



We acknowledge the Dharug People, traditional custodians of this land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land. Vol. 48 No.2

OUR PARISH

PARISH STAFF

Rev Fr Danai Penollar, Parish Administrator pp@mibp.org.au
 Rev Mr Mervyn Francis, Parish Deacon admin@mibp.org.au

PRIESTS' HOUSE

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 Fax: 9729 2128 Web: www.mibp.org.au

PARISH SECRETARY

(Admin/Accounts & Sacramental Coordinator)

Mrs Maria Cabiling Tel: 9604 8927 admin@mibp.org.au
 Office Hours: Mondays-Fridays 9:30am-4:00pm

LITURGY OFFICE (Liturgy & Music Coordinator)

Mrs Rita Cordina Tel: 9609 6087 liturgy@mibp.org.au
 Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00am-3:00pm.

FILIPINO CHAPLAIN

Rev Fr Nards Mercene menardo.mercene@gmail.com
 Resides next to the Priests' House Tel: 9604 5512

ITALIAN CHAPLAIN

Scalabrini Fathers
 230 Humphries Rd, Bonnyrigg 2177 Tel: 9610 1025

MARY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

142 Restwell Road, Bossley Park
 Tel: 9604 3877 Fax: 9609 4988
 Ms Beverly Coffey, Principal

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm
 Sunday 8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm
 On the second Sunday of each month at 11:00am
 Mass, celebrated in Filipino.

WEEKDAY MASSES Mondays 9:10am Communion service

Tuesdays - Fridays 9:10am Mass

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays between 5:00pm and 5:30pm or after any
 weekday Mass or by appointment. Conducted only in an
 open space within the clear line of sight of another adult.

HOSPITAL CALL Fairfield Parish 0488 693482

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Thursday after the 9:10am Mass until 4:00pm.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1st Friday of the month during the 9:10am Mass

BAPTISMS By appointment only. Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and all Saturdays at 11:00am.

MARRIAGES By appointment at least 6 months notice.

2nd Sunday of Advent/B 10TH DECEMBER 2023

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptised. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptising, and they each emphasise the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist is himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptised with water, but that the one who is to come will baptise with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

Fr Danai
 Parish Administrator

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday, 19th December

Reconciliation for Advent 6:00pm

Sunday, 24th December

Mass times: (4th Sun of Advent) 8:00am, 10:00am

CHRISTMAS Vigil MASSES

Children's Pageant 5:30pm
 followed by Mass at 6:00pm
 Filipino Mass (Tagalog) 9:00pm
 Singing Christmas Carols 11:30pm
 Midnight Mass 12:00am

Monday, 25th December

Christmas Day
 Masses 8:00am, 10:00am
 Mass (Laos/English) 12:00pm

16 to 24 December—Dawn Masses (Tagalog) 4:30am

Note: All are welcome to attend in any of the Masses.

Thought of the Week

"Those whose hearts are pure are
 temples of the Holy Spirit."

~ St. Lucy—Feast Day 13 December

Catholic Parish of Mary Immaculate, Bossley Park



**WELCOME TO THE
COMMUNITY OF FAITH**
The next baptismal info is
on the 14th December,
7:30pm at the Parish centre.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):

Are you or someone you know interested in joining the Catholic Church? The RCIA is the Catholic Church's way of welcoming new members. It can also be the path to prepare for First Eucharist and/or Confirmation for baptised Catholics. RCIA is much more than a program. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Jesus Christ. To register, please contact the Parish office on 9604 8927.

We pray for...

Our sick: Massimo Baroni, Cveta, Joe, Neda, Roman, Marin, Josip, Ed & Rita Malapitan, Rolly Rocela, Elizabeth Mifsud, Tommy, Darko, Stiv, Gani Rael, Kate/Edwin Bachar, Catherine Cordina, Rita Francis, Fr David, Roque Noronha, Ana, Maria & Richard, Tony Surace, Mate, Tania, Anka, Roman, Cecilia Felipe, Marcus Batros, Vincenzo Melissari, Josipa, Gioseppina Bartone, Alex, Diosdada Penollar, Magdalena, Marcelina Isagani, Carole Robertson, Rita Zammit, Edwina Borg, Sam & Teresa Barbara, Bernadetta Russo (*Names will be removed from the sick list after 3 months unless Parish Office is notified otherwise*).

Please keep in your prayers the soul of the **Recently deceased:** Antonio Gooden Lapuz, Rosaria Fenech, Violette Habelreth, Joseph Francis, Amparo Juan, Giorgio Perencin, Johny Brown, Gloria Stollsteimer, Gloria O'Brien, Pasquale Albanesi, Anthony Reitano, Steven Suplat, Lorenzo Biordi, Maria Luz Labis, And those whose **Anniversaries occur at this time:** Gaspar Vargas, Vincenzo Demaio, Domenico Marando

Other deceased including: Emmanuel Ellul, Linda Caias, Ivin Lozina, Anna Cattelini, Pasquale Carbone, Ranieri Mariantonia, Belen Vivar & Ibarra Vivar, Pelli Domenico, Gaetano & Agnes Cordina, Remigio Colussi, Filippo Leto Genet Speciale, Frank Lampasona, Joseph Rattanakone Kingkittisack, Rosellina Ryan, Choleta Maniti Carlos, Tomasic Stojic, Carmelo Mangion, Patricia Doherty, Doris Cassar, Sime Tomislav Bakic, Anthony Mascari, Daniel O'Connell, Clifford Fernandes, Gloria O'Brien, Peter Sanfilippo, Vincenzo Oliveri, Domenica Oliveri, Carmelo Oliveri, Maria Oliveri, Vincenzo Bugge, Vince Fedele, Giuseppa Oliveri, Francesco Leuzzi, Tom & Patrick Anderson, Larry Cruz, Nonata San Miguel, Derrick Mack, Grant Colomb, Michele, Concetta, Antonio & Giovanna Fedele, Antonino Vella, Guido Pontello, Mariantonia Pisano, Vincenzo & Anna Peci, Honorio Mercene, Guido & Bertilla Soligo, Marcello & Elsa Soligo, Domenico Soligo, Marcello & Angela Seraglio, Mary Mahony, Dulcie Soans, Giuseppe & Orazio DiMarco, Gloria & Sybil Roache, all departed souls in the families of Dimaano, Colomb & Mack & Bulner, Pontello, Smith, Sernagiotto, Soligo & Certali, Borg, Seraglio, Zammit, & Skondro families & all Souls in Purgatory. **May they rest in peace.**

Special Intentions/Blessings : Maria Bugge, Vrdoljak family, Mai & Joe and children (Martin, William, Michael & Jonathan, Anka Vukasin

Funeral : Rosaria Fenech on Monday, 11 December at 11:00am.



Parish Diary



Monday 11th December	St Damascus 9:10am Communion Service 10:00am Praise & Worship- Italians 11:00am Funeral Mass—Rosaria Fenech
Tuesday 12th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe 9:10am Mass—End of Year MIPS 4:00pm Legion of Mary 7:00pm Praise & Worship
Wednesday 13th December	St Lucy 9:10am Mass 9:40am Rosary 11:30am Parish/School Meeting 7:00pm Choir
Thursday 14th December	St John of the Cross 9:10am Mass Followed by Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 4pm. 4:00pm Departure for Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral 7:30pm Baptismal Info
Friday 15th December	9:10am Mass 9:40am Rosary-Divine Mercy 6:00pm Mass 7:30pm Rosary-Disciples
Saturday 16th December	4:30am Dawn Mass -Filipino 9:10am Mass 11:00am Wedding 5:00pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Vigil Mass 7:30pm Adorers of the Holy Eucharist
Sunday 17th December	3rd Sunday of Advent/B 4:30am Dawn Mass -Filipino 8:00am Mass 10:00am Mass 11:00am Baptism 6:00pm Mass

All Parishioners are invited to come for Christmas at the Cathedral on Thursday, 14th Dec.

The bus will leave the Parish at 4pm for 5:30pm Mass. Entertainment at 6:30pm & Christmas projection at 8.30pm. If you are interested, please register in the foyer/ call 9604 8927/admin@mlbp.org.au

CHRISTMAS
at the Cathedral
a festival evening at St Mary's

14-25 DECEMBER

We invite the community of Sydney to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fastivities begin at 5.30pm with: Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment



Striving to be a "Loving, Caring, Christian Community"

From the Liturgy Office...

Families invited to Light an Advent Candle at Mass

Each week, at all four masses, we are inviting a family to come forward to light an Advent Candle. If you wish to take part and light a candle at one of the Advent masses, please contact either the Liturgy Office or the Parish Office (details on the front page of bulletin) and leave your contact details and the day and time of the mass you will be attending. You will be contacted prior to the mass to advise you of what will happen on the day.



Preparing for the CHRISTMAS Masses CHILDREN'S PAGEANT and FAMILY MASS

In keeping with our tradition here at Mary Immaculate, we will be having our Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve commencing at 5:30pm followed by the Christmas Family Mass at 6:00pm.

If your child wishes to participate in the pageant and/or the Mass, please write his/her name and contact number on the clipboard in the Church Foyer.

Initial meeting and rehearsal will be on Wednesday 20 December at 10:30am—12:00pm.

IMPORTANT: Children who wish to participate **MUST** attend the first meeting as this is when all jobs will be allocated. Parents are also required to sign the permission slip and Safeguarding paperwork. Thanks.

Final rehearsal will be on Friday 22 December at 10:30am—12:00pm.

Helpers needed for the CHRISTMAS Masses

Finally, we need liturgical ministers to assist at the Christmas Masses (Midnight, 8am and 10am). If you can help, please write your name and contact number on the appropriate clipboard located on the table in the Church foyer.

Thank you and God bless,
Rita Cordina (Liturgy & Music Coordinator)

Upcoming Feasts and Memorials

- 11 December - St Damascus I
- 12 December - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 December - St Lucy
- 14 December - St John of the Cross

Pope's Monthly Intentions

DECEMBER: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



3rd Sunday of Advent 16/17 December 2023

	Vigil 6pm	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Sun 6pm
Minister of the Word	Volunteer J Habelreeh	J Cruz M Y Tran	J Weaver J Cordina	T Seraglio E Russo
EMHC	F Di Marco E Sadsad	Y Dawood L Pham	A Elizes R Roanola L Biag	T Corpus L Bykowski
Data Proj/ Musician	B Soldo M Balgos	L Kardum S Cruz	R Mannino Choir	A Fleita
Altar Servers	K Liang C Debono R Mascarenas	Volunteer	B Rice R Qool	M Nicolaou Volunteer
Piety Stall	N Haddad	S Wilkins/ C Maaka	V Pante	R Rossi
Counter: Group 3 A Grima J&S Cruz	Altar Linen : A Fleming	Cleaners : Group 3 Adorers c/o W Bucucang	Flowers : Group 3 T Seraglio G O'Connell	

2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading

St Peter 3:8-14

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Next Weekend:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

3rd Sunday of

Thessalonians 5:16-24

Advent/B

John 1:6-8,19-28

The Giving Tree

Our Giving tree is up in the church foyer. Please take a gift card and return the items requested **on or before Saturday, 16th December.**

Please give generously so we can achieve our goal. Also, please **return gift cards** with all donations and **placing presents in gift bags** is preferred to wrapping (no slippers, clothes or alcoholic drinks). Thank you in advance.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Parent's Information night for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 6pm. Please bring baptismal certificate copy and fee of \$50. Children must be at least 8 years old/in year 3 next year.



ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC

24 SUSSEX STREET
CABRAMATTA NSW 2166

Bookings are encouraged

0401 564 443

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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.



A Marriage Encounter Weekend

on 27-29 June 2024

at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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Consent to Film and Photograph a child/children in the Parish :

As a general rule, no consent is required to photograph or film groups of 10 or more children (where they are not identified by name). However, for one child or a group of less than 10 children, a general consent form should be obtained by a parent/guardian.

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