



**ST
FRANCIS
XAVIER
CATHOLIC
PARISH**

OUR PARISH MASSES						
Weekday					Saturday	23 rd December
19 th	Dec	Tues	9.00am	Mass	4.30pm	Reconciliation
20 th	Dec	Wed	9.00am	Mass	5.00pm	Mass
				6.30pm		
21 st	Dec	Thurs	9.00am	Mass	Sunday	24th December
22 nd	Dec	Fri	9.00am	Mass	7.00am	Mass
24 th	Dec	Sun	6.30pm	Christmas Carols	9.00am	Mass
				7.00pm		
				Christmas Vigil Mass		
25 th	Dec	Mon	9.00am	Christmas		

3rd Sunday of Advent **Year B** **17th December 2023**



Testimony

In today's reading, the Gospel of Mark focuses on John the Baptist, known as the Precursor for Jesus the Son of God, who is the true Light for the world. The world is darkened by human sin; Jesus comes to the world as the Light for the world to follow. He himself is the true Light. John came as a witness to testify for the Light, and those who love the Light come to John; those who prefer darkness refuse to heed John's message; they remain in the darkness of sin. John's message is clear and loud. The crowds from all over the place flocked in to see him, and that made the Temple authority live in fear and jealousy. From Jerusalem, they sent Priests and Levites to question John. They asked him, 'Who are you?' John came straight to the point, 'I am not the Christ.' They put further questions to him, before putting even more pressure on him, 'Then why are you baptizing, if you are not the Messiah, Elijah, or the prophets?' Jn 1:25. John confirmed that he is not Elijah. He is the voice, not to himself, but to the Lord, said prophet Malachi 3:1. He is a messenger who prepares the way for the Lord, said prophet Isaiah 40:3. It is hard for the questioners and the Temple authority to swallow this bitter truth, because they prided themselves on their expertise of the scriptures, and yet they didn't know John, a new prophet, who lived amongst them. His message and his mission confused them even more when he said, 'I baptise you with water, but among you stands one whom you do not know,' Jn 1:26. They now have two unknown persons. The first one was John, and the second was much more important than John. John opened their

eyes to see, but pride and jealousy concealed their eyes to recognize the One who is not far away, but 'stands among you', and yet they do not know. They failed to recognize Jesus simply because they thought they could bypass John. They believed they didn't need John but simply relied on their knowledge, and that would be enough for them to know the Messiah when he came. Human knowledge is useful to query faith, but knowledge alone cannot lead to faith. It needs revelation, and the two leads to have faith in Jesus. The revelation is the work of the Spirit and that is what Jesus gives to anyone with a humble heart. Humility is shown through repentance and manifests itself through the water of baptism John gave. John is very strong about this when he says, 'Jesus (He) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit,' Jn 1:33. The Spirit is given to a humble heart. The Spirit will lead, guide, and direct that person to a deeper faith in Jesus. The Spirit has been working quietly in a person's heart before that person came to John's baptism. John is not the Light but the herald, and witness for the Light. John declared openly that the Light is much more power than him, and he is unworthy to undo his sandals. John, a creature, and the Light the Creator; according to John, there is an immense gap between a creature and the Creator. We come to know something about the Light, simply because the Light comes to live among us and reveals himself to us. Welcoming Jesus into our lives can make us truly happy because He is the endless source of joy and peace. This special heavenly gift is given to a humble heart.

**Fr Vudinh Tuong
Parish Priest**

WEEKLY INFORMATION



A Joyful Celebration The gathering last Sunday afternoon was a blessing for us all. The sky was dry and clear. We enjoyed a good, pleasant breeze with great comfort. The recent rains made young leaves and freshly grown lawn become the real sign of new life and renewal. The thorough tidiness of the place was a welcoming sign of fraternal cooperation. Music and the cheerfulness of children became some sort of spontaneous entertainment. The aroma of cooked onion blended with sausage sizzles awaken our senses. Plenty of fresh homemade cakes and varieties of national dishes were on the tables - thanks. This community gathering is the result of the hard work of the organizing committee and their helpers, and the generosity of all of you- A big thank you. Thank you one and all for your presence and presents. Every one of you contribute to our faith community in your own way, and I hope that the spirit of unity and fraternal love continue to grow in the years to come.

God bless you all. Happy Christmas, and a joyful New Year, Fr Tuong

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

WEEKLY INFORMATION

Dates for your diary

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
31 st	Dec	Sun	7am	
			9am	
1 st	Jan	Mon	9am	New Year’s Mass – Mary Mother of God Followed by cuppa with Fr. Mkude
5 th	Jan	Fri	9am	Healing Mass

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

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation

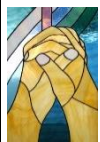
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

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 18th – 24th December

Norman Beardmore, Teodorico Caracal, Gordon Joseph O’Donohue, Felice Pastro, Antonis Sylvina Stevenson, John McGrath, Joseph Vu Van Ngon, Bonifacio Cajés, Leonardo Oblino, Constance Swales, Monica Pili Pelu, Margaret Holmes, Judy Harris, Ralph Tidey, Arlyn Tirant, Kath Daininth, Denis Cavanagh, Eileen McCauley.

Reading – 4th Sunday of Advent, 24th Dec. 2023

1 st Reading	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
2 nd Reading	Rom 16:25-27
Gospel	Lk 1:26-38



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 3 ROSTERS - THIS 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

WEEK 4 ROSTERS - NEXT WEEK – 24th DECEMBER 2023

Flowers	Tien & Nhu	Cleaning	Tien & Nhu	Yard	n/a
1 st	5pm Bruce Larter	2 nd	5pm Owen Ross	Ciborium	5pm Julie Aiavao
Reading	7am Joan Sitcheff	Reading	7am Anna Timu		7am Kolio Timu
	9am Kisa Senio		9am Paulo Lauvao		9am Elaine Walters

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

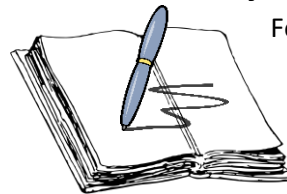
WEEKLY INFORMATION



Thank you!

Thank you to the generous parishioners who donated to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal from everyone in the St Francis Xavier chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The appeal raised \$2384.85 and will go towards helping families and individuals who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

Memory Book for Fr. Tuong



For those wishing to contribute to the autograph book for Fr. Tuong, it is available for you to sign in the sacristy after Mass. Otherwise, you can call into the parish office during the week to contribute.

St Francis Xavier Primary School
Goodna
Kids who care

Our location: 6 Church Street, Goodna QLD Australia 4300

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PARISH CONTACTS

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We are committed to Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount. Please see our website for our Safeguarding and Whistleblower policies. StopLine is a confidential, independent provider of whistleblowing services available to all parishioners on **1300 304 550** or [AOB@stopline.com.au](mailto:AOb@stopline.com.au).