



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Fairfield

Archdiocese of Sydney Est. 1946

18th December 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a believing community in the Catholic Tradition, whose heart is Jesus Christ, celebrated in the Eucharist. Our catholicity is lived through the diverse nature of our community which is open and welcoming to all. Daily we are open to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through the Gospel, enabling us to experience personal and social transformation.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Administrator: Rev Fr Bob Bossini
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Andrew Fu
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Tibebeselassie Abza
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Ben Gandy
Parish Office: 2 Weston Street
Fairfield NSW 2165
Presbytery: 18 Vine St. Fairfield 2165
Email: admin@olrfairfield.org.au
Phone: (02) 9724 5997
Emergency Ph: 0488 693 482

Parish Office Hours:
Mondays - Fridays 9am - 12pm & 1pm - 5pm
Parish Website: www.olrfairfield.org.au

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY MASS: 8.30am

SUNDAY MASS

in English (Vigil) 6.00pm (Sat)
in Polish 7.30am
in English 9.00am, 10.30am & 6pm
in Vietnamese 4.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 9.30am
Monday & Tuesday: 7pm
Friday Mass: 7.00pm First Friday of the month

Business Manager: Florbela Caxala Mb: 0472 862 509
Events & Marketing Co-ordinator:
Kathryn Gerardino Mb. 0491 602 332
Sacramental Co-ord: Simone Smith 0432 437 552
Liturgical Music Co-ordinator: Fr. Ben Gandy
Parish Safeguarding Support Officers: (PSSO's)
Florbela Caxala & Simone Smith
safeguarding@olrfairfield.org.au

Novena Prayer: Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 6.30pm on Wednesdays.
Novena Mass: 1st Wednesday of the Month 6.30pm.

Holy Hour: Vietnamese Community 6pm on the last Friday of the Month.

Catechist Coordinator:
Heather Watt: Contact Parish Office

Catholic Women's League: Matilda Petersen on Mb. 0426 847 213 - Meeting 4th Thursday of month.

St Vincent de Paul - Meeting 1st Thursday of month:
Marcel D'Abrera Mb. 0418 231 368

SACRAMENTS

Confession

Saturday 5.00pm - 5.30pm, Before/After Mass or by appointment.

Baptism

Contact the Parish Office to make an appointment. A Baptism preparation class is required prior to Baptism. Baptism Enrolment form needs to be submitted to the Parish Office.

Marriage

By appointment – six months notice required and undergo Marriage Preparation Course. Check with Parish Secretary for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Please check the Parish Bulletin for future dates for the administration of this Sacrament during Mass. Outside Mass times, requests to be anointed can take place after any Mass or by appointment.

For all church or room bookings, please contact Florbela!

Email: manager@olrfairfield.org.au

SCHOOLS

OLR Primary School

20 Vine Street, Fairfield Tel: (02) 9727 9064
Principal: Ms. Jackie Vella
info@olrfairfield.catholic.edu.au

Patrician Brothers' College

Boys Year 7–12 Tel: (02) 9728 4488
Principal: Mr. Peter Wade
info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au
Monastery: (02) 9724 1247

Mary Mackillop Catholic College

Girls Year 7–12 Tel: (02) 9725 4322
Principal: Ms. Gilda Pussich
info@mmcwakele.catholic.edu.au

SCECS Outside School Hours Care

Ph: (02) 9568 8218 Website: www.scecs.nsw.edu.au
Mary Mackillop Hall 20 Vine Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & 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.



Like our Parish Facebook page *Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield Parish*

This Parish pays respect to the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A

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.

1st 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.

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.

We Remember and Pray for

Recently Deceased: Eddie Grasso & Norman McDonald.

Anniversary of Death: Antonia Konarsk, Joanna Pereira & Ester Raicevich.

In Loving Memory of: Littorio Kenk, Silvana Gruber, Anna Hien Dang, Joseph Kien Dang, Carmel Windred, Maria Rosa & Giuseppe Marzano, Gwen Small, Joseph & Carmen Camilleri, Albertin & Joseph Jabroo, Karmenu & Vincenza Ciantai, Charlie Camilleri, Giuseppe & Vincenza Cagliano, Christine, Ashley & Brendan Aviet, Domenica Cagliostro, Rebecca Banasik, Antonia & Caterina Toscano, Michael Champlin OP, Len Pickett, Charles Penza, Vincenzo Cagliostro & Domenico Marzano.

Sick: 9 Year old Archer & Thi-Hien Nguyen

The Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas and New Year's period; closing on the 22nd December and reopening 16th January, 2023. For urgent matters please ring the emergency Mobile No. 0488 693 482.

As of the 26th December the 7.00pm Monday & Tuesday evening Masses will be on hold, resuming on Monday 16th January 2023.



Dear Friends,

The Scottish poet, **Robert Burns** (1759-96) wrote in his poem **'To a Mouse'** that *"the best laid plans of mice and men can often go awry"*. This is often the case with life. We can plan to the smallest detail many of our projects and ventures only to find that some unforeseen element has undone all of our plans. Our meticulous planning for a dinner party can all come to nothing when illness occurs and the event has to be either cancelled or postponed. In the end we cannot determine or control the outcome of our planning. With the celebration today of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are presented with the events leading up to the Christmas story: **'This is how Jesus Christ came to be born'** Matthew tells us [Matthew 1:18]. We move into the lives of Mary and Joseph as the plans that they have for each other seemingly collide with what God has in mind for them.

Today's Gospel story [Matthew 1: 18-24] tells us of the prophecy of Jesus' birth and the effect that it had on Mary and Joseph. When we sit with this story we see these two young people, Joseph and Mary are at the beginning of their life together. Matthew tells us that they are betrothed. In Palestine couples who are betrothed to each other were in a similar case to couples who today are engaged to be married, only there was a more binding element to it. Matthew tells us of the beginnings of a series of surprises that will enter the lives of Joseph and Mary. It is discovered that Mary is with child. Being betrothed this indiscretion would require a process of formal divorce on the part of the male, therefore bringing the issue into the full public spectrum and causing an amount of grievance and shame to both families, but especially the woman.

As Joseph prepares for this process to be initiated, we hear of the beginning of the second surprising factor. In a dream – one of many to come – an angel informs Joseph that he need not fear this surprising situation, because Mary has conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. The angel goes on to state that this Child – to be named Jesus – will indeed be the saviour of his people. Joseph awakens for the dream with a different perspective. He does as the angel commands him and takes Mary as his wife, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah: ***The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel'*** which comes from the conclusion of our first reading today [Isaiah 7:14].

This is the first part of the familiar Christmas story. In the same way in which it began it also continues – the mysterious and often surprising ways in which God comes into the lives of Mary and Joseph. The

important point to all this is in the names that appear within this text. We have heard that the angel commanded Joseph to name the Child Jesus, since he will be the saviour of his people. As we hear from the prophet Isaiah – whose words become fulfilled in the birth of Jesus – the Child's name will be Emmanuel – a word which means ***"God is with us"***. The central point of this reading comes at the end: ***When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do...*** [Matthew 1:24]. This highlights the importance and centrality of working with God's will above and beyond our own. It entails a sense of discernment that allows us to be open to, recognise and work with God's plans for us, even when, like Joseph and Mary we may not fully understand where those plans will take us.

The challenge as we hear today's Gospel is for us to have the same openness and trust in the ways of God as did Joseph and Mary, most especially in those moments when we cannot really understand the ways of God and where God is trying to lead us. Joseph and Mary's initial response to these surprising elements in their life would have been one of surprise, doubt and possibly fear. Through the words of the angel they come to a point where they were able to work with God's design for them. So too with ourselves. We need to be open to God's word, able to discern his will and have the faith and trust to place our confidence in his ways. In doing this, then the miracle of Christmas continues to happen in our world.

Fr Robert Bossini
Administrator

Please be advised that as of the Vigil Mass on the 17th December, 2022 the **First and Second Collections** will recommence being collected during Mass.



Please join us for a memorial mass for the late Dora Gabriel to be held on Monday 19th December at 7pm.



RCIA: A journey in faith.

We are seeking interested volunteers to be sponsors who journey with those interested in becoming Catholic through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) process. To be a sponsor you simply need to be ready to accompany, listen to, and support those undergoing the formation process in our parish.

If interested please contact our Sacramental Coordinator:
Simone Smith on 0432 437 552 or
sacramental@olrfairfield.org.au

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

a festival evening at St Mary's

PRESENTED BY **paynterdixon**

8-25 DECEMBER 2022

We invite our parish families
and all people of goodwill across
Sydney to come together at St
Mary's Cathedral during Advent
to prepare for the birth of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

Festivities begin at 7pm with:
Christmas market stalls, food,
fun activities for the kids and live
entertainment



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

REGISTRATIONS DUE BY 25TH JANUARY

TO ENROL your child into the SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM for FIRST
RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION 2023, please fill out the application
form (available in Church foyer & Parish Office) &
return to the Parish Office
or via email: sacramental@olrfairfield.org.au

NB: Parish Office closed from Dec 21st until Jan 16th, 2023. Forms can be
placed in the back lock box outside Parish Office during this time.

For more details, please contact: Simone Smith
0432 437 552 (Sacramental Co-ordinator)



ADVENT 2022 REFLECTIONS

FRIDAY EVENINGS 6:30-7:30PM

A NIGHT OF PRAYER, ADORATION AND REFLECTION

NOV 25, DEC 2, 9, 16

LOCATION: INSIDE THE CHURCH



Our Lady of the Rosary



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
CHURCH, FAIRFIELD
(18 VINE STREET, FAIRFIELD)

2022 Christmas Timetable

SATURDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER

6:00PM	8:00PM	11:30PM	12AM
SATURDAY CHILDREN'S MASS	(VIETNAMESE)	CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BY FR BEN GANDY	MIDNIGHT MASS

SUNDAY: CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER

7:30AM	9:00AM	10:30AM	4:30PM
MASS (POLISH)	(ENGLISH)	(ENGLISH)	(VIETNAMESE)

NO 6PM EVENING MASS ON SUNDAY 25TH DEC

MONDAY: FEAST OF ST STEPHEN 26 DECEMBER

7:30AM	9:30AM	
MASS (POLISH)	(ENGLISH)	(NO EVENING MASS TODAY)

WEEKDAY MASS 27TH DEC 2022 - 16TH OF JAN 2023

8:15AM - 9:15AM	9:30AM	**MONDAY AND TUESDAY EVENING MASS WILL RESUME ON THE 16TH JANUARY**
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	(ENGLISH)	