

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: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

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.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. R.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. R.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from 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

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.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

BLESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In the Third Week of Advent we place our gifts under the Christmas Tree so let us bless all of these the lovely gifts.

Dear God,

We ask a blessing upon this tree as it is a reminder to us of the birth of your Son, Jesus.

May the gifts we place beneath it be signs of our love for others



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Acting Chair: Steven South

Secretary Pam Biggs-Chapman

Parish Finance Committee

Chair: Hugh Davies

Safeguarding Officer

Position temporarily vacant

SJV Primary School Manly

P: 3097 2900 E: pmanly@bne.catholic.edu.au

SACRAMENTS

All enquires for Baptism,

First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion
and Confirmation, please contact

Nola Smith

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FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS

All enquires regarding Funerals and
Weddings, please contact **the parish office**

manly@bne.catholic.net.au

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 4.30pm or by appointment

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We follow the words of our patron,
St John Vianney, who said "He is here".

We recognise Christ is in the Word,
the Eucharist, and in us His people,
with a special reverence for Him
in the poor and marginalised.

We are called to make Christ present
through our prayer and charity.
We seek to grow in our spiritual lives and
create a community

where everyone is welcome;
the young and the old, together to
experience the loving presence of God.

We believe He is here amongst us
and we joyfully go out
to make Him present to all.

16/17 December 2023

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Let Us Pray:

Beloved Father, I humbly ask for the grace to be a witness of
Your light. I yearn to be Your witness and to take Your presence
wherever You want to send me! Amen.

Testifying to the Light

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that John the Baptist came
to "testify to the light." What does this mean? We know that Je-
sus is the Light of Truth that shines in the darkness to draw us to
eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth
so that we can be saved from the destructive forces of our sins
and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony giv-
en by John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this
affect our lives today?

John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in
the wilderness. A voice in the desert." And his testimony brings us
to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life
arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Make a
bee-line to him! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do
whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him.
He is coming to you!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems distant, unavaila-
ble, not present to us when we need him. What has opened your
eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God?
It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the
poor (as it says in the reading from Isaiah), to heal the broken-
hearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their
sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship
with the Lord. We all have the same testimony and the same call-
ing as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud
enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are
lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain, heartache,
and despair, not to mention sinfulness. Can we rightfully ignore
their needs? Is it loving to be so quiet that they cannot hear the
truth?

Certainly not! Someday we will have to explain to Jesus why we
ignored our baptismal calling to be the voice that could have
helped others find him. What kind of a voice do you have? Be-
cause we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice. How
we handle trials, revealing our faith in Jesus, is a voice that's audi-
ble to those who are lost in the wilderness. The more peace we
have and the more love that we give, the louder is our cry. Even if
our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the
light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the
truth, the louder and clearer is our message. What people choose
to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it
so that they're given that choice.

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**We acknowledge and pay respect to Traditional Custodians - the Quandamooka and Jagera Peoples
on whose land we walk, live and worship.**

FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

18 Mon

9:00am Mass

5.30pm Rehearsal - Choir

19 Tues

6.00pm Mass

20 Wed

9:00am Rosary

9.30am Mass

7.30pm Rosary on-line via ZOOM

21 Thurs

9.30am Mass

3.00pm Rehearsal - Nativity Play

22 Fri

9.30am Mass

23 Sat

4:30pm Reconciliation

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

5.00pm Mass Vigil Mass (SJV)

24 Sun

7:00am NO MASS (St Jude's)

9:30am NO MASS (SJV)

5:00pm Family Christmas Mass (SJV)

7:00pm Christmas Mass (St Jude)

25 Mon


9.30am Christmas Mass (SJV) Final Mass with Fr. George.

PARISH CHOIR

Members of St John Vianney's Parish Choir would like to thank everyone for their encouragement during the year and send Christmas Blessings of Peace, Joy and Hope to all parishioners. A special 'thank you' to Fr George for his support of the choir throughout his time at St John Vianney's Parish as well as his pastoral leadership in so many aspects of the parish day to day happenings.

The choir will lead the congregation during the Family Christmas Mass on Sunday 24 December at 5pm and will sing Christmas Songs and Carols from 4.45pm.

The choir would be delighted to have you join in with them as they sing to celebrate this joyous occasion of the birth of Jesus.



OF YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Phillip Hunt, Tyler Whitton, Rose-Marie Dickson

ANNIVERSARIES: Trevor Alexander, Edmond Baker, Katherine Barton, Fay Bishop, Dean Bramley, Kevin Byrne, Joan Copley, Catherine Dillon, Sylvia Fens, Alan Francis, Kathleen Galea, Meg Griffiths, Rory Greene, Stephanie Hankins, Jean Kuter, Jennifer Lynas, Olivia Lewis, Eric Morrison, Gerard Ring, Jean Rosenstengel, Madeline Shenton, Henry Sizeland, Wilma Will, Blanca Wiswell, David Vidler, Greg Selwood, Sr Teresita Ahearn

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Jack and Mary Beard, Jocelyn Barron, Stephen Burrows, Dell Chapman, Emily de Looze, Anne Dixon, Irene Gavrilla, Richard Pook, Maureen Handcock, David Schilling, Leesa Scott, Violet Maureen Phillips, Joanne Small, Barry Smith, Emma Walters, Natasha Skitmore, Stacie Stonier, Patrick Nofokifolau & Brian Prove.

To include a name in our 'Of Your Charity' list, the Privacy Act requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative. Names on the recently deceased, anniversaries and our sick parishioners. Lists are reviewed at the end of each month.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY TODAY

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat 23 Dec: 5pm Vigil Mass Advent Wk4 (SJV)

Sun 24 Dec: 7am NO MASS (St Jude)

Sun 24 Dec: 9.30am NO MASS (SJV)

Sun 24 Dec: 5pm Family Christmas Mass (SJV)

7pm Christmas Mass (St Jude)

Mon 25 Dec: 9.30am Christmas Mass (SJV)

	Welcomer	1st Reader	2nd Reader	EMHC	Screen	Servers	Counter
Sat 16 Dec	Jen B	Maureen B	Gerardina R	Denise D, Colleen S	Pam	AG	D
Sun 17 Dec	Roberto A	Katherine	Sonia M	Mark E, Trish E	Nola	SN, CO	
Sat 23 Dec	Alison G	Jane O	Denise D	Gerardina, Mikaela	Irene	DH	E
Sun 24 Dec	Nola S	Youth	Youth	Jasser, Colleen, Jen, Margaret, Adeline	Anjoline	PN, SN	
Mon 25 Dec	Donna R	Sonia M	Jane O	Nola, Donna	Emma	SCV	

This parish is Child Safety Aware and complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Safeguarding policy is situated in the foyer of the church. STOPLINE CONTACT: Phone 1 300 304 400 Email AOB@stopline.com.au



CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

We congratulate and welcome:

Ayla Martin

who was Baptised in our Parish this weekend.



The Youth Choir will be leading the singing during the 5pm Vigil Mass this Saturday 16 December.

VOLUNTEERS GATHERING



The Volunteers Gathering was a huge success with many volunteers in attendance to receive their service award. We also presented Fr George with a dedication plaque to be positioned in the rose garden for his outstanding commitment to our parish.



PARISH CALENDAR AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND

A parish calendar for 2024 will be available next weekend. It features photos of the many wonderful memories made as well as significant dates in our Catholic calendar. Pick up your calendar next weekend in the parish foyer.

9:30AM CHRISTMAS DAY

Will be the last mass of Fr. George in this parish. After the mass he will catch the flight to India. He extends his gratitude to all parishioners for their love and support.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSAL

Thursday 21 December at 3.00pm in the church



Children are reminded to bring a snack and a drink to the rehearsal. For more information contact: Gerry O'Neill Gerryo.oneill@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CAKE

One again we are looking for volunteers to help with the cutting and bagging of the Christmas Cake that will be distributed at the end of each of the Christmas Masses. If you can assist, please meet in the church hall at 10am on Saturday 24 December.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9.30AM MASS TODAY



RETIRING COLLECTION

There will be a retiring Collection at each of the Christmas Masses next weekend. Proceeds will be split between 50-50 between Vinnies and the Romeo Centre.



- St Vincent de Paul - CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2023

On Saturday 16 December 45 Christmas Hampers were delivered to families and singles in our local Manly community, to bring a little extra joy this Christmas.

A huge thank you from the Manly Vinnies Conference to our SJV Parish and school for the very generous support of our hamper appeal .



For the Children JOY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

The Shepherds Candle

When the angel first appeared to the Shepherds they were scared. But their fear turned into joy once they saw the child Jesus.

This week we focus on the Advent candle joy. Just like the Shepherds who were transformed, Jesus can change our fears and despair into joy.

LET US PRAY

Dear Jesus, Thank you for changing our sadness and our fears into joy. Please help us to share that joy with others and let our joy be a light unto the world of others. Amen.

