



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

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



Third Sunday of Advent - Year C - 12th December 2021

Rejoice in the Lord always.... The Advent season is basically a penitential period. And therefore the colour of the vestments, as in Lent, are purple or violet. It is a time when we are invited to fast or do some other form of self-denial as a genuine experience of repentance and renewal to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas. So this 3rd Sunday is often referred to as "*Gaudete Sunday*" means "**Rejoice Sunday**". Even the colour of the Advent candle is modified from penitential purple to a rose colour.

On this third Sunday of Advent the Church invites us to rejoice and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Saviour. The First Reading from the prophet Zephaniah tells the faithful to shout for joy, and to rejoice and exult with all their hearts. In the Second Reading, St Paul invites us to be happy in the Lord and to remain always in that happiness. The Gospel reminds us of the coming of the Saviour and the need for the immediate preparation for the coming of the King who will remain among us. Here we have John the Baptist surrounded by an anxious and waiting group of people. They are worried and are unsure about the future. John is there to guide, give practical advice and baptize them. Soon Jesus will come to change everything and fill them with Joy. That is what we celebrate today.

Joy is the gift of God to those whom He has specially chosen. It is, as Jesus says - the gift which He personally gives and it is something that no one can take away from us. The problem is if we identify our happiness with people or things we don't have and often cannot have. However, with Jesus joy is spiritual and a blessing that He gives us. This week let us ask in our hearts, whether we are ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus. Let us prepare to commemorate Christmas with a true spirit of holiness. Let us ask for the grace to be ready for the final coming of the Lord in a spirit of joy and happiness.

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

This Week's Readings:

First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18 – *With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Psalm Response: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.
(*Alternative Psalm Response if spoken*): Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7 – *The Lord is near.*

Gospel Acclamation

A
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 3: 10-8 – *What, then, must we do?*



QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

*Joy is prayer;
joy is strength;
joy is love and
joy is a net of love.*

Mother Teresa

Next week's Readings

First: Micah 5:1-4

Second: Heb 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December - **7:00pm** (with Children's Pageant) and **11:30pm**

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December - **8:00am** (NO SATURDAY EVENING MASS)

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday 26th December - **8:00am**



Roster	Readers 6:15pm (1st) Tanina D 8:00am (1st) Lorraine K (2nd) Suzanne G (2nd) Louise W	Counting Group 3
18 th & 19 th December	(Welcome & POF) Vern D 8:00am (Welcome & POF) Matthew K	Music 6:15pm Gp 1 8:00am Gp 3
	Communion Ministers 6:15pm Paulina P 8:00am Elaine H	PowerPoint 6:15pm Alan B 8:00am Clinton T

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

Reconciliation: Thursday 5:30pm

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 Rethamony

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Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

STOPLINE Contact: AOB@stoline.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW:

Have you ever asked: "What ought I do?"
Simply, tell the good news to people.
Nothing else matters.

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Parish Primary School

Principal: Mr John Spillane

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Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Lynne Gage, John Jorna, Agatha Ravaneschi, Liana Lo Presti, Andrew Hodgson, Amanda Ward, Ed Moloney, Colleen Van den Bosch, Janice McAnlen, Rebecca Harvey, Clara Elms, Beth Riegler, Henk Hoonhout, Tony Dickinson, Elizabeth Smit, Pat Cochrane, Patricia Briscoe, 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, 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: Michael McMahon, Gina Basso, Carmel Hickey.

Anniversaries & Remembrances December: Les and Ruby Richards, Alberto & Vittorio Poloniato, John Jorna Snr, Antonio Cailotto, Amalia Bandiera, John Williams, Madeline Gauci, Eve Buckmaster, Peter Moores, Carmen Jagga, Hans Adam, Fayline Fraser, Alma Prove, Mary Boyle, Josefina Wilcox, Rita Fantov, Michael Newman, Maria Bosso, Mark Ciavarella, Ron Tamatea, Meg Griffiths, Mal Carlson, Luigi Santarossa, Arnold Splatt, Arthur McCarthy, Ray Murphy, David Kearney, Sr Dot Newberry, Jack and Mary Ward, Graeme & Sonia Giles, David Boyd, Irene Kearney, Llewellyn Mills, Clare Rubach, Ivan Randall, Jordan Smith, Vladga Smith, Franco Peressini, Dorothy McInroy, Annie Neale, Fr Tom Boland.

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

Support Your Parish: Thank you so much to all the Parishioners who continue to support our Parish financially. Our planned giving bank account details for Electronic Funds Transfer deposits are as follows: **BSB: 064 786 Account No: 1000 17027**
Account Name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving (this account number is NOT for over the counter deposits at the Bank). Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number if you have one.

Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation: Our Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Thursday 16th December 2021 at 6.00pm**. There will be no mass on this day.

Christmas Pageant It is a tradition in the Parish for children to present the story of the birth of Jesus at Mass on Christmas Eve. We are looking for children who might like to be involved this year. There are a range of speaking and non-speaking roles. Costumes are available. Children must be able to attend Mass at 7 pm on Christmas Eve as well as a number of rehearsals. These will be held at the Church from **3:30 – 4:30 pm on Tuesday 14th December, Thursday 16th December, Tuesday 21st December and Thursday 23rd December**. For more information, please contact Lisa Knight in the Parish Office or Tania Logan on 0407436643 or britania@optusnet.com.au.

EAST TIMOR RAFFLE Tickets will be on sale at Masses \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Lots of great prizes!!!! 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, please take a gift tag from the Christmas Tree in the Church and purchase an item for the age and gender of the recipient. Donation baskets will be in the Church from next weekend. *Thank you for your generosity.*

St Vincent de Paul - have Christmas cards (\$2.95 for a pack of 8), Christmas gifts and Columbian Calendars for sale at weekend Masses.

Cuppa After Mass: We're still looking for volunteers to provide the "cuppa" after Sunday Mass (we have enough for Saturday night). If you can help a few times a year, contact the Parish Office or Mary on 0404 460 251.

Small Coins for East Timor The collection jar for your SMALL COINS will be at the Welcome Desk each week. Total collected to date is **\$17,822.60**.

Parish Office will be closed from Monday 20th December 2021 to Friday 7th January 2022 for Staff Annual Leave. The Office will reopen on Monday 10th January 2022 and 9:00am.

Parish Diary:

Monday 13th December

St Lucy

1:00pm Rosary Group and Private Prayer

Tuesday 14th December

St John of the Cross

3:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Wednesday 15th December

7:30am HEARTfit

11:00am Rosary Group and Private Prayer

Thursday 16th December

3:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

6:00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation

Friday 17th December

9:00am Rosary

9:30am Mass

Saturday 18th December

6:15pm Mass

Sunday 19th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass



Third Sunday of Advent – Year C

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.