



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 20th December 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

Sunday, 20 Dec	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 20 Dec	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 21 Dec	12.35 pm	St Peter Canisius, priest (Opt)
Tuesday, 22 Dec	12.35 pm	Tuesday – Fourth Week, Advent
Wednesday, 23 Dec	12.35 pm	St John of Kanty, priest (Opt)
Thursday, 24 Dec	6.00 pm	Christmas Eve Vigil
Friday, 25 Dec	12.00 am	Midnight Mass of Christmas Eve
Friday, 25 Dec	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Saturday, 26 Dec	No Mass	St Stephen, first martyr (Feast)



Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

Confession at St James' Church

Saturday: 4.15pm - 4.50pm,
ahead of Vigil Mass
(No Confession on Sundays)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. *Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812.*



A VOCATION VIEW: 'Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength while loving someone deeply gives you courage.' *Lao Tzu – Ancient Chinese philosopher & writer* **LOVE**

*Please note there will not be a 12.35pm Mass on Christmas Eve – please see Mass times above.

Archbishop Fisher's Latest Pastoral Letter – Come Home to Mass – please see the Archbishop's pastoral letter, attached in the parish bulletin email, lifting dispensation for attending Mass and encouraging all to return and receive the Eucharist – the letter will also be displayed in the church.

Go Make Disciples – Launch of new Archdiocesan Mission Plan – Last weekend, Archbishop Fisher launched our new Mission Plan – **Go Make Disciples** setting our direction and priorities for years to come. **Go Make Disciples Mission Plan brochures** are available in the church from this weekend, for everyone to take home – *please do not return the brochures to the back of the church* – thank you for your cooperation!

Christmas Offerings and the various donations and donation points:

- **Christmas Offering envelopes** will be at the back of the church – for donations to the **Dominican community**
- Donations to the **Tap & Go** Cashless Giving machine – are **shared** between the Dominican community and St Benedict's Church
- Donations to the **First Collection** (Red bucket at Mass) are for the **Dominican community**
- Donations to the **Second Collection** (Black bucket at Mass) are for **St Benedict's Church**

Entrance Antiphon:

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.

Communion Antiphon:

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

Christmas Masses at St Benedict's 2020

- Thursday 24th December – Christmas Vigil – 6pm
- Friday 25th December – Midnight Mass of Christmas Eve
- Friday 25th December – Christmas Day Mass – 10.30am

Please note that there will not be an evening Mass on Christmas night

Christmas Masses at St James', Forest Lodge 2020

- Thursday 24th December – Christmas Vigil – 5pm
- Friday 25th December – Christmas Day Mass – 8am, 9.30am & 11am

Attending Christmas Mass at St Benedict's – Dear all, for anyone who did not manage to register through Eventbrite for Christmas Mass or contact the parish office by last week, please be in touch with the parish office this coming week and we will advise you of availability for each Mass as it stands – or feel free to come to the church for the Christmas Mass of your choosing. However, once the church has reached the new capacity of 170 at each Mass, we regret that we will not be able to invite any additional attendees into the church. Thanks for your understanding.

Christmas / New Year Weekday (12.35pm) Mass break – from Thurs 24th December – Fri 15th January
The last 12.35pm Weekday Mass for 2020 will be celebrated on **Wednesday 23rd December**. Weekday Mass will resume on **Monday 18th January 2021**.

Parish Office Christmas / New Year Closure – Thursday 24th December – Tuesday 5th January

The parish office will be closed after Wednesday 23rd December for a Christmas and New Year break until Wednesday 6th January. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! ☺

Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent **Lights of Christmas**. The lights will be displayed each night until 11pm, from Thursday 10th December until Christmas Day.

Cana Communities – Dear all, as you know, Cana Communities normally comes to St Benedict's each year just before Christmas for its annual appeal, to help fund its great works within the community, looking after poor and destitute people. Due to the year it has been, Cana Communities won't be at St Benedict's this year but they look forward to a brighter year, next year when they will hopefully return here. If anyone would like to make a donation to Cana Communities this Christmas / New Year and read about their great story, here is Cana's website – www.cana.org.au Thank you!

Aid to the Church in Need – continues to support the emergency appeal for Lebanon, following the explosion in Beirut a few months ago. If you would like to donate to the appeal, please go to – www.aidtochurch.org/

Living Life to the Full at Home – CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently. To learn more, call – 13 18 19 or email – connect@catholiccare.org

***Holy Cards of the Holy Family are at the back of the church – with compliments of CatholicCare!**

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – here's this Sunday's Mass link for – Fourth Sunday of Advent (20th December 2020) – <https://youtu.be/BB3febQtm14>

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**