



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



1st Sunday of Advent Year B - 29th November 2020



Another Advent....

This weekend we start another Liturgical New Year B. Advent has always been a happy time for most people. Even in this difficult time, there is something about Christmas and the coming of the Messiah - the Lord - the realization of all the promises that God has made to His people find their fulfilment in a stable, a little

child. Our year of prayer will carry through the liturgical year. This rhythm and pattern are a blessing for us, providing a spiritual support for all the bits and pieces of daily living, during the different seasons. This progression keeps our lives grateful and centred on God.

We begin this season of Advent in a spirit of hope and expectation. During this time, we look forward not just to the birthday of Jesus at Bethlehem but also for His second coming at the end of time. Why are these four weeks before Christmas called "Advent"? The term comes from a Latin word "adventus" meaning 'coming, arrival'. We immediately think it refers to the coming of Jesus at Christmas time and that is correct. But that is not the whole story. In fact, we can speak of three comings of the Lord. The coming of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem, which we anticipate and prepare for in these four weeks. That is what we may call the First Coming.

The Gospel speaks in ominous terms of the end of the world and what we refer to as the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time. "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come". However, there is still a third coming which forms an important and indispensable link between the First and Second Comings. It is the welcoming of Jesus into our lives in the here and now. This is something which takes place every day - moment by moment. Through it we both acknowledge the First Coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and prepare for the Second Coming at an unknown future date. The Lord Jesus calls us to be alert and watchful for His coming. He comes to us each and every day and He knocks on the door of our heart and home. So listen for His voice and welcome Him into our life. Let His word in the Scriptures and the work of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us draw us to a deeper faith, hope, and yearning for His kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy.

Blessings,
Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

First Reading: Isa 63:16-17, 64:1 – *Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

Psalm Response: Save us, O Lord, carry us back, rouse your power and come, rescue your people show us your face, bring us back.

(Alternative Psalm Response if spoken): Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9 – *The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love,
And grant us your salvation. Alleluia.



Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 – *Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

*Life is all about
MOVING ON,
accepting changes
and
looking forward to
what
makes you stronger
and
more COMPLETE.*

Next week's Readings

First: Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

Second: 2 Pet 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Christmas Mass Times: NOTE the number of attendees at each Mass will be in accordance with the Government requirements at the time (currently 200 people inside the Church). On-line bookings for Masses are required for ALL ATTENDEES. The booking website will be available by 1st December

Christmas Eve Mass Times

7:00pm St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale and 11:30pm St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale

Christmas Day Mass Times

8:00am St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale

Mass Times: Saturday 6:15pm & Sunday 8:00am

Reconciliation: By appointment only

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Parish Council Members: Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans, Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

Pastor: Fr Dantus Thottathil thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor: Fr Prem Rethnamony

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Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

STOPLINE Contact: AOB@stopline.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW:

It's Advent; almost Christmas!

A Season of dreams comes true. Be on guard.

The Lord may call you to follow Him.

Vocation Brisbane. P: (07) 3336 9392 E: vocation@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Primary School

Principal: Mr John Spillane

10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159

☎ 3822 5500 Fax 3822 5690

pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au

www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au

Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Janice McAnlen, Rebecca Harvey, yClara Elms, Jasmine Webb, Beth Riegler, Henk Hoonhout, Peter Goodburn, Tony Dickinson, Elizabeth Smit, Pat Cochran, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

May God embrace all who have recently died: Sam Catavittello, Catharina Mollee.

Anniversaries & Remembrances November: Joan Brown, Michele Battel, Fiore Santarossa, Kathleen Wellington, Richard Wellington, Mona Irving, Anita Shellard, Paul Hayes, Catherine Moore, Michael Peterson, Brian Mullan, Damian Graves, Freda Graves, Ralph White, Anthony Lock, Greg Lawler, David Lopez, Clarence Wilcox, Doreen Heift, Frank Webb, Bill Maclean, Danuta Plantos, Georgina Fleming, Gordon Fleming, Geraldene Barry, Danuta Kupidura, Bill Conway, Emilia Battel, Marian Dodunski, Linda Pasqualini, Arthur Irving, Denise Irving, Raymond Vagg, Anthony Chivers, Steven Brigg, Phillip Phillips, Joseph Camilleri, Josephine Romero, Alex Parlato, Alice Harney, Vincenza Sciacca, Felix Aguiar, Irene Rynne, Veronica Brown, Franseco Santarossa, Peter McGleeson, Amanda Bell, Jane Swann, William Groeger, Edward Briggs, Margaret Duncan, Tom Gall, Bruce Molloy, Mary Boyd, Hugh Kearney, Kevin Gilhooley, Nono Antonio, Rosmer Cartagena, Celena McGovern, Tarcisio Ragagnin, Dave Smith, Rita Fantov, John Richardson, Ian Raumer, Marie Steele, Bill & Martha Kluck, Anastacia Weiland, departed family and friends of Tess Zwolak, Sr. Joe Maria. C.M.C (sister of Father Dantus).

Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk

Mass Celebrations Please visit the following website to register for the Mass you wish to attend. If you are unable to utilise this online system, please call the parish office to register.

Saturdays at 6:15pm - Your event URL is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-mass-saturday-tickets-109262537190>

Sundays at 8:00am - Your event URL is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-mass-sunday-tickets-109263853126>

Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation: Our Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation will take place on Thursday 17 December 2020 at 6.00pm. There will be no mass on this day.

EAST TIMOR RAFFLE We will be running a raffle for some much needed funds and would love your support if you are able to donate prizes. In particular, we are looking for some special prizes (perhaps supporting a local business). Some suggested prizes could include: Restaurant vouchers, tourist / leisure activities, beauty / pamper products, Gold Class Movie tickets, gourmet food items, a special bottle of something, air fryer, coffee maker etc. If you would like to discuss any prize or sponsorship, please contact the Parish Office during office hours. You can also drop in your prize donation to the Parish Office or place in the basket when arriving at Mass. Tickets will be on sale at Masses from this weekend. Many Thanks for your support.

Christmas Tree Donations of food items for St Vincent de Paul to prepare hampers will be gratefully received. If donating presents, (wrapped with a tag indicating the age and gender of the recipient). Gifts suitable for secondary aged students and mums and dads are always sought after. Donation baskets will be in the Church from next weekend. *Thank you for your generosity.*

Children's Christmas Pageant 2020 This year has seen lots of changes to how we do things at school, at Church and in our everyday lives. The good news is that this Christmas, we still plan to continue the Parish tradition of children presenting the story of the birth of Jesus. At this stage, we will be recording the presentation but if restrictions change over the coming weeks, we will consider the option of performing at Mass on Christmas Eve. There are a variety of speaking and non-speaking roles suitable for various ages. Costumes are available. Children will need to attend the following rehearsals at the church:

Tuesday, 15 December 3:30 – 4:30 pm, Thursday, 17 December 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Monday, 21 December 3:30 – 4:30 pm (dress rehearsal), Wednesday, 23 December 9:30 – 11:30 am (final rehearsal and filming). For more information, please contact Lisa Knight in the Parish Office or Tania Logan on 0407436643 or britania@optusnet.com.au

Parish Office will be closed from Monday 7th December to Friday 18th December for Staff Annual Leave. All urgent enquiries to Manly Parish, phone 3131 2610 or manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Diary:
Monday 30th November

St Andrew
12:00pm Rosary Group and Private Prayer
1:00pm Parish Lunch

Tuesday 1st December

Wednesday 2nd December

7:30am HeartFIT
11:00am Rosary Group and Private Prayer

Thursday 3rd December

St Francis Xavier
6:00pm Mass

Friday 4th December

9:30am Mass

Saturday 5th December

10:00am Baptism
6:15pm Mass

Sunday 6th December

Second Sunday of Advent
8:00am Mass

Bookings for Weekend Masses are essential

Reconciliation is by appointment only. Please contact the Parish office to make a booking.

Roster	Readers	Music
5 th & 6 th December	6:15pm (1st) Therese E (2nd) Tom M (POF) Tom M	8:00am (1st) Megan B (2nd) Rob B (POF) Rob B
		6:15pm Gp 1 Powerpoint 6:15pm Alan B
		8:00am Gp 3 8:00am Chris M

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER PARISH IN EAST TIMOR

OUR LADY OF GRACE

WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT PLEASE

Dear Friends,

As Christmas approaches our minds turn to the poor and the example of Christ born in a stable to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

Usually at this time of the year, when I was your Parish Priest we would have a special Christmas Collection for our Sister Parish in Metinaro, Timor Leste.

Our two parishes began this relationship 7 years ago. I remember meeting with the then parish priest Fr Angelo and his large parish council. Sitting under a huge Bayan Tree in the parish grounds the people asked me if our parishes could help them build a school for their children.

Metinaro is the poorest parish of the Archdiocese of Dili. There was no school and its distance from Dili is around 30 kilometres. The road is difficult and the transport is slow.

Her people are just wonderful people. Humble and devout. They have a keen sense of community and are very industrious. They want the best possible future for their children and they realise that in order to achieve this goal their children need a solid Catholic school education that provides human development alongside their faith formation. They understand this requires sacrifice and the help of others in the Catholic Church Community. This is where we play our part in sharing this dream to make the school a reality.

Thank God we have established the school which is now in its fourth year. The school is named after St John Vianney and has a kitchen which provides nutrition for the children. The school needs to urgently build another two classrooms in order to keep up with its growth and expansion. Our two parishes pay the wages of the teachers each month. As well, we help with the construction of the school as it develops. All this is testimony to the providence of God and the belief that HE is with us in our mission to bring dignity and joy to the poor. Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners we have continued to develop a true sisterly relationship to the parish of Metinaro under the title of Our Lady of Grace.

Fr Dionisio is the current parish priest and has become a good friend to me. I visit the parish and school every year and have maintained a strong link with the progress of our school. It is quite a miracle that the school thrives and we are blessed to be part of that miracle.

Faith and love are the reason for this miracle. We do our little bit and the Lord provides the rest for us.

The children have pride in their school uniform. The people of the parish are hard workers in the building programme. The school is also used for teenager and young adult formation on the weekend and for English classes for those young people who wish to go to university and those that work during the week in Dili. They also use the school buildings for computer classes for young adults and the covered playground is utilised for many community activities including health education and faith formation.

Fr Dionisio is dynamic and he is very committed to his people. The children and parishioners of Metinaro are making a real difference in the lives of the poor. However, without our continued support this is just not possible.

Like our two patrons John Vianney and Mary MacKillop, we know that faith without good works is useless. Our school in Metinaro is our opportunity to make the miracle of Christmas a living reality where those born in poverty are given the love to grow and develop their full potential as children of God. John Vianney and Mary MacKillop had the vision that we share, which overcomes obstacles and performs good works that make God's love tangible to the poor.

No matter how small or insignificant we feel, if we all give a little, the Lord will multiply our gifts and enable the children of Metinaro to live their parents' dream of an education out of poverty into dignity and worth.

God love you for your goodness and generosity.

Fr Frank Jones, Vice Rector, Holy Spirit Seminary

Tel: 3267 4800

SOME PICTURES OF OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

How you can help?



RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS

Some suggestions: Restaurant vouchers, tourist / leisure activities, beauty / pamper products, Gold Class Movie tickets, gourmet food items, a special bottle of something, air fryer, coffee maker etc

PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS

1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10

DEPOSIT DIRECTLY INTO THE FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT

As a once off or a regular contribution

BSB: 064 786

Account No: 51717 0100

Name: Birkdale Parish East Timor Project

CONTINUE TO LEAVE YOUR LOOSE COINS IN THE BOTTLE

MANY THANKS FOR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS WONDERFUL AND WORTHWHILE CAUSE