

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A

18TH DECEMBER 2022

PARISH VISION

We are called to reveal the Light of Christ to the world

MASS TIMETABLE

St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

Monday	Mass: 7am
Tuesday	Mass: 7am
Wednesday	Mass: 7am
	Confessions: 11:30am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Thursday	Mass: 7am
Friday	Mass: 7am
	Adoration: 11:30am
	Confessions: 11:30am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Saturday	Confessions: 11am—12pm
Sunday	Mass: 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

St Brigid's, Gwynneville

Thursday	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday Vigil	Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday	Mass: 9am

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow

Tuesday	Mass: 9.30am
Thursday	Mass: 9.30am (Italian)
Sunday	Mass: 8.30am
	Mass: 10am (Italian)
	Mass: 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie

Sunday	Mass: 10am
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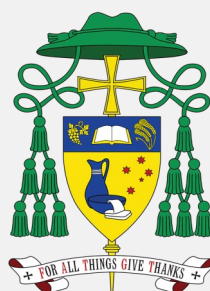
LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC PARISH

MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE ...

Deceased members of our parish, John Merritt, Peter Estreich.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...

Pat Carr, Damian Johnson, John Parkinson, Mick Davies, Isobel Joseph, Gerard Gray, Ross Abbott, Jan Coulson, Noel & Therese Rouse, Nikiesha Thorton, Tony Moriarty, Veronica Bowman, Angela Mosley, Angela Sirc, Dianne Hukins, Margaret Gray, Christine Bulters, Matthew Johnson, Suzy May Gellel, Lordna Omiping, Dr Madeleine Cincotta, Elenka Egan, Dr John Frey, Johnny Dimise, Francisco Santos, Ada Raynor, Denise Mastro, Jadon Kalp, Amanda Dennis, Tara Conklin, Jamie Chitwood, Karl Llorin, Sue Freestone, Ardell Sharpe, Joseph Scalia, Lilia Pelino, Don Alanis.



PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am —1.00pm
36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

CONTACT US

Phone: 02 4211 0500
wollongong@dow.org.au
lumenchristi.org.au

PARISH STAFF

Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,
Diocesan Bishop & Parish Priest
Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,
Vicar General & Administrator
Reverend James Arblaster,
Assistant Priest
Kevin Galea,
General Manager
Leanne Burlin,
Parish Secretary
Patricia Di Leva,
Administration Assistant

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Wollongong Hospital: 0475 815 506

PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCILS

Lisa de Paiva, Chair of the Pastoral Council
Gabi Tobin, Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Kathy Uroda, Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville
Toni Sillis, Principal, Good Samaritan Fairy Meadow

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country, Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

In our parish & around the diocese

PARISH CALENDAR: DEC 2022—FEB 2023

Sat, 24 Dec/Sun 25 Dec: Christmas Masses (see page 3)
Mon, 26 Dec—Tue 3 Jan: Parish Office closed
Fri, 30 Dec: Feast of the Holy Family, SFX 7am & 12.10pm
Sun, 1 Jan: Mary Mother of God, Normal Sunday Timetable
Fri, 13 Jan: Music Coordinators Meeting, Rigney Room 10am
Thu, 26 Jan: Australia Day Mass, SFX 7am (No Mass at SBG)
Fri, 27 Jan: Catechists Meeting, Rigney Room 10am
Fri, 27 Jan: Schools resumes
Sat, 21 Jan: Inservice—Liturgy of the Word, SFX 9.30am
Wed, 1 Feb: Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Gwynneville
Thu, 2 Feb: Presentation of the Lord, SFX 7am, SBG 9:30am
Sun, 5 Feb: Hospitality Weekend Resumes
Tue, 7 Feb: Mass of Anointing, SJV 9.30am
Mon, 20 Feb: Confirmation Parent Evening, SBG 6.30pm
Tue, 21 Feb: Confirmation Parent Evening, GSFM 6.30pm
Wed, 22 Feb: Ash Wednesday Masses TBA
Fri, 24 Feb: Stations of the Cross to commence on Fridays
Tue, 28 Feb: Finance Council Mtg, Rigney Room, 5pm

SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** By appointment only (contact the parish office during office hours for details)
- **Marriages:** A preliminary appointment needs to be made at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date (**No Sunday weddings**)
- For Pastoral and Sacramental needs, please contact the parish office during office hours

HELPFUL LINKS

- **Mass for you at Home:** youtube.com/massforyouathome
- **Mass/Prayer Intentions:** lumenchristi.org.au/intentions
- **Light a Votive Candle:** lumenchristi.org.au/votive
- **Census Form:** lumenchristi.org.au/census
- **Online Donations:** lumenchristi.org.au/donate
- **Online Payments:** lumenchristi.org.au/payment
- **Join Planned Giving:** lumenchristi.org.au/support
- **Columbarium:** lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium
- **Sacramental Programme:** lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental
- **Privacy Policy:** privacy.lumenchristi.org.au
- **St Brigid's School:** sbgdow.catholic.edu.au
- **Good Samaritan School:** gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au

PARISH EFT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

CHURCH ACCOUNT

(Donations & Planned Giving)

BSB: 066 711 **Account:** 008056

Account Name: Lumen Christi Parish

PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT

(For the Clergy)

BSB: 066 711 **Account:** 002286

Account Name: Lumen Christi Parish Presbytery

FROM THE GM'S DESK



As we gather to celebrate Christmas, another year has passed. No doubt this year has brought joys and sadness in different measure to each person, all colouring our memories of 2022.

Traditionally, we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, with friends and loved ones. I do hope that your Christmas will have something of that peace, joy and celebration. Such joyful celebrations may not be possible for some. You may have lost a loved one since last Christmas, or you may be overburdened by financial worries, family problems or for many other reasons. If you are, I want to assure you that, as a parish community, we do care and offer you our support.

At Lumen Christi Parish I am looking forward to 2023. Stay tuned – we have more exciting things coming your way as we strive to be a growing parish serving our community and promoting God's mission for us.

Many people have been involved in bringing about these initiatives. We give thanks for the many parishioners who have given generously of their time and talents in making this parish such an energetic, faith-filled community.

I echo Fr Bernard's words in last week's parish bulletin *"Thanks to all our Lumen Christi parishioners who assist in various ways in our parish. Without the help of our volunteers our parish churches could not live and grow"*.

Thank you for helping us along the journey. May you be blessed with peace and joy at Christmas and in the New Year.

- The Parish Office will be closed from 12pm on Friday 23rd December 2022 and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.
- Fr James Arblaster will be on leave from Tuesday 3rd January 2023 and return Friday 20th January 2023. Thank you to Fr John Stork for assisting with Masses.

I wish to especially thank Fr Bernard Gordon for his ongoing support to me and the parish staff. Fr Bernard is a dedicated priest who works very hard and tirelessly. We are truly blessed for Fr Bernard's work and spiritual ethic.

Thank you to Bishop Brian, Fr James and Fr John who are always there to help me at the drop of a hat!

Thank you to Leanne and Trish who put up with my OCD in the office. I am sure I drive them crazy!!

Thank you to those who assist me in many ways. Thank you just isn't enough!

All the best, Kevin

For more information on bequests please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/bequest

In our parish & around the diocese

ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE



Bishop Brian encourages us to respond to the call from the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia to provide financial support to people in the war-torn nation as winter arrives. All donations will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action). The organisation

has three focus areas: evacuation of people from frontline territories, food packages for people in need, and shelters for internally displaced persons.

A leaving collection will take place this weekend 17/18 December or you can make a donation on the diocesan website Go to: <https://bit.ly/ukraineappeal2022>

Your support of this appeal would be greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

Fairy Meadow: Mass 6pm

Wollongong: Mass 7pm & Midnight

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am, & 5pm

Gwynneville: Mass 9am

Fairy Meadow Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

Monday 26th December, St Stephen

Wollongong: Mass 7am

Tuesday 27th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am

Wednesday 28th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, Rec 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm

Thursday 29th December

Wollongong: 7am

Friday 30th December, The Holy Family

Wollongong: Mass 7am, Rec 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm

Saturday 31st December

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

Sunday 1st January 2023, Mary Mother of God

Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

Gwynneville: Mass 9am

Fairy Meadow Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

Normal Mass times resume from Monday 2nd January 2023

Go to: lumenchristi.org.au/masstimes for details

be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

DEVELOPING OUR LIFE AND FACILITIES



During this year we had to respond to health and safety issues which required major work on our office facilities and the grounds around the Cathedral.

This emergency work highlighted the need for a five to ten year assessment repair and maintenance plan. We need to ensure that our parish facilities are safe and in good condition. Like our homes our Parish facilities are in constant need of repair, maintenance, and renovation.

In 2023 our Finance Council will focus on a repair and maintenance program to ensure our buildings are places of dignity, comfort and safety for current and future parishioners.

The works of our parish cover many areas, from liturgical worship and missionary outreach to support of children and parents for our parish sacramental programs. Therefore, the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils will develop an overall plan for the development of our parish life. This will include the implementation of best practice planning and budgeting for the continuing repair and maintenance program, along with Construction and Major renovation projects.

A maintenance funding account was created in 2020 which currently has \$30,000 to support our parish repairs and maintenance. If you wish make a contribution please do so by going online to: lumenchristi.org.au/repairfund or you can direct deposit your contribution to:

BSB: 066 711 **Account:** 008056

Ref: [Your name] works

Thank you very much for all your help in developing the life of our parish for our present community and those who will come after us. Let us aim to leave a thriving and confident parish which reveals the light of God's truth and love to our world.

Fr Bernard Gordon

CWL RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to all who purchased tickets in the combined CWL raffle. Congratulations to the Winners: 1st prize Sally Neilson, 2nd prize Terry, 3rd prize Grace Houroni

Hamper Winners: Jason Brett, M. Smith, A & A Theodossiadis, Lily Sommerville, Eva Crook

Consolation Prize Winners: Chanel Oxley, Zara & Sofia Hides, J & G Janachovski

For more information on our Columbarium please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our

apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Just Man Dreaming

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to

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