



# The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN

Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.



**Jesus Human Face of God,  
You came to show us how to be more  
fully human in our giving to an unjust world.  
Free our ears to hear Your Word,  
and stir our hearts to love with compassion and reconciliation.  
Jesus, Human Face of God,  
hear our prayer.**

# We wonder

*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. THESS 5:16*

**Advent is a four week season of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and it always has a theme of looking towards the future coming of Christ at the end times. One of the prayers of the early Church which is linked with the season of waiting and longing, was the Aramaic word 'MARANATHA', which means 'Come Lord'. Use this prayer often this week as one way to begin preparation for Christmas.**



Another way to bring Christ's coming into the family home is the custom of the Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet, and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it is blessed by a parent.

The word 'Maranatha' could be used as part of the blessing.

The lighting of the candles may fittingly be included as a part of the evening meal.

*(Light three candles on the Advent wreath.)*

This week we light three candles in the Advent wreath. We are reminded that the ancient peoples longed for someone to come to them and give them hope for a better way to living. We are reminded of our own hopes and longings as we prepare for Christmas.

## **3rd Sunday of Advent - JN 1:6-8; 19-8**

*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.*

### **Ponder**

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it to 'enlighten and re-new' us.

What word or phrase stands out for me as I read this text?

What invitation is this text offering me?

What troubles me about this text?



# The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

**3rd Sunday of Advent, 12-13 December 2020**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Arsenio Tuazon**

## **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**

120 Oban Road, Ringwood North 3134

Phone: 0434 224 483

Fax: 9879 0642

Email: [Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Jacinta Bibby

[Jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au)

## **PARISH SECRETARIES**

Ruth Frangeskakis

[ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au](mailto:ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au)

Jenny Philp

[jenny.philp@cam.org.au](mailto:jenny.philp@cam.org.au)

## **HIGH SPIRITS COORDINATORS**

Etta D'Souza

Sundays 4-5:00pm (School terms)

Elma Gama

Sundays 4-5:00pm (School terms)

## **PARISH HOSTESSES**

Mary Yeo and Kerry O'Leary

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—Holy Spirit**

Duncan Arendse —9876 1103

## **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

[plt@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:plt@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Secretary

[ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **FETE COMMITTEE**

John Cilia (Chairperson) -

[fete@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:fete@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **PARISH OF ST GERARD AND ST ANNE**

St Gerard's: McCulloch Street, Warrandyte 3113

St Anne's: 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards 3114

Phone: 9876 1509

Fax: 9876 6179

Email: [ParkOrchards@cam.org.au](mailto:ParkOrchards@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte](http://www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte)

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm, closed Mondays.

## **PARISH SECRETARIES**

Ana Saro

Tuesday & Wednesday

Kerry McGowan

Thursday & Friday

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—St. Anne's**

Michael Edmonds—9876 1533

## **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH EMAIL**

Jacinta will continue to make contact with parishioners via email on a weekly basis. If you have not received an email but would like to be included in this distribution list, please email to let us know at [Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au). Alternatively, please ring the parish mobile 0434 224 483 to advise us of your email address.

This is a great opportunity to update our data base!

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PREMIER AND THE BISHOPS OF VICTORIA, WE CAN NOW CELEBRATE MASS UNDER VERY STRICT GUIDELINES. PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE ON PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS.

Readings, Prayers of Intercession and a Gospel reflection are included in the word, which is available from the parish web site:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Word-Newsletter](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Word-Newsletter)

Recorded Masses available at: [www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Online-Resources](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Online-Resources)

Important information, Spirit Extra, the Spirit Magazine and other Parish matters are available on the website:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)

THE Parish Office remains closed, however, the staff will be monitoring the phone, mail and emails. Please ring the Parish Mobile number: 0434 224 483 and leave your name and contact number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Email: [ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)

## **IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST— RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Eduardo Garcia, Frida Voytenkoff, Barbara Carach, Terri Windbridge, Wendy Pearl, Pat Cahill, Wilhelmina Dykstra and Peter Marangos

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK:** Ben Lobo, John, Angela Damora, Warren Darbyshire, Claire Snaidero, Stella & family, Deb Neilsen, Pauline Curlis, Sean Hill, Valerie Mason, Deanne Frangeskakis

**Readings this week:** Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

The Word, Spirit Magazine and "Spirit Extra" are available online at [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)



Dear Holy Spirit Parishioners

With the much welcomed news that we are now able to offer larger numbers to book in for our weekend parish masses., you can now book for weekend Masses online via TryBooking.

For bookings please follow the information below:

ALL WEEKEND MASSES UNTIL 31 JANUARY WILL BE OPEN FOR BOOKING FROM TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER.

The bookings close for each weekend on the Friday preceding the weekend at 12 noon.

The link for Saturday evening Mass is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKHB>

The link for Sunday morning Mass is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKHK>

Alternatively, go to the parish website:

<https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Mass-Times/Weekly-Services> Should you have any questions please email the parish at [ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au) and we will respond to you.

WEEKDAY MASS BOOKINGS:

Our week day masses will remain in the Chapel on Wednesday & Friday mornings at 9:30am, with the last Mass for 2020 to be celebrated on Wednesday 23 December. To book please call the parish M: 0434 224 483 on Tuesday between 9am -2pm to book for both Wednesday & Friday Masses for the remainder of 2020. A trybooking link for weekday Masses in 2021 will be advertised soon.

These Masses will continue to be celebrated under very strict guidelines, which have been approved by Archbishop Comensoli.

**Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.**

The restrictions are as follows:

- You must carry a face mask at all times.
- Sanitize your hands on arrival.

The chairs are not to be moved from the pre marked space.

Fr Arsenio will give instructions on receiving Holy Communion during the Fraction Rite.

Communion during covid-19 at this time may only be taken by hand.

Jacinta Bibby Pastoral Associate Mobile : 0434 224 483

## Christmas 2020

Bookings for the Christmas Masses will open on Tuesday 15th December at 9am. The link is:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNNHR>

**Bookings are essential** as numbers will be limited and we are required to keep contact tracing records.

If you are unable to secure a seat at one of the Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses, please consider the other feast days in the season- The Holy Family (26/27 December), Mary, the Holy Mother of God (1 January), the Epiphany of the Lord (2/3 January).

Christmas Eve Masses at Holy Spirit will be celebrated at 5:00pm (to be live-streamed), 7:30pm and 10:30pm. Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

We look forward to celebrating the peace and joy of Christmas with as many of our parish family as possible.

### Arrangements in January.

Please note: the office will be "closed" between Christmas and New Year. Emergency calls can be made to the parish mobile number **0434 224 483**. It will be checked for messages daily and any urgent matters will be dealt with.

Fr Arsenio will be taking a short break during January. He will celebrate the weekend Masses as usual. The last weekday Masses for 2020 will be celebrated on Wednesday 23 December. Weekday Masses will resume on Wednesday 20 January 2021. Bookings for the weekday Masses will be via trybooking as of this date. The link will be in next week's word and also available through the parish website.

Wishing everyone a peace filled joyous Christmas!



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to all who have taken a family number to provide Christmas Hampers to the families we visit. All hampers have now been allocated. We would still appreciate your support by donating cash, as we are unable to distribute the usual Buy a Meal Appeal envelopes. If you are able to donate, please contact Joan Ward on 0400 621 022 or email [joanward@optusnet.com.au](mailto:joanward@optusnet.com.au).

Many thanks

### Parish Zoom Chat with Fr Arsenio now complete.

Thank you to those who came along throughout lock down to meet Fr Arsenio and connect with others.

Special mention to John Hogan and Andrew Mitchell for their loyal attendance and extended hospitality over many months.

Blessings,  
Mary

#### Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal

Thank you for your support, which over the years has made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has provided clean water, health, education and improved living standards to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the past year.

This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating.

Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate.

St Vinnies Christmas Card are available from the piety stall. \$4 per pack.

Daily Mass Books 2021 are available for \$25. Please email Jenny: [jenny.philp@cam.org.au](mailto:jenny.philp@cam.org.au) if you would like to get a copy.

The Parish will rely on continuing contributions through the Thanksgiving program to meet our expenses for day to day operations. If you would like to drop your envelope into the office, please ring to arrange a drop off or pick up time.

This may be an opportune time to change over to Direct Debit or Credit Card contributions. Should you wish to make this change, please call the parish office on **0434 224 483**

### **Holy Spirit Parish Vision**

At Holy Spirit Parish, we are an inviting community inspired by the Holy Spirit; welcoming everyone to worship, grow, belong and serve together as Disciples of Christ.



Holy Spirit is a child safe parish. At Holy Spirit we hold the care, safety and well being of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

### **PARISH LETTER & DATA BASE UPDATE**

Please remember to advise the parish staff of your current phone and email details so we can update our database. You can either return the data sheet sent to you or email: [Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)  
Thank you.

### **Holy Spirit Web Site - [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au):**

Stay in touch with our parish website.

- “News, Events”: ref menu
- “Covid 19 News and Updates” (much of which is drawn from Jacinta’s weekly email): ref home page & menu
- “How we stay connected”, online resources such as Masses, Prayers, Newsletters, Next Zoom: ref home page

### **Holy Rosary**

The Holy Rosary via Zoom on Tuesday Nights is discontinued for now with the resumption of the Holy Hour of Adoration in the chapel on Wednesday Nights.



### **Holy Hour of Adoration - Wednesday Nights**

The Holy Hour of Adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament resumes on  
Wednesday 18th November at 7pm.

The Hour is spent with the Holy Rosary, individual reflection,  
and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and some music in between.

Because of Covid-19, attendance is limited to 10 people. If you wish to attend, you need to book with Dominic beforehand on 0434 841 907. Please note that bookings are a requirement of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Archdiocese for the purposes of contact tracing should someone unfortunately be infected with the Covid virus. Ah yes! Do not forget your face mask.



**SPIRIT EXTRA #12 NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

[https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Portals/3/Documents/Spirit Extra/spirit\\_extra\\_012.pdf](https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Portals/3/Documents/Spirit%20Extra/spirit_extra_012.pdf)

### **Collection Notice**

For information on the Parish’s policies regarding information collection and privacy please refer to:  
<https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Collection-Notice>



# The Spirit

Fostering Community Awareness & Communication

## DECEMBER EDITION NOW AVAILABLE!

The December edition of the Spirit Magazine is now available on the parish website:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au/spiritmagazine](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/spiritmagazine)

This is Helen Konynenburg's "swan song" as editor of the magazine. The parish community is greatly indebted to Helen for her many hours of dedication to this wonderful publication.

## HOLY SPIRIT CHRISTMAS 2020

Christmas is a time of hope, a time of celebration, a time to make a deeper sense of what it means to be a Christian. The Christmas Liturgy heightens our senses and enlightens our understanding.

We want our Christmas Mass celebrations to be occasions of lasting peace and joy.

### YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

With Covid restrictions in mind, we need several volunteers to help at each Mass. We want everyone to feel welcome, to feel that they belong to an active, vibrant community, and to return home feeling they have experienced the joy and peace that Christ wants everyone to have.

Mass times are:

Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December: 5:00pm, 7:30pm. 10:30pm

Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December: 9:00am

### *At each Mass we need*

3 Special Ministers

1 Reader

6 Welcomers

1 Laptop operator

1 CD operator

4 people to Clean-up/reset after each Mass

If you would like to help, please email Jenny : [jenny.philp@cam.org.au](mailto:jenny.philp@cam.org.au) with details of which Mass you would like to attend and the role you can assist with. Jenny will then contact you.



THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE  
PRESENTS

# Jesus is Christmas

WATCH IT  
ON C31  
(CH 44 ON DIGITAL TV)  
OR  
[YOUTUBE.COM/  
ARCHMELB](https://www.youtube.com/archmelb)

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS FAMILY SPECIAL

Our Christmas celebrations may look a little different this year, but thankfully we can always return to the familiar sounds of the carols to inspire and remind us of the reason for our Advent hope: the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Jesus is Christmas—then, now, always.* Together with your families, join us for this one-hour Christmas special from the comfort of your home, and sing along to your favourite carols sung by some of Melbourne's most talented musicians.

**SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER  
7PM - 8PM**

FEATURING

**SILVIE PALADINO  
GARY PINTO**

+

**MICHAEL PETRUCELLI**

**THE SAGA**

**LARISSA CAIRNS**

**THE SULLY FAMILY**

**TONGAN CHOIR, SUNSHINE**

**CBD PARISHES VIRTUAL CHOIR**

**AND**

**ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI**





**Holy Spirits Parish**  
**Pastoral Council**

**Do you want a say  
in the Holy Spirit's  
Parish Vision and be  
an Integral Part of  
the Parishes  
spiritual effects on  
its parishioner's and  
the wider  
community.**

**Then fill in the form  
attached to either  
nominate someone  
or even better  
"YOU" and join this  
diverse, passionate  
and God loving  
group to enjoy the  
fruits being offered  
by the Holy Spirit**

*Mark 1:10*

*Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water,  
he saw heaven being torn open and the  
Spirit descending on him like a dove.*



## **HOLY SPIRIT - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)**

### **LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS**

#### **Have you heard of the Holy Spirit PPC?**

**Parish Pastoral Councils:** Its role is to advocate this Parishes mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ throughout our community.

The PPC is a group of ordinary people across this Holy Spirit Community that arise together as a passionate and purposeful team that support this Parish's future direction.

#### **Who can be a member?**

Anyone in our Holy Spirit Community can become a member. The PPC must be a diverse team representing many different activities in our Parish, coming together to share ideas.

#### **Why would you consider being a PPC member?**

Do you have ideas to improve, change or develop this Parish, *OR*?

Is there something new or different you would like to see happening across our Parish in its different spectrums such as faith, liturgy community, social, service and outreach, *then again*,

Would you just like to learn more about our Parish?

This is your opportunity to share your new and exciting ideas.

#### **Do you have someone in Mind?**

Who would you like to nominate to be a member of the PPC? Their only special requirement is faith!

### **HOW TO NOMINATE A PPC MEMBER?**

1. **Recommendation:** could be either someone else or yourself.
2. **E-mail:** Send this form or details to [PPCNomination@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:PPCNomination@holyspiritparish.org.au), or leave this completed form at the Parish House by Monday 14 December 2020.

**The Parish will contact all nominated members:** A Discernment/Planning Day will be organised in February 2021 (preferably on a Saturday) then following meetings will be held approx. 6 per annum on an agreed weekday evening.

#### **RECOMMENDED PPC MEMBER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **RECOMMENDED PPC MEMBER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **RECOMMENDED BY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said:

**1** “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

**2** to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.

**10** “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**11** “For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.”

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1.47-48, 49-50, 53-54 (*R. Isa 61.10b*)

**R.** My soul rejoices in my God.

**47** My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

**48** for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed. **R.**

**49** For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**50** His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **R.**

**53** The Lord has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

**54** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

*May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and  
blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

My brothers and sisters,

**16** rejoice always,

**17** pray without ceasing,

**18** give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**19** Do not quench the Spirit.

**20** Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything;

**21** hold fast to what is good;

**22** abstain from every form of evil.

**23** May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;

and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.



Alleluia, Alleluia  
The Spirit of the Lord now upon me  
has sent me to bring good news to the poor.  
Alleluia

## GOSPEL

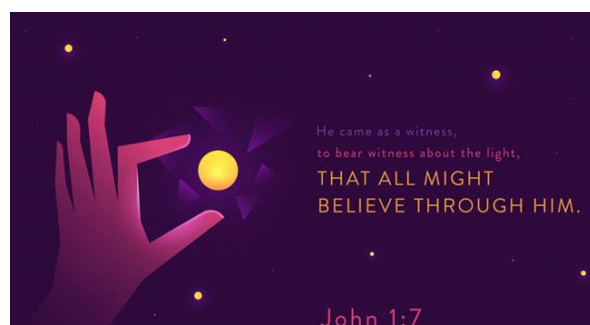
John 1.6-8, 19-28

*Among you stands one whom you do not know,  
the one who is coming after me.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light,  
so that all might believe through him.  
8 He himself was not the light,  
but he came to testify to the light.  
19 This is the testimony given by John  
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem  
to ask him, "Who are you?"  
20 He confessed and did not deny it,  
but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."  
21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"  
He said, "I am not."  
"Are you the prophet?"  
He answered, "No."  
22 Then they said to him, "Who are you?  
Let us have an answer for those who sent us.  
What do you say about yourself?"  
23 He said,  
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.  
24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.  
25 They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing  
if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"  
26 John answered them, "I baptize with water.  
Among you stands one whom you do not know,  
27 the one who is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."  
28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan  
where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.



He came as a witness,  
to bear witness about the light,  
**THAT ALL MIGHT  
BELIEVE THROUGH HIM.**

John 1:7

Reflection.

The joy of advent comes with an inspiring message of hope and encouragement urging us to rejoice and be happy because the Lord is near. More so, it tells us that joy is basic to being Christian and our vocation is to radiate this joy. Experience tells us that rejoicing is not always the hallmark of a Christian. It has been associated with sadness. Many of us are more familiar with the gospel message of carrying the cross than of its characteristic of joy. While there is hardship and suffering in the life of Jesus, there is joy which is compatible with pain. We were created for happiness. It is the purpose of our whole being and we spend our lives searching and striving to attain it.

On the first Christmas when God came down in the person of Jesus, he filled the world with glad tidings of great joy. His life was geared towards God the Father in joy, prayer and thanksgiving. There is no greater proof of love than to give of ourselves to others. The happiest people are those who are doing most for others. They know from experience that it is in giving that we receive. -Fr. Arsenio



### **Prayers of Intercession**

*During this time of Advent, may we grow in faith and confidence that the Lord will come to us, leading us out of any darkness in our lives into the glorious light of God's Kingdom of Justice, Peace and Joy.*

We pray that we may never lose faith in God's loving presence with us, no matter what crises, doubt or trial that we might be struggling with.

**LORD HEAR US.**

That the transforming fire of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts through our baptism and confirmation may burn brightly in our lives and transform us more and more into children of hope and light.

**LORD HEAR US.**

We thank you Lord for those members of our Parish Family who give so generously of their time to enable us to shine Your light in our community.

**LORD HEAR US.**

For all people throughout the world imprisoned unjustly or held captive in their own countries by military regimes or forced to live abroad in refugee camps; that God will sustain them and their cries for freedom will be heard.

**LORD HEAR US.**

We pray for the sick, frail and elderly people of Holy Spirit, especially those not able to be with us; that they will experience God's peace and love at this time.

**LORD HEAR US.**

We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Eduardo Garcia, Frida Voytenkoff, Barbara Carach, Terri Windbridge, Wendy Pearl, Pat Cahill, Wilhelmina Dykstra and Peter Marangos. May they rest in the loving arms and peace of Christ. **LORD HEAR US.**

### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION,**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

**St. Alphonsus Liguori**

