



St John of God

Administrator: Fr Gustavo Farfan
Parish Secretary: Sally Torkamani
Parish Council Contact: Marian Kelly
 2 Alice Street, Auburn NSW 2144
Telephone: 9649 3855
Website: <http://www.stjohnofgod.com.au>
email: cathpara@tpg.com.au
Facebook: @SJGparish

St John's Primary School:
 77 Queen Street, Auburn NSW 2144
Principal: Mrs Louise Maguire
Telephone: 9649 3045
Email: info@stjauburn.catholic.edu.au

Sunday, 28th December 2021 – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - The Beginning of Year C
Tuesday, 30th November 2021 - St Andrew, apostle
Friday, 3rd December 2021 - St Francis Xavier, priest

PRAYER TO LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's PROMISE to bring us salvation. Come Lord Jesus Come. Come Jesus, and be born in our hearts. Amen.



The First Candle



Waiting and Hoping



The Journey



The Arrival

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| SUNDAY MASSES: | Vigil Saturday Sunday | 5:00 pm 8:00am, 10am |
| WEEKDAY MASSES: | Tuesday to Saturday | 9.15am |
| ROSARY: | Tuesday to Saturday | 8.30am |
| RECONCILIATION: | Saturday – 4.15pm or by appointment | |
| EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: | Saturday | 4.15pm |
| BAPTISMS: | By appointment, Sundays after 10am mass | |
| WEDDINGS: | By appointment (minimum of six months notice required) | |
| ANOINTING MASS: | 2 nd Saturday of each month | |
| PARISH SECRETARY: | Tuesday & Friday (Mass Intentions & news items for the bulletin must be left at Presbytery by 12pm Wednesday) | 9am to 3pm |

This Church is equipped with an induction loop for the hearing impaired

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Recently Deceased: Assunta Di Pietrantonio.

Anniversaries: Therese Franks.

“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

We pray for: Sister Heather Burkz, Tom Laidler, Judy & Leo Melville, Caterina Smiroldo

“Mother of God, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted. Pray for us”

READERS ROSTER 1st Week

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Readers</u> | <u>Acolyte</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 5:00pm | Jackie Daniel Nicole Daniel | Tony Allan |
| 8.00am | Nina Saulekaleka Karen Abood | Ruben Baluyot |
| 10.00am | Velonika Vakautai Ramona Nahma | Sione Anasi |

YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS FOR ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL On **Thursday, 9th December 2021 at 7.00pm**, the year 6 students at St John's Primary School will be celebrating their Graduation with a Mass. We acknowledge that our youngsters have worked hard at school, learnt so much, grown so much and progressed so much throughout the years in primary school. Now it is time to give thanks and wish them well on their journey to High School. We pray that they do their best, be best person they can be and achieve their personal best year after year. Help us pray for their prosperous journey. All welcome to this joyous occasion as we pray for their success.

ST JOHN OF GOD SOCIAL EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE Please come join us in McDermott House on **Friday, 17th December 2021 at 7.00pm sharp** for a **Movie and Pizza Night**, bring a pillow if you wish, and popcorn provided! It will be a great way for our youth to come together with their friends and siblings to enjoy an evening together just before Christmas. We look forward to hosting this event in honour of youth of the parish. **Please register at: stjohnofgod1495@gmail.com**

COME DECORATE OUR CHRISTMAS TREE We are planning on decorating our Christmas Tree on **Saturday, 4th December 2021** after the 9.15am Mass. We would be grateful if our youth would contribute their time and skills to decorating our lovely tree. Looking forward to seeing you there with your creative ideas.

ADVENT PRAYERS 6.30AM EACH MORNING Morning prayer will be held in the church for Advent from **6.30am everyday**. Please come join me whenever you can in preparation for the upcoming joyous season of Jesus' coming. I look forward to praying with you every morning.

HOME VISITS Every **Saturday morning** Fr Gus and Zeljko are visiting people home by home. The purpose of these visitations is to introduce Fr Gus to the people and to let them know that St John of God parish is here for them. Please pray for the evangelization in our parish.

ADVENT TALKS WITH FR GUS AND ZELJKO Our Advent talks begin this **Thursday, 2nd December 2021 at 6.30pm**. We hope to see you all there. We are looking forward to spending this quality time with you all. Please join us in McDermott House, tea and coffee provided.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK will be celebrated during the **9.15am Mass** on **Sat, 11th December 2021**.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 2021 – ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FORECOURT, 9 – 25 DECEMBER Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral. Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

OUR WEBSITE Please note that each week bulletins are also added to the website. Please visit www.stjohnofgod.com.au

THE JOYFUL MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS

ADVENT TALKS:

Christmas is more than lights, gifts, good wishes,
it is about God becoming man,
so that man can participate in God's divinity

Thursdays
Nov 25th
Dec 2nd,
9th, and 16th



Parish hall,
(McDermott
house)

At 6:30pm

Love

Hope

Reg: stjohnofgod1495@gmail.com

Peace



Joy

Christmas Liturgy 2021

CHRISTMAS MASSES, FRIDAY, 24 DECEMBER:

- ✓ 6.00pm Children Mass
- ✓ 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Christmas Carols from 11.00pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES, SATURDAY, 25 DECEMBER:

- ✓ 8.00am
- ✓ 10.00am

HOLY FAMILY MASSES, SUNDAY, 26 DECEMBER:

- ✓ 8.00am
- ✓ 10.00am (Morning tea after mass)

FIRST RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

- ✓ Saturday, 18 December 4:10pm - 4:40pm
- ✓ Wednesday, 22 December After 9.15am Mass
- ✓ Thursday, 23 December After 9.15am Mass

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

- ✓ Tuesday, 21 December 6:45pm

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16 will make a virtuous Branch grow for David

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called:

The-Lord-our-integrity.’

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 May you be blameless when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy

and give us your saving help.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 That day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

A MESSAGE REGARDING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

A copy of the Safeguarding Policy has been uploaded to the website of St John of God and a copy will also be attached to our notice board. If anyone would like a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, one can be provided to you upon request.

As part of the Safeguarding procedures, the Parish is now making available a suggestion box especially for children and young people in order that we take into consideration their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions in a more proactive way. The Suggestion Box which will be placed on a table in the church foyer. We look forward to hearing from our children.

Also, as part of the Safeguarding procedures, it is available for parents, guardians and the general community a protocol ‘Managing Safeguarding Complaints’. We value the process in moving forward positively in relation to all Safeguarding measures. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Priest. 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 legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. Amidst the excitement of preparing for the Christmas festivities, the season of Advent reminds us that we have to make preparations for the deeper meaning of what Christmas is all about God's presence among his people in the person of Jesus Christ.

His coming on Christmas Day fills us with hope, and gives us encouragement that amidst all life's troubles our future is secure because it is in God's hands.

There is a note of high hope about this Advent season. It proclaims the message that God has not abandoned his people. He has sent his son among us to come to our aid and free us from our sins. This holy season celebrates the abiding presence of Christ in the world and his birth in each of our hearts. It tells us about the beginning and future ending of the story of our redemption. While we look forward to Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birthday, we cast a glance into the future and to that great day when Christ will come in glory. In the meantime we are to wait in joyful hope for our Lord and Saviour to be revealed and so we pray, Maranatha – Come, Lord Jesus.

Echoed and re-echoed throughout the readings is the warning, 'Be on your guard, stay awake because you never know when the time will come.' It is a grim reminder that a day of reckoning lies ahead. To be found wanting and unworthy of the kingdom on that occasion will be painfully frustrating. The choice is Christ or catastrophe. The real challenge of Advent is to prepare ourselves in body and should for that great moment, by letting God's presence and power get to work in our lives. Life is incomplete without God and we are useless and inadequate without his presence. He alone can satisfy our deepest longings and fill us with inner peace. Advent makes us aware of our need to turn to God in hope and humble prayer, begging him to save us. It is a time for soul searching and renewal, for becoming more conscious of our sins and asking pardon and forgiveness. If we have abandoned God, neglected prayer or broken the commandments, now is the time to make a fresh start at building a closer relationship with him. There is not much point in Christ coming into our world if he is not at home and alive in our hearts. God values our response to his love. Above all Advent is a season when as Christians we reach out to the disadvantaged and bring them the joys of Christ.

We are invited to listen to the voice of God in the countless ways he speaks to us everyday and recognize his love. The challenge of God in Jesus is around every corner, at work, on the street, while we are with friends or at home in the dull routine of life. There is no day when he does not knock at the door of our hearts. One way we can let him in is by availing of the opportunities to serve and be neighbourly in our community. We pass through this world once and any good we have to do should be done now. While Advent is about waiting for God to come into our lives, it's good to remember that God has been waiting for us longer than we have been waiting for him.

