



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

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 6th December 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Sunday, 06 Dec	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 06 Dec	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 07 Dec	12.35 pm	St Ambrose, bishop (Memorial)
Tuesday, 08 Dec	12.35 pm	Immaculate Conception, Mary (Sol)
Wednesday, 09 Dec	12.35 pm	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, (Opt)
Thursday, 10 Dec	12.35 pm	Our Lady of Loreto (Optional)
Friday, 11 Dec	12.35 pm	St Damasus I, pope (Optional)
Saturday, 12 Dec	No Mass	Our Lady of Guadalupe (Optional)



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: 'Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make; something you do; something you are; and something you give away.' *John Lennon* **PEACE**

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – this feast had its origin in the East as the 'Conception of Mary by Saint Anne'. It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the 'Immaculate Conception' and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin; from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

Holy Souls Photos – the photos of loved ones which were on the Sacred Heart altar during November are now in the sacristy, ready for collection. Could everyone who placed a photo on the altar in November please go to the sacristy before or after any Mass and ask to collect your treasured photo at that time. Many thanks.

Expect the Unexpected is a daily devotional (**The Catholic Guy**) to guide you through a life-changing Advent journey, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! To register go to – <https://brucedownes.org.au/registerforadvent/> or email – info@brucedownes.org

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**.

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – here's this Sunday's Mass link for – **Second Sunday of Advent (6th December 2020)** – <https://youtu.be/30AatFnWQoI>

Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

Bookings are essential for Christmas Mass!

Dear all, for each of the Christmas Masses at St Benedict's and St James', we are returning to the Eventbrite booking system. Below are the links to the Eventbrite pages for St Benedict's and St James' which are also on the homepage of our website – www.stbenedicts.org.au *All bookings will be checked off upon entry to the church at each Christmas Mass. *Although COVID restrictions have been relaxed this week, allowing for 2 square metre distancing and twice the number of congregants in the church at any one time, the recording of attendance for contact tracing is still a requirement.

St Benedict's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-eve-and-christmas-day-masses-at-st-benedicts-broadway-tickets-131127934181>

St James', Forest Lodge

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-masses-st-james-and-st-bede-tickets-130750210399>

Please see the **Christmas posters** in the church with a **special QR Code**, just for these Christmas Masses. – this special QR Code will take you to the link to book on Eventbrite.

For anyone who does not have a Smartphone and cannot scan a QR Code, please go directly to the Eventbrite pages, via the above links on this bulletin or our website.

For anyone who is not able to book in on Eventbrite, please be in touch with the parish office on – 8204 4378 – or enquiries@stbenedicts.org.au by **Monday 14th December** – to allow the parish sufficient time to enter your booking request on the Eventbrite system for you!

Please note that **all bookings must be recorded in Eventbrite by Midday on Thursday 17th December** – you will not be able to book on Eventbrite after this date and time, as the page will be withdrawn and the list of Christmas Mass Eventbrite bookings collated.

Please continue to use the regular QR Code in the church for Sunday Mass.

**Any questions, concerns or issues, please feel free to be in touch – thank you! jw*

Mass for Expectant Mothers – St Mary's Cathedral – Saturday 12th December – 12pm

This year's Mass for Expectant Mothers will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers. Each expectant mother and her unborn child will receive a blessing from Bishop Umbers, as well as a small gift from the Life, Marriage & Family team. To register – sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/smcsmass/massformothers/Site/Register

be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

06 DECEMBER 2020

BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISES

The life of faith is one in which the believer is inevitably called to deal with the tension between God's promises and our present experience. When the people of Israel were dragged into exile their experience was that their God was powerless to save and that the ancient promises had been forgotten. It is at precisely this moment that Isaiah dares to proclaim a message of hope in the midst of desolation, pardon instead of punishment, and that the God who can subdue all things will again stoop to gather the weak and lead them home.

Peter's Christians were clearly worried by the fact that the Risen Lord had not come back in glory as they expected. How could this be interpreted other than as a sign that God's plans had somehow changed, or that God no longer cares? Peter's response is that, despite appearances to the contrary, God's delay should be seen as an opportunity for us to make ready for the Lord's return. It is a moment of grace rather than a sign of God's lack of fruitfulness.

When John the Baptist declared that the longed-for Messiah was near, his contemporaries must have wondered if it was possible. How could this come to pass when the province of Judah was powerless under the rule of the Roman empire?

Advent is always a reminder that the call to believe comes to us in the midst of the complexity of life. It meets us head-on with a challenge: are we prepared to take the risk of believing in God's promises?

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

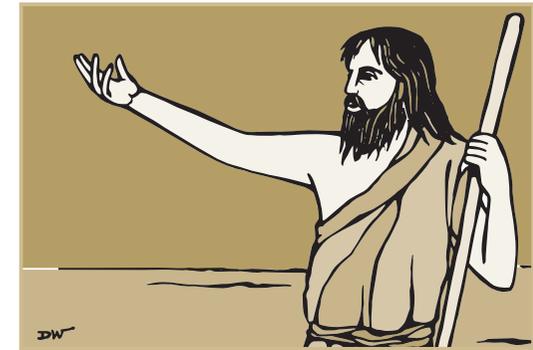
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace, / peace for his people. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will