



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

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 13th December 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Sunday, 13 Dec	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 13 Dec	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 14 Dec	12.35 pm	St John of the Cross, priest (Mem)
Tuesday, 15 Dec	12.35 pm	Tuesday – Third Week, Advent
Wednesday, 16 Dec	12.35 pm	Wednesday – Third Week, Advent
Thursday, 17 Dec	12.35 pm	Thursday – Third Week, Advent
Friday, 18 Dec	12.35 pm	Friday – Third Week, Advent
Saturday, 19 Dec	No Mass	Saturday – Third Week, Advent



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: If you carry joy in your heart, you can heal any moment – *Carlos Santana*
– Mexican musician and founder of the band, Santana **JOY**

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

This weekend, Archbishop Fisher will be launching **online** our new Mission Plan – **Go Make Disciples** which will set our direction and priorities for years to come. The occasion of the launch will be marked at Mass this Sunday, Third Sunday of Advent, at St Mary's Cathedral at 10.30am. Attendance at this Mass is limited, based on COVID restrictions but here is the link to register for anyone wishing to attend – <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/smcsmass/gmdmass/Site/Register> and the Mass is also being streamed and here's the streaming link – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HITfepVdBal>

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.

Carols from St Mary's Cathedral – Friday 18th December – 11am & 7pm – Admission is free – please see poster in church noticeboard and attachment in parish bulletin email for registration details.

Carols at St Peter's, Surry Hills – *Artes Christi* – Saturday 19th December – please see invitation in church noticeboard and attachment in parish bulletin email for registration details.

Entrance Antiphon:

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

Communion Antiphon:

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

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 were relaxed last 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 this **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, this coming 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.

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

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 – **Third Sunday of Advent (13th December 2020)** – <https://youtu.be/fska0oZNawQ>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

13 DECEMBER 2020

JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

The build-up to Christmas and the festive season has a way of leaving many people tired and stressed as many tasks call for our attention. It is probably impossible to avoid much of this as the feast of Christmas marks the end of the year and the beginning of the summer break. The readings for today can help each of us to determine more clearly what are our major priorities as Christians in preparing for Christmas.

Within the readings today two dimensions of our preparation are stressed. The first is the call to witness to our faith by sharing in God's life-giving, freeing, and healing love. The second dimension is that of finding time to give thanks and praise to God for the gifts we have received through the presence of Jesus among us.

Isaiah's mission of proclaiming liberty and God's love to those in exile comes out of his own experience of this love. Because of this experience, he is able to be a witness to what God is doing in his own day. John the Baptist provides us with a powerful example of a person of faith who is prepared to stand up and bear witness.

As Paul concludes the letter to the Thessalonians he reminds them that the best way to prepare for the Lord's return is by living at peace with one another and being constant in their prayer. One relationship nourishes the other. Making time for the Lord in prayer enables us to make time for each other.

FIRST READING

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

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 nations.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,/ my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour./ He looks on his servant in her nothingness;/ henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me./ Holy his name!/ His mercy is from age to age,/ on those who fear him. **R.**

3. He fills the starving with good things,/ sends the rich away empty./ He protects Israel, his servant,/ remembering his mercy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 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!