



**ST
FRANCIS
XAVIER
CATHOLIC
PARISH**

OUR PARISH MASSES						
Weekday					Saturday	16 th December
12 th	Dec	Tues	9.00am	Mass	4.30pm	Reconciliation
13 th	Dec	Wed	9.00am	Mass – St Lucy	5.00pm	Mass
				6.30pm		Mass of Reconciliation
14 th	Dec	Thurs	9.00am	Mass		
15 th	Dec	Fri	9.00am	Mass – St John of the Cross		
					Sunday	17 th December
					7.00am	Mass
					9.00am	Mass

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

10th December 2023



Unusual Choice

The Gospel of Mark begins with a short, precise, and bold statement announcing, *'the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God'* (Mk 1:1). At the end of his Gospel, Mark proclaims, *'The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his place at the right hand of God'* (Mk 16:19).

Jesus' disciples preached this Good News message for the whole world. The beginning of St. Mark's Gospel announces Jesus' earthly saving mission; at the end of his Gospel, Mark concludes Jesus' saving mission on earth. The phrase *'he was taken up into heaven'* reveals where Jesus originated from - God's right hand. This very first verse reveals the foundation of our faith in Jesus. Having faith in Jesus is the Good News because God comes to the world not to condemn, but to save mankind from the power of darkness. It is the Good News because we can't save ourselves. God doesn't abandon us; but comes to save us. Second, the Good News is only found in Jesus, the Son of God. Third, the Good News had been prophesised long ago, and is now being fulfilled in Jesus. The fulfilment of the prophecy began with John the Baptist, who announced the coming of the Good News. John called people to change their minds and hearts to welcome The Good News. Those who do not, fail to see the Good News. The change would appear in a concrete, visible form and that was to receive John's baptism. John made clear that the water of his baptism revealed an invisible, internal change. John said to the people, *'I have baptised you with water, but He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit'* (Mk 1:8). This reveals that John knew very well his role and his power. His role was calling people to prepare the way for the Lord; his power was to baptise them with water as the sign of their repentance. The real power lay in the One who came after him. Repentance in the past was pointing outwards, through sitting on ashes; and wearing rough garments. The new repentance John proposed was pointing inwards, the inner change, the change of mind, and heart. John also reveals the new baptism Jesus gave,

gave, which is the work of the Third Person of God, The Holy Spirit.

People came to John from Jerusalem and all the surrounding areas, which implies the Good News is for everyone who truly desired to have it. The Good News had no universal boundary because it was available to everyone, anywhere and at anytime. John the Baptist lived a life of penance by means of his lifestyle, food, and clothing. His life and his message had the same focus, and that was a simple and humble way of life. Choosing to live from the outskirts, John denied any form of pleasure, false happiness, or the empty promises of his society, which deceived the rich and the powerful. This emptiness was a clear sign of spiritual poverty. It dehumanizes the one who receives it; and makes the poor and voiceless a slave to empty promises. John called people to turn away from what was harmful and return to God through repentance. Simplicity was the way of life. It certainly was not comfortable for our physical body but brought peace and tranquillity to our minds and hearts, and that is true happiness. A simple life requires little, but it is rich in freedom and joy. John showed us that the human body truly had a few needs, but plenty of wants. The former is necessary, and the latter is extravagance. He chose the desert to start his mission. This symbolic, dried wilderness would become a rich and fertile place, for the peaceful hearts of those who listened to his voice and made changes accordingly. John didn't choose to wear an expensive royal garment, but rather a hairy garment made from camel's skin. He didn't have magnificent banquets but enjoyed wild honey and grasshoppers. Those who refuse to discard silky clothing and rich party food would not walk on the path John called them to do. John called the people to accept life's challenges; and discipline themselves to improve their quality of life. We pray to listen to John and learn to simplify our lives to lighten the burden of life.

**Fr Vudinh Tuong
Parish Priest**

WEEKLY INFORMATION



Reminder: Farewell BBQ for Fr. Tuong On Sunday 10th December at 4pm the parish will farewell Fr. Tuong as he moves on to well-earned retirement. We will be doing a sausage sizzle, but if you would like to bring something, please bring a plate to share. Please bring a chair or blanket.

WEEKLY INFORMATION

Dates for your diary

23 rd	Dec	Sat	5pm	Mass – 4 th Sunday of Advent
			7am	
24 th	Dec	Sun	9am	
			6.30pm	Christmas Carols
			7pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
25 th	Dec	Mon	9am	Christmas Mass
26 th	Dec	Tues	9am	Mass – St Stephen
27 th	Dec	Wed	9am	Mass – St John
28 th	Dec	Thurs	9am	Mass - The Holy Innocents
29 th	Dec	Fri	9am	5 th Day of Christmas Octave
30 th	Dec	Sat	5pm	Mass – Holy Family
			7am	
31 st	Dec	Sun	9am	

Please note that the parish office will be closed from the close of business on Friday 22 December 2023 and reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

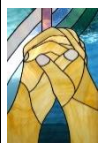
All people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Blessing of the Columbarium

Sunday 17th December - after 9am Mass.

PASTORAL MATTERS



Prayer for the Sick

Kim Shadwell, Jackie Ledger, Amy and Reagan Whiteman, Sarah Kathleen Jones, Phil O'Dwyer, Peter Eddy, Almira Ann James, Finley McHardy, Nyaweir Ring, Kylie Herbert, Tony Ryan, Elisapeti Pati, Amanda Harding, Margo Jane Higgins, Cameron Auld, Louis Galea, Trent Andrews.

Reborn in Eternal Life 11th – 17th December

Allan Booth, Robin O'Sullivan, Dulcie Neden, Doreen Toothill, Edna May Stewart, Cecilia and Daniel Gorman, Father Ron Illidge, Eeseese Moafanua

Reading – 3rd Sunday of Advent, 17th Dec. 2023

1 st Reading	Is 61:1-2, 10-11
2 nd Reading	1 Thess 5:16-24
Gospel	Jn 1:6-8, 19-28




Baptism at St Francis Xavier, Goodna

Bookings for December are now closed. The next Baptisms will be 21st January 2024. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Recently Deceased Kathleen Gurdon (née McCarthy), Jacqueline Panaotie, Frances Stubbs, Marion Mahoney.

Loop System The Church is fitted with a loop system. If you wear a hearing aid, set the control to the 'T' to obtain a better sound.

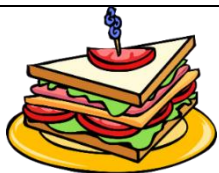
WEEK 2 ROSTERS – THIS WEEK – 10th DECEMBER 2023

Flowers	Noela Leituala	Cleaning	Tina & Princeton	Yard	n/a
1 st	5pm Huong Nguyen	2 nd	5pm Julie Aiavao	Ciborium	5pm Peter Aiavao
Reading	7am Paul Hodgkinson	Reading	7am Cameron Auld		7am Michael Miles
	9am So'oalo Family		9am Karoline Fonoti		9am Sosefo Masalu

WEEK 3 ROSTERS - NEXT WEEK – 17th DECEMBER 2023

Flowers	Divine Mercy	Cleaning	Divine Mercy	Yard	Divine Mercy
1 st	5pm Darsha Ross	2 nd	5pm Suzanne Fitzgerald	Ciborium	5pm Christine Freeman
Reading	7am Robert Bryant	Reading	7am Theresa Greig		7am Cameron Auld
	9am Alefosio Family		9am Vaoiva Family		9am Donna So'oalo

Ministers should arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of Mass, or their role will be reassigned on the day.



Thank you from the Senior Hospitality Group to all the parishioners who gave gifts for our 32 raffles, also cash donations towards the food, we are so grateful. A big shout out to David Cudicio and all our primary school staff who brought the children over to entertain us. Our guests were delighted with the singing from all grades. We had nine Grade 6 students helping with serving the meal, also taking the prizes to our winners, and chatting to our guests. We wish you all success in the future as you walk into another chapter of your life. Our helpers on the day did a fantastic job setting up the tables, as well as preparing and serving the meal. We had compliments all round. Well done to all, for making this a wonderful lunch. Let's see what we can do next year! May God Bless you and yours this Christmas season. Best wishes for 2024.

Agnes Fryars (Senior Hospitality Group)



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PARISH CONTACTS

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If you are experiencing any symptoms such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, please stay home and contact your health care provider for advice