

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 & 19 December 2021

Weekday/Weekend Mass Timetable:

Saturday Vigil: 9:15 am & 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am
Tuesday - Saturday: 9:15 am

Reconciliation is on Saturdays between 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Baptisms, marriages and funerals by appointment.

PLEASE NOTE: MORNING MASS IS NOW ON SATURDAY

We now have a Saturday morning Mass every Saturday at 9.15am.

READINGS:

Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate that this land is of the Wangal people of the Darug nation on which we are gathered. We commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation, justice and peace.



Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!
Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The fourth week of Advent we remember the gift of Love we have in Christ. The light of the candles is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."



(Someone lights all the candles on the Advent Wreath.)

All: Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love – shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS 2021 are on sale for \$10 at the back of the church.

Please Pray for...



FOR OUR DEAD
Holy Souls, Bishop W Wright
FOR OUR SICK
especially Bill Petrie, Fr P. Maher,
Peter Simon, Tony Grace, Frank
Zerafa, Mgr John Usher, Mgr Brian
Raynor, Frs M Kelly, Frank Coorey,
Paul Foley, David Coffey, and Don
Willoughby.



Should you have any prayer requests that you would like our families of families to pray for, please send them to the Parish Office on below email address.

I would like to thank all those among you who have sent Christmas cards, gifts and well wishes for the Christmas season. Your thoughts and actions are very generous and overwhelming.
Thank you and God bless. Fr Jacek.

A very warm welcome to all who are visiting our family of families of St Anne's. It is good to have you with us.

Currently we are providing a small number of hard copies of the bulletin; we will continue to offer the electronic bulletin. Please continue to provide your thoughts on the Bulletin, its content and what form you prefer.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about our family of families, please contact Fr Jacek on the email address above. We welcome your suggestions and enquires, including feedback about the bulletin.



St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

Administrator: Father Jacek Cichy

11 St Anne's Square

Strathfield South NSW 2136

Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

Website: <https://www.stannesstrathfieldsouth.org.au/>



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mr Mark McKeown

St Anne's Square

Strathfield South NSW 2136

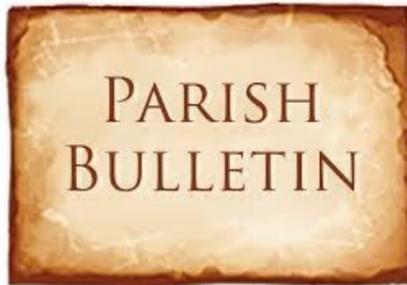
Phone: (02) 9642 6149

Fax: (02) 9742 6250

Website: <https://www.stastrathfield.catholic.edu.au/>

CONTACT WITH PARISH OFFICE

1. For matters dealing with finance, envelopes etc please address: Attention: Janelle. Janelle works on Tuesdays only.
2. For matters regarding safeguarding, working with children check etc and the bulletin, please address Attention: Rachael. Rachael works on Saturdays only
3. For all other parish matters: Attention Fr Jacek Cichy.



The bulletin should arrive each Saturday from around mid to late afternoon. If it does not please contact us and we will resend it to you.

If you know of anyone who is not receiving the bulletin and would like to, encourage them to contact the Parish Office on :

stannesstrathfield@outlook.com with their email address and they will be included in our list for the following week.

WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Source unknown

This is a particularly virulent virus, one which we pray many more people you come into contact with will catch and spread.

There is no antidote for the gift of Love! May your Advent time be filled to Overflowing with this gift.



COVID-19

Places of worship are now open to all without any limits and singing can resume for everyone.

Under the Public Health Orders we are still required to check in either by QR code or manual sign in. Masks are no longer compulsory but are strongly encouraged where you cannot physical distance. Hand sanitisers will remain in the Church to keep practising good hand hygiene. As we learn to live with the Covid virus in our community we strongly ask you not to attend the Church if you are unwell or have any symptoms.

Prior to entering the church, please do the following:

1. Open the Service NSW app.
2. Place your phone over the QR sign. A page will open with all your details.
3. Sanitised your hands (take a mask if necessary) and you are welcome to contribute to the collections
4. Show your open app to the person who is marking off names.
5. Go to your seat and ensure your phone is in silent mode.

PLEASE REMEMBER AFTER MASS: Open the app and scroll to Tools, tap on COVID and then on last place visited; tick the circle to log off. Otherwise, you will be marked as being in the church until you follow this procedure.



QR CODE

for St Anne's Catholic Church,
Strathfield South

Don't forget to Check Out afterwards.



Parish Covid-Safe Plan



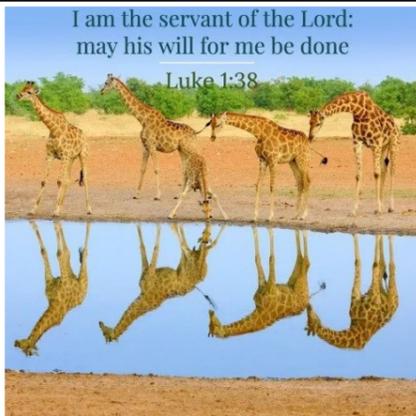


The courtyard of the Chapel of the Visitation at Ein Karem has two distinctive features. One is a modern sculpture of the two pregnant women, Mary and Elizabeth, greeting each other. The other is a wall with forty-two plaques displaying the words of the Magnificat in as many languages. The sculpture invites quiet contemplation of the women's intimate encounter, whereas Mary's canticle draws the visitor into the grand sweep of God's revolutionary engagement with our world.

These two perspectives, micro and macro, continue in play when we celebrate the birth of the Messiah. We devoutly contemplate the scene of the new-born child in the care of his devout parents. As we do so it dawns on us that this heart-warming tableau has cosmic significance: glory to God on high and on earth peace.

This is what incarnation reveals, that the earthy, everyday, ordinary things of life are the means by which the sublime mystery of divine goodness is made manifest. No matter how grand the liturgy, it's simple things like the telling of stories, partaking of bread and wine, pouring water, smearing oil and laying on hands that are charged with the grace of God.

Source: Liturgy Brisbane



BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED

As we come to another year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, in a world beset by environmental and economic crises, it can be hard to find something to hope for, a place where we can find solace.

Today's Gospel reminds us of the good news of Christ's birth, and the promises from God that are fulfilled with it.

It may be hard to see it sometimes, and we might feel despondent, and yet there remains a light of dawn that shines into the darkness of our present times. We pray and seek that comfort today, as we anticipate Christmas next week.

Source: pray.com.au

THE CHRIST CANDLE

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. ... This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents **the life of Christ**. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Source: mercyhome



WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO A CHRISTMAS QUESTION

Since we do not know the exact historical date of Jesus' birth, why do Christians celebrate Christmas on 25th December? In the ancient world, a pagan festival held on 25th December worshipped the sun as the divine controller of all life. The Roman Emperor Aurelian established this festival in 274, naming it Natalis Solis Invicti ('the Birth of the Unconquered Sun'). By choosing this day as the birth of Christ, Christians intended to counteract the pagan belief as they celebrated Christ as the true light of the world, the Saviour who dispels the darkness of sin with the light of God's love.

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LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 2021, - ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FORECOURT, 9-25 DECEMBER

Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral.

Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>



MOTHER OF THE STREETS

Robert Lentz



Each year, larger numbers of homeless people live on the streets of modern cities. These people may be jobless workers, battered women, the untreated mentally ill, or simply those too poor to get by. They tend to be 'invisible' to the rest of society, but they are a real presence of Christ, the Judge, in our midst, demanding charity and justice for the hungry and naked. They extend the incarnation of Christ, the Suffering Servant, in history.

This icon depicts the Mother of God as the mother of those on the streets. Her garments, and those of her Son, are covered with jewels and gold decoration, making manifest the hidden worth and dignity of street people, who are living icons of God.

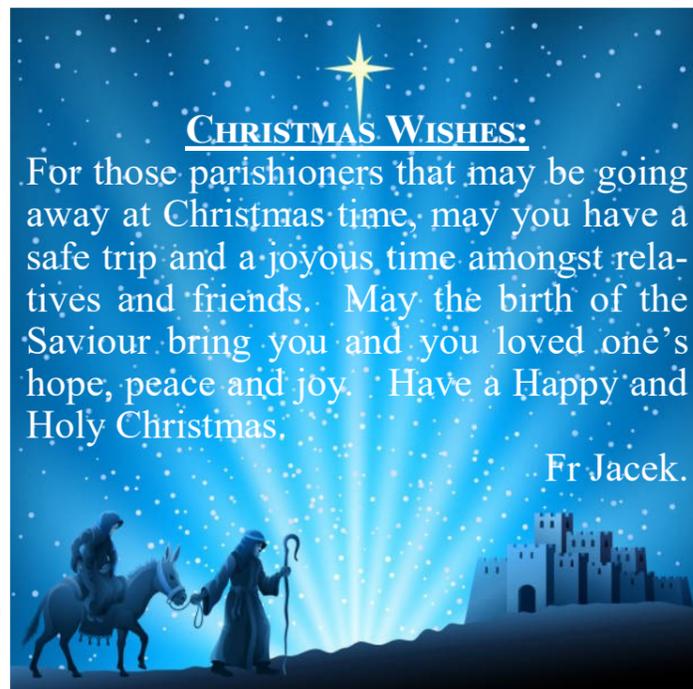
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Mass times have been included as a flyer in the bulletin and are available from the back table. Please take a few flyers home with you and distribute amongst your neighbours and friends.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

As Christmas falls on a weekend this year, below are the Mass times

Friday 24 th December	9.15 am	Morning Mass
Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	Children's Christmas Vigil Mass <i>(Children can come along dressed as either an angel or a shepherd)</i>
	12.00 am	Christmas Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 th December	8.00 am	Christmas Mass
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Mass <i>(There will be no evening Mass)</i>
Sunday 26 th December	8.00 am	Holy Family Sunday Mass
	10.00 am	Holy Family Sunday Mass
Monday 27 th December	9.15 am	Mass Feast of John the Apostle
Saturday 1 st January	9.15 am	Healing Mass
New Year's Day	5.00 pm	Vigil Mass Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday 2 nd January	8.00 am	Feast of the Epiphany
	10.00 am	Feast of the Epiphany



For those wishing to make a Christmas offering to the Parish, envelopes are now available in the church. These can be returned with your offering inside on the second collection. We thank you for your generosity.



Thank you to the few people that have come forward to join the Music Ministry. Anyone still interested could you please see me after Mass or contact the parish office.



Are you interested in assisting with weekend masses? Looking for volunteers to assist with slide management at weekend masses. If this is something you would like to assist with, please email the parish to the attention of Emily Giles. All information and training will be provided

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:
Thank you for your support of the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal last weekend.



PARISH SURVEY RESULTS:
From the results of the Parish Survey, Saturday evening Mass will now change to 5pm. This will commence from Saturday 1st January 2022 New Year's Day.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:
Due to the Saturday Mass time changing to 5pm, reconciliation/confessions will now take place after the 9.15am Mass on Saturday's.

HEALING MASS:
Saturday the 1st January is the first Saturday of the month. We will be having a healing Mass on this day commencing at 9.15am.

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES:
Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church entrance.

What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.'
Pedro Arrupe SJ, former superior-general of the Society of Jesus