



Sacred Heart Parish

13 Park Road, Cabramatta

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Web site: www.sacredheartcabramatta.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cabraparish/>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B – 17th December 2023

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8. 19-28

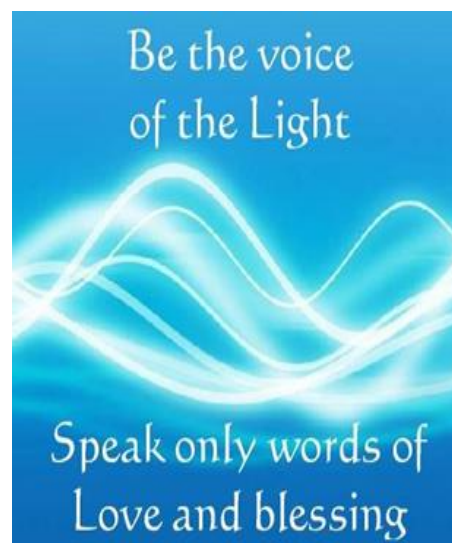
A witness to speak for the light...

Madelyn Dunham, 86, died in Hawaii on 2 November 2008, just three days before her grandson basked in glory as the US 44th president-elect. Obama was well looked after by this grandmother for all his teen years. He was in tears announcing her passing: "She was one of those quiet heroes that we have all across America. They aren't seeking the limelight. All they try to do is just do the right thing. In this crowd there are a lot of quiet heroes like that." (SMH, 5/11/08)

Many devoted parents (or grandparents or teachers) are truly "quiet heroes". They spend their best years of life preparing the way for their children. They then learn – notwithstanding personal pain – to withdraw that their children may live and fulfil their own.

This brings us again this week to a typical Advent figure - John the Baptist – whose mission is painted by the fourth Gospel as "a witness to speak for the light" (John 1:6-8.19-28).

John tried to shine to the best of his ability, enjoying great popularity due to his lifestyle, his preaching and personal integrity. Many of his followers came to believe – even some time after the completion of Jesus' ministry - that he was the Messiah. (In the areas of Liverpool and South West Sydney at the moment, we may still come across some groups of Middle East people who are followers of Mandaism, keeping alive the practice of John's baptism, holding their belief in John as the final and most important prophet.) However, in view of today's Gospel and the Christian tradition, John insisted that he was not the light in person: "I am not the Christ...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". Accordingly, the light appeared in the person of Jesus, he stepped aside to make way for Jesus.



Advent calls on us to be "quiet heroes" – humble yet courageous, simple yet effective witnesses like John the Baptist and faith-filled people. None of us is the light but our role is to make room for the light to shine through. (None of us will be in Sydney's top 100 list of 2024!). Without the witness of modern Christians, Jesus Christ will remain a very dim figure as John the Baptist refers to in today's Gospel: "there stands one among you whom you know not." And the vision of joy, peace and integrity proclaimed in this "Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday will be merely a faint hope (cf. First Reading: Is 61:1-2.10-11; Second Reading: 1 Thes 5: 16-24)

Holiness is the constant struggle to work quietly on the darkness that hides within us; to let Christ - the Light, shine through everything we do. And our worth is to be fully appreciated only when the light does come in the person of Jesus.

Fr. Remy Lam Son Bui

Parish Priest:

Fr Remy Son-Lam Bui

Assistant Priest:

Fr Roberto Keryakos

Parish office hours:

Tuesday-Friday

9.30am to 4.30pm

Parish Secretary:

Quyen Le Phan

Accountant:

Mary Pankiw (Fridays)

Weekday Mass Times:

English:

7.00am

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

6.30pm Wed

9.00am Sat

Vietnamese:

6.30pm Tues & Thurs

7.00am Wed

Weekend Masses

English:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am;

10.00am; 6.00pm

Polish: Sun 11.30am

Vietnamese:

Saturday Vigil:

7.30pm: (Chaplain)

Sunday:

7.00am; 7.30 pm

4.00pm (Chaplain)

Exposition:

Saturdays: 8.00am

Reconciliation:

Wed: 6.00pm

Sat: 8.10am - 8.50am

5.30pm - 5.50pm

Convent/Pastoral Care

Sisters of Our Lady
of the Southern Cross
Phone: 9723-3704

S.V.D.P Phone: 9823-1222

Sacred Heart Catholic

Primary School

Principal: David Parawa

Phone: 9724 1560

Baptism/Wedding

Please contact parish
office

The Four Advent Candles



Third Advent Candle/Sunday: Joy – “Gaudete Sunday”

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’” (Luke 2:10-12)

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls “Gaudete Sunday,” meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

<https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

2024 Year of Prayer

The Holy **Father** wants a year in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee that will help “stimulate prayer



with simplicity and in accordance with Christ’s heart.”

Pope Francis has announced that the year 2024, in preparation for the Jubilee 2025, will be dedicated to prayer.

“I wanted next year, in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, to be entirely dedicated to prayer. Next year will be dedicated to prayer,” he told them.

The Pope said that “guides” will be published, “which will help rediscover the centrality of prayer.”

I recommend them to you: they will be a good read, which stimulate prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ’s heart.

The Holy Father called for a daily renewal of the “joy and commitment” of “being men and women of prayer.” Prayer that comes from the heart, not like parrots. No. From the heart. May the words that are spoken come from the heart.

<https://aleteia.org/2023/11/12/2024-will-be-year-of-prayer-says-pope/>

WHAT’S ON AT OUR PARISH

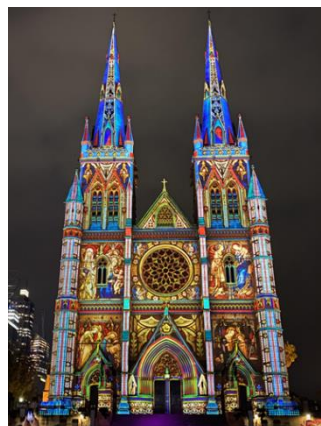
Advent Prayer Group 2023

Please join us for the last meeting this Thursday from 10.00am-11.00am in the Mary MacKillop room.

Thankyou – Christmas at St Mary’s Cathedral

We thank Fr Roberto, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, parents, helpers, and guardians for assisting our children to attend the Opening Night at St Mary’s Cathedral on Thursday night.

Our children had a wonderful experience learning about the Cathedral and enjoyed all the festivities at the Cathedral.



Office Closure

The parish office will be closed during Christmas and New Year from **Friday 22nd December 2023 and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2024**. For urgent matter please leave a message on the office number @ 97242151 and one of our Fathers will get back to you. Fr Remy, Fr Roberto and parish staff wish you and family a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Văn Phòng Giáo Xứ nghỉ Lễ

Văn Phòng Giáo Xứ sẽ nghỉ Lễ vào dịp Giáng Sinh và Năm Mới kể từ ngày **Thứ Sáu 22/12/2023 và sẽ làm việc trở lại vào ngày Thứ Ba 02/02/2024**. Trong trường hợp khẩn cấp xin vui lòng để tin nhắn ở số 97242151, Cha Lâm sẽ gọi lại cho quý vị.

Cha Lâm & Cha Roberto cùng nhân viên văn phòng mến chúc quý vị và gia đình mùa Giáng Sinh vui vẻ và năm mới tràn đầy ơn phúc.

WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2024 @ Sacred Heart Parish – Cabramatta		
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Second Rite)		
Monday 11 December	7.00pm - 9.00pm:	Viet Chaplain
Monday 18 December	7.00pm - 8.00pm:	Polish
Thursday 21 December	7.15pm - 9.00pm:	Parish Bilingual
Christmas and New Year Mass Times		
Saturday 23 December	9.00am & 6.00pm:	English
Sunday 24 December	7.30pm:	Viet Chaplain
	7.00am:	Viet Parish
	8.30am & 10.00 am:	English
Christmas Eve/Night		
	6.00pm:	English
	8.00pm:	Viet Parish
	10.00pm:	Polish
	Mid night:	English
Monday 25 December - Christmas Day & Monday 1 January - New Year		
	7.00am & 7.30pm:	Viet Parish
	11.30am:	Polish
	8.30am, 10.00am & 6.00pm:	English
	4.00pm:	Viet Chaplain

ĐÓN MỪNG GIÁNG SINH & NĂM MỚI 2024 Tại Giáo Xứ Thánh Tâm Cabramatta		
Bí Tích Hòa Giải/Kưng tội		
Thứ Hai 11/12/2023	7g00 – 9g00 tối:	Tiếng Việt
Thứ Hai 18/12/2023	7g00 – 8g00 tối:	Tiếng Ba Lan
Thứ Năm 21/12/2023	7g15 – 9g00 tối:	Tiếng Anh/ Việt
Thánh Lễ Giáng Sinh & Năm Mới		
Thứ Bảy 23/12/2023	9g00 sáng & 6g00 tối:	Tiếng Anh
	7g30 tối:	Tiếng Việt
	7g00 sáng:	Tiếng Anh
Chúa Nhật 24/12/2023	8g30 & 10g00 sáng:	Tiếng Anh
	11g30 sáng:	Tiếng Ba Lan
Lễ Vọng Đêm Giáng Sinh		
	6g00 tối:	Tiếng Anh
	8g00 tối:	Tiếng Việt
	10g00 tối:	Tiếng Ba Lan
	12g00:	Tiếng Anh
Thứ Hai 25/12/2023 - Giáng Sinh & Thứ Hai 01/01/2024 - Năm Mới		
	7g00 sáng & 7g30 tối:	Tiếng Việt
	4g00 chiều:	Tiếng Việt GD
	8g30, 10g00 sáng & 6g00 tối:	Tiếng Anh
	11g30 sáng:	Tiếng Ba Lan

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:

R.I.P & Anniversaries: Ivan Puskas, Stanislaw Koltun, John Jimmy Duong, All grandparents and ancestors, Phaolo Tran van Lang, Maria Nguyen Thi Co, Phero Jacobee Nguyen Huu Dong, Nguyen Huu Phuoc, Giuse Nguyen Huu Loc, Madalena, 3x Phero, Lazaro, 8x Departed relatives, 6x Maria, Phero, 6x All Souls, 2x Matta, Phanxico Borgia, Cecilia, Gioan, 2x Gioan Baotixita, Souls in purgatory, Dominico Pham Cong Tinh, Orphan souls, 5x Giuse, Maria Huong, Gioanna Chuong Thi Phan, Maria Tran Thi Dien, 3x Anna, Phaolo Le Van Duc, Maria Madalena Huynh Thi Chi, Maria Madalena, 2x Phaolo, Anna Dang Thi Tram, 2x Phero Do Huu An, Maria Madalena,

Other Intentions: For the sick, 3x the conversion of hearts, 9x thanksgiving to God, Mary & St Joseph, 6x peace in a family, 2x successful operation, healing of sickness, personal intention, Ronnie Tan, Gift of peace for family and friends, peace and school going well, Thanksgiving for grandchildren,

The Catholic Weekly is available at the piety store each Sunday for \$2.00

In this week's edition

- Prominent Catholics receive papal awards (p1-3)
- Pints with Aquinas host Matt Fradd fires up youth (p14-15)
- Interfaith service mourns Holy Land violence (p5)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

First Reading: Isaiah 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 the nations.’

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

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

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.



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.

Chúa Nhật Tuần III Mùa Vọng Năm B

BÀI ĐỌC I: Is 61, 1-2a. 10-11

Trích sách Tiên tri Isaia.

Thánh Thần Chúa ngự trên tôi: vì Chúa đã xức dầu cho tôi; Người đã sai tôi đem tin mừng cho người nghèo khó, băng bó những tâm hồn đau thương, báo tin ân xá cho những kẻ bị lưu đày, phóng thích cho những tù nhân, công bố năm hồng ân của Thiên Chúa.

Tôi hớn hở vui mừng trong Chúa, và lòng tôi hoan hỉ trong Chúa tôi, vì Người đã mặc cho tôi áo phần rỗi, và choàng áo công chính cho tôi, như tân lang đầu đội triều thiên, như tân nương trang sức bằng ngọc bảo. Như đất đâm chồi, như vườn nảy lộc, Chúa cũng làm phát sinh công chính và lời ca tụng trước mặt muôn dân.

ĐÁP CA: Lc 1, 46-48. 49-50. 53-54

Đáp: Linh hồn tôi nhảy mừng trong Chúa (Is 61, 10b).

BÀI ĐỌC II: 1 Tx 5, 16-24

Trích thư thứ nhất của Thánh Phaolô Tông đồ gửi tín hữu Thêxalônica.

Anh em thân mến, anh em hãy vui mừng luôn. Hãy cầu nguyện không ngừng. Trong mọi việc, hãy cảm tạ Chúa. Vì đó là thánh ý Thiên Chúa về

tất cả anh em trong Chúa Giêsu Kitô. Đừng dập tắt Thánh Thần; đừng khinh khi các lời tiên tri, nhưng hãy nghiệm xét mọi sự, điều gì tốt hãy giữ lại. Hãy tránh xa sự dữ dưới mọi hình thức.

Xin chính Thiên Chúa bình an thánh hoá anh em toàn diện, để thần trí, linh hồn và thể xác anh em được gìn giữ toàn vẹn trong ngày Đức Giêsu Kitô Chúa chúng ta ngự đến. Đấng đã kêu gọi anh em, chính Người là Đấng Trung Tín. Chính Người sẽ thực hiện.

ALLELUIA: Is 61, 1 (x. Lc 4, 18)

Alleluia, alleluia! - Thánh Thần Chúa ngự trên tôi. Người đã sai tôi đem tin mừng cho người nghèo khó. - Alleluia.

PHÚC ÂM: Ga 1, 6-8. 19-28

Tin Mừng Chúa Giêsu Kitô theo Thánh Gioan.

Có người đã được Chúa sai đến, tên là Gioan. Ông đến như chứng nhân để làm chứng về sự sáng, hầu mọi người nhờ ông mà tin. Ông không phải là sự sáng, nhưng ông chỉ làm chứng về sự sáng. Và đây là chứng của Gioan, khi những người Do-thái từ Giêrusalem sai các vị tư tế và các thầy Lêvi đến hỏi ông: "Ông là ai?" Ông liền tuyên xưng, ông không chối, ông tuyên xưng rằng: "Tôi không phải là Đấng Kitô". Họ liền hỏi: "Thế là gì? Ông có phải là Elia chăng?" Gioan trả lời: "Tôi không phải là Elia". - "Hay ông là một đấng tiên tri?" Gioan đáp: "Không phải".

Họ liền bảo: "Vậy ông là ai, để chúng tôi trả lời cho những người sai chúng tôi. Ông tự xưng là ai?" Gioan đáp: "Tôi là tiếng kêu trong hoang địa: Hãy sửa cho ngay đường Chúa đi, như tiên tri Isaia đã loan báo".

Và có những người thuộc nhóm biệt phái cũng được sai đến. Họ hỏi Gioan rằng: "Nếu ông không phải là Đức Kitô, cũng không phải là Elia hay một tiên tri, vậy tại sao ông làm phép rửa?" Gioan trả lời: "Tôi làm phép rửa trong nước; nhưng giữa các người, có Đấng mà các người không biết. Đấng ấy sẽ đến sau tôi, nhưng chính Đấng ấy đã có trước tôi và tôi không xứng đáng cởi dây giày cho Người". Việc này xảy ra tại Bêtanania, bên kia sông Giođan, nơi Gioan làm phép rửa.

A message
from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

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 at (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.

