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: Envelopes are available at the back of the Church for parishioners who would like to make a Christmas offering.

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.

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

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.

CHURCH CLEANLINESS: A friendly reminder to keep the house of the Lord clean by taking all your rubbish with you at the conclusion of Holy Mass — this includes all used tissues. Thank you for your co-operation.

THE ADVENT - CHRISTMAS - EPIPHANY SEASON that we Christians celebrate is not simply the observance of events from the past nor is it a sentimental birthday of 'baby Jesus'. It is much more. It is a celebration of God's self-revelation in Jesus the Christ, *Emmanuel* – God who was with people in the past, with us in the present and for all time into the future. God's love is made visible to us in and through Jesus. Our celebration of Christmas cannot be separated from the Paschal Mystery – the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, his ascension into heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit. For three hundred years the Church only celebrated this Paschal Mystery. The crib, the cross and the crown are interwoven and cannot be separated.

Let us pray for one another during this holy time and for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

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

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.