



St Christopher's & St Patrick's Catholic Parishes


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B
17TH DECEMBER 2023
St Christopher's Catholic Church

233 Tower Street Panania NSW 2213

www.stchristopherpanania.org.au
Mass Times
Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

Tuesday: 7pm,

Wednesday-Friday: 9:15am

Saturday: 9am

Exposition & Benediction
Tues: 6-7pm, **Thur:** 5-7pm **Sat:** after 9am Mass

Holy Hour
Friday: 6.15am-7.15 (except school holidays)

Reconciliation
Saturday: 9.30am & 4.45 pm

Baptisms

 11am: 1st & 3rd Sundays

Weddings (by appointment)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

294 The River Road Revesby Heights NSW 2212

www.stpatrickrevesbyheights.org.au
Mass Times
Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 9am

Tuesday- Friday: 8am,

Exposition & Benediction

 7:30 am - 8am, 1st Friday of the month

Reconciliation
Saturday: 4.45 pm-5:15 pm

Baptisms

 10:30am, 4th Sunday of the month

Weddings (by appointment)

Parish Priest

Fr Salas Muttathukattil MSFS

Assistant Priest

Fr Vijay Kumar Boilla MSFS

CONTACT US 02 9774-3662

 Parish Office stcpanania@hotmail.com

St Christopher's Catholic Church Panania

St Patrick's Catholic Church Revesby Heights

St Christopher's Primary School

02 9771-5492

De La Salle College

(02) 9773 7755

Mount St Joseph College

(02) 8724 6200



Gospel Reflection

Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

Fr Michael Tate


Entrance Antiphon

***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.***

Philippians 4:4-5

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!***

Gospel

John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

***Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.***

Advent Wreath Liturgy Prayer



The Third Candle, called the Shepherd's Candle, after the first ones to worship the new born Jesus, is now lit.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promised.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who know his flock and calls each one by name.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promised.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd ready to search out and look for the lost sheep.

All: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promised.

Priest: Let us pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ

All: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the whole world rejoices in hope in this time of the Saviour's coming. Prepare our hearts for the joy of his presence with us and remove the blindness that hinders our seeing him as a Saviour. As we prepare for the feast of Christmas, may we rejoice in his presence and come to the eternal life with you and the Holy Spirit, where you live and reign as one God for ever and ever. Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

My soul rejoices in my God.

The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, Copyright (D 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The psalm responses and Alleluia verse are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass (D 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.



We wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, the Durag people of the Eora nation, and pay respect to their traditions, customs and long and continuous culture and history. It is upon their ancestral lands that this Community of God is built.

Volunteers Christmas Party St Christopher's /St Patrick's



Thank you to those who attended our Volunteers Mass & Gathering, it was a most enjoyable and successful evening. For those volunteers who could not attend and wish to collect their Bible Reflections, you can collect them from Fr. Salas or the Piety Stall. Once again thank you for your volunteering throughout the year.

Fr. Salas & Fr. Vijay.

Piety Stall

Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards are currently available in the Pious Goods Store.

Christmas closure of Parish office

The office will be closed from Tuesday 26/12/2023 to 1/01/2024 and reopen on Tuesday 2/01/2024

Communion - Visit to the sick

During the month of January 2024 there will be no regular Sunday Communion Visits to the Sick until the 28th January as most of the ministers are on holidays. If there is need anytime please contact parish office 9774 3662 and leave a message.



BIRTHDAY WISHES:

We wish Maurice Thompson Snr a very happy 90th Birthday for the 14th December



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2023

ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH



Saturday, 23rd December

Normal Vigil Mass

5.30pm

Sunday, 24th December

Normal Sunday Masses

8.00am & 9.30am

Sunday, 24th December - Christmas Eve Masses

Children's Vigil

5.30pm

Parish Vigil

7.30pm

Midnight Mass

Monday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Parish Masses

8.00am & 9.30am

Saturday, 30th December

Normal Vigil Mass

5.30pm

31st December

Normal Sunday Masses

8.00am &

9.30am

NO 5pm MASS

Monday 1st January 2024 - New Year's Day

9.00am

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

Saturday, 23rd December

Normal Vigil Mass

5.30pm

Sunday, 24th December

Normal Sunday Mass

9.00am

Sunday, 24th December - Christmas Eve Masses

Vigil Mass

5.30pm

Monday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Parish Mass

9.00am

Saturday, 30th December

Normal Vigil Mass

5.30pm

Sunday, 31st December

Normal Sunday Mass

9.00am

Monday 1st January 2024 - New Year's Day

8.00am

RECONCILIATION - 2nd Rite

St Christopher's: Wednesday 20th December 7pm

Volunteers for Christmas Masses

We invite readers, acolytes, communion ministers, ushers, and wardens to sign up for the Christmas Masses. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

St. Christopher's & St. Patrick's Parish Contacts
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9.00am-3.00pm
Address: 237 Tower Street, Panania

Parish Secretary: Van Doan
Parish Manager: John Tesoriero
Sac. Co-ordinator: Anne Maree Morris
Pastoral Care: Norma Coorey
Liturgy and Ministry Coordinator:
St. Christopher's Church
Parish Pastoral Council
 Chairperson: Anne Weeks
 Secretary:
Parish Finance Committee
 Chairperson: John Tesoriero
 Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jeanette Carroll

St. Patrick's Church

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chairperson: Roza Bulic
 Secretary: Pat Nolan
Parish Finance Committee
 Chairperson: John Tesoriero
 Secretary: Pat Nolan
 Parish Safeguarding Officer: Siobhan Van Den Nieuwenhuizen

COMING EVENTS



Mass Intentions

Let Us Pray for our Parish Community

Recently Deceased:

Michel Altahhan, Lorraine Lindsay, Christine Hooper, Elias Chouaifaity, Anna Vingerhoed & Joseph Mrzljak, yong Nieva, Sr Rose McDermott, Rosemary Hoad, Liam Grant.

Anniversaries:

Colleen Woods, Joseph Dalli, Pauline O'Shea Sr, Ernest Wormleaton, Benjamin San Juan Sr., Thomas Conway, Toufic and Tamam Coorey, Lubow Salgueira, Mickalina Azzopardi & Evelyn Jones, Patrick McKenna, Roger Brown, Tony Jabbour.

General Intention:

Rob Ellery, Brown, Pereira, Arango, Rosario, D'Souza families, Jose Quintal, Julia, John, Terrence Hoad, Julia & Terrence Thomas, Jean & Vincent Hoad, Anthony Bragg, Therese Boukaram, Anthony Coorey, -Hanna, Mansour & Crowe families, Deceased of Youssib & Nabiha Dagher Family, Dominic Doan, Paul & Tim Burke, Cecilia Gaveran, Deceased members of the Legion of Mary.

The Sick and Infirm:

Simon Boukaram, Pedro Priou, Richard Hurst, Margaret Maloney, Mario Bosquet, Igor Mileusnic, Jack Mullane, Leonie Mullane, Baby Lexi, Gerry & David Shepherd, Owen & Marie McLoughlin, Micky Long, Joan Jones, Jenny Breen, Sarah & Asher McLoughlin, Sebastian Pedro Rozo, George Ormerod, Sryani Genge, Betty McDermott, Pat Coates, Ivette Charadia, Ursula O'Shea, Peter Yasbek, Glen San Juan, Manfred Adam, Anne Hanna, Lisa Field, Aria Zimmermann, Di Mason, Robert Charadia, Moussa Debs, Michael Hains, Eric Burwicle, Bronwyn Pearson, Margaret Azzi, Miriam Priou, Maria Koh, John Esther, Rosanne Sukkar, Bill Papadopoulos, McLoughlin, Gillfeathers families, Geordan Smith, Margaret O'Donnell, Kathleen Mulligan, Alma Tahan, Martin Hannagan, Jim O'Neill, Anne Coome, Mary Israel, Stephen Sinclair, Pat Tindall, Sick members of the Legion of Mary.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKEND ROSTERS 2023

16th/17th Dec	Sat. 5.30pm	Sun 8am	Sun 9.30am	Sun 5pm	Other Ministries
Readers:	Gabrielle Innes Louise Anderson	Volunteer Ron Woods	Lea De Angelis Andrew Mills	Nazira Hanna Tanya Nguyen	Communion to the Sick Ann-Maree Darcy Gabi Bietresato Margaret Yasbek
Communion Ministers:	David Raish Volunteer	Ann-Maree Darcy Gabi Bietresato	Magdalene Vetter Margaret Yasbek	Nazira Hanna Volunteer	Counters: John Tesoriero Jeanette Carroll
Acolytes/ Servers	Jonathan Tran	Andrew Mills	Ruben Nool	Ryan B	Other Ministries
Altar Servers	Sybella & Milla C, Veronica L, Gabrielle P, Mary I	Volunteers	Alyssa Smith, Chloe Jabbour	Luke Abounader Duran Martin	Communion to the Sick Magdalene Vetter Van Doan Josephine Jones
23rd/24th Dec	Sat. 5.30pm	Sun 8am	Sun 9.30am	Sun 5pm	Other Ministries
Readers:	Louise Harvey Clare Lourey	George Elias Ron Woods	Volunteer Sam Coorey	Michelle Ryan Tanya Nguyen	Communion to the Sick Magdalene Vetter Van Doan Josephine Jones
Communion Ministers:	Frank O'Brien Renee Taylor	Magdalene Vetter Van Doan	Louise Anderson Kim Barbagallo	Volunteer Anne Maree Morris	Counters: George Elias Dennis Lister
Acolytes/ Servers	John Tesoriero	Jon D'astoli	Lisa Kerry	Cheryl Beaver	
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	

ST PATRICK'S ROSTERS 2023

	16th/17th Dec		23rd/24th Dec	
	Sat Vigil: 5.30pm	Sun: 9am	Sat Vigil: 5.30pm	Sun: 9am
Acolytes/Servers:	Chris	Ray	Kevin	Moses
Readers:	Siobhan Van Den Nieuwenhuizen Wanieta young	Lynda Cameron Mary Cameron	Monika Bradvica Steve Iacono	Cathy Moussa Ann Papalli
Communion Ministers:	Elena Saigueira Alison	Kathy Moussa May Coorey	Elena Salgueira Monika Bradvica	May Coorey Volunteer
Counters:		Dorothy Gonsales Seamus McKenna		Maureen Sherry Brian Quinn



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 (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.