



**Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel**  
Wentworthville

## Carmel Bulletin

**Sunday 1 December 2024**

**Stay awake, praying at all times**  
First Sunday of Advent



### Reflection **Lk 21:25-28, 34-36**

#### **Emmanuel, God with us loves us.**

As we look forward to the Christmas season, we are busy buying gifts and decorations, cooking, and making plans for holidays. Today's gospel, though, warns of a catastrophe at Jesus's second coming, and our daily news indeed keeps us afraid that our world will soon end. The core message of all three readings, however, is God's love.

When buying our first home, Michelle and I asked the Lord for a sign about which property to choose. We were unsure if asking for a sign was the right approach, but we were faithful that the Lord would provide. Then, when we moved in, a well-intentioned friend advised us on how to prosper; our home was filled with religious icons and we were advised to remove the picture of the Holy Face because it's bad luck, to remove the crucifix as it signifies suffering. Our friend was disappointed that our house was not facing the north and aligned with the stars.

What signs are we struggling with?

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks us to be aware of signs. For Christians, a sign of crisis is not a time to feel hopeless. The Lord wants us to be aware of His presence and find strength in His promises, commands and teachings.

The promise made in today's first reading is fulfilled in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In the second reading, St Paul reminds us that God loves us, and so we should love God in return. He prays that the Lord helps us grow in love with each other, that God makes our hearts strong so we can be good and holy while we prepare ourselves in this time of Advent for the second coming of Christ.

Peace always

Michelle and David Rodrigues, Parishioners

### **The fullness of life**

The weeks leading up to Christmas and school holidays are often a particularly busy time. Sometimes, the urgency to 'get things done' means that what we do isn't always our best. It may be driven less by quality and more by ticking boxes. Our encounters with others can sometimes be like that as well - driven less by genuine love and more by expediency. Today's Gospel reminds us that there is no room for either carelessness or complacency.

Some of us even thrive on being busy. Being busy makes it easy to not have time for reflection, to lose sight of when our actions lack the virtue, honesty and integrity Christ himself modelled. We can neglect our relationship with God and seek comfort in other vices - material possessions, social media, power and control, gambling, alcohol, drugs - perhaps to the point of harm. We tune out to Christ calling to us in the cry of the poor, the suffering, the neglected and the abused.

The Season of Advent opens with the call to pray constantly. By stepping back from our busy lives and making time for prayer, we can draw closer to God, genuinely reflect on our lives and act with love. Advent calls us to choose the way that leads to freedom and fullness of life. It calls us to choose the way that we know is not just a moral code but a person: God, whose coming into the world in Christ we will celebrate with joy at Christmas time.

**To Ponder:** Am I confident that I am living in the way that leads to fullness of life?

Robert Barden, Parishioner

### **Parish News**

#### **Parish Christmas Raffle**



### **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

If you would like to assist Vinnies with their Christmas Appeal, they would be pleased to receive donation of cash/gift cards from any major store (Coles, Woolworths, Aldi etc). Please place your cash or gift card in the blue metal Vinnies boxes or under the Christmas Tree in the Parish Centre.

Vinnies are no longer able to accept items for Christmas hampers, but your gift of cash or gift cards is a much more direct method of ensuring that your donation meets the needs of the those affected by health, income or housing insecurity, especially if they have a food intolerance or need specific items.

## Celebrating Advent at Home

An easy way to continue our community's celebration of Advent in your own home is to prepare an Advent wreath. You may wish to make your own, or purchase a wreath set from a local store - Church Stores (in Wenty), the St Patrick's Cathedral Gift Shop and CMP Religious Store in Granville are all nearby.

The Church's *Book of Blessings* provides a prayer for you to bless your wreath at home. Visit [olmcwentyliturgy.org/wreath](http://olmcwentyliturgy.org/wreath) for an outline of this short ritual that you can download or use on a device such as a phone or tablet, as well as supporting material for each week.

Lighting the candles of the wreath can be a part of a family's prayer before an evening meal during Advent. When lighting the first candle this week, pray the Collect Prayer for today's Mass, which is provided below:

*Let us pray.*

*Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Advent Penitential Service



## Christmas singers needed

We're looking for people who would like to sing at our Christmas Mass During the Night on Christmas Eve at 9pm. Choir practice will be on Monday 2, 9 and 16 December from 7:15 – 8:30pm in the church. If you enjoy singing and would like to take part, then please come along. Contact Robert for more information by visiting [olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact](http://olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact)

## Volunteers needed for our Christmas Masses

If you are registered as a liturgical minister in our parish, you should have received an email this week inviting you to volunteer for our Christmas Masses. If you didn't receive an email, please contact the Liturgy Committee by visiting [olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact](http://olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact). If you are a minister, would like to serve but don't use email, please contact the parish office by Thursday 12 December.

## Christmas Celebrations



## Window cleaning

The church windows in the Parish Centre are in desperate need of washing. If you can help to wash them and prepare our church for Christmas, please give us a hand after the 9am Mass on Thursday 12 December.

## Operating votive candles

For the convenience of all, please only operate the votive candles (located in the shrine of Our Lady) before or after Mass.



## Please pray for

**Those who are sick, especially** Antoinette Da Silva, Ngoc Tran, Lina Galpin, Lucy & Rosine, Rita Ientile, Vivian Sultana, Roseline Fernandez, Yolanda Gonzales, Edwin Macwan, Sharon Dolan.

**Recently deceased, including** Carmen Calleja, George Vaz.

**Our special intentions for** Agnes, Bernabe & Joaquin Patacsil, Franz Tito, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Leonardo Close, Michael Perez, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, G. Pakkianathan, Rhonda Ellen Parnis, Maureen Van Googenvest, Gary O'Brien, Torsten Berger, Mary Vella, Dr Vida Safi, Catherine Kong, Clivin family, Norman De Luca, Thanksgiving to Our Lady, and in honour of St Anthony.

## Parish Finances

### Thank you for your generosity

<b>Last week's donation to the Parish:</b>	<b>\$3128</b>
<b>Planned Giving (cash):</b>	\$ 684
<b>Planned Giving (credit cards):</b>	\$ 100
<b>Loose cash:</b>	\$ 854
<b>Direct Deposits:</b>	\$ 710
<b>Tap &amp; Go:</b>	\$ 780

**Parish Online Banking:** If you would like to pay fees or are able to make a donation, our online banking details are:

**BSB:** 067 950

**Account Number:** 000 00602

**Account Name:** Wentworthville Catholic Church

**Reference:** [YourSurname]PURPOSE OF YOUR DONATION

## Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2024

The fourth and final Bishop's Appeal for this year will be held this weekend.

***One of our Tap&Go devices in the Parish Centre has been specifically assigned to accept donations for this appeal only. In other words, all monies collected from this specific Tap&Go device over the course of this weekend will go directly to support the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and you can receive a printed receipt from that Tap&Go device on that day.***

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal will raise funds to support Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains' nationally accredited Houses to Homes program.

This program supports pregnant women and young mothers aged between 16 and 25, who are homeless or at serious risk of homelessness. The program provides transitional housing for up to two years to help them get back on their feet, as well as essential support services including counselling, parenting education, living skills support, employment and training support, and so much more. Many of these women and their children have experienced significant trauma, including domestic and/or family violence, and our parish support would help reshape the lives of these local, vulnerable young families.

For more information please visit [parracatholic.org/donate](http://parracatholic.org/donate) or scan this QR code.



## Around the Diocese and beyond

### Jubilee Year of 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

On Sunday 29 December 2024, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St Peter in the Vatican and inaugurate the Jubilee Year of 2025, with the theme being *Pilgrims of Hope*.

In the year 2000, we celebrated the Great Jubilee; the 2000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saviour of humanity; Jesus Christ. Now, 25 years later - and in accordance with an ancient tradition - the Christian community comes together to experience 'a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" (Jn 10:7) of our salvation.'

In his Bull, Pope Francis outlines the many ways we can see signs of hope; the desire for peace, enthusiasm and support for parenthood, dignity for prisoners, for the sick, for the young, for migrants, refugees and the displaced, for the elderly, and the poor.



The coming Jubilee Year also coincides with the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council which took place in Nicaea where we derived our Creed from all those years ago.

**Position Vacant** Faith Enrichment Role. Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for a Faith Enrichment role, working 16 hours per week onsite. Key responsibilities include:

- Facilitating and resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments and faith.
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries.
- Assisting in opportunities for faith inquiry and parishioners' spiritual enrichment.

Sharing relevant administrative and technical tasks with the parish team. For more information about the role please contact: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

**Diocesan Pastoral Council Nominations:** If you would like to assist Bishop Vincent in his pastoral ministry by providing advice, promoting communication among different groups in the Diocese, and collaborating with other bodies on matters that concern the pastoral life of the Diocese, please register your interest [in the form at the bottom of this page.](#)

For further information, please refer to the letter from Bishop Vincent that can be found in the newsstand in the Parish Centre.

## Coming events

**3 December:** International Day of Persons with Disability

**3 December:** St Francis Xavier SJ

**5 December:** Bl Bartolomeo Fanti OCarm

**5 December:** SVdP in Parish Centre at 10am

**6 December:** St Nicholas of Myra

**6 December:** Anointing at 9am Mass followed by Shared Morning Tea

**7 December:** St Ambrose

## Rosters for 7 and 8 December 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Bob Hanna Janine Hanna Anne-Marie Torrens
8am	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Jeremy Angelo Joshua Angelo Cecilia Cotter (Assembly) David Rodrigues
10am	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Clyde Fernandes Fiona Bylsma David Touma (Assembly) Volunteer needed
6pm	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Isa Urbano Ramona Grima Isa Urbano

## Next week's readings

**7 and 8 December – Second Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**First Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9  
**Second Reading:** Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
**Gospel:** Lk 3:1-6





## Our Lady of Mount Carmel Wentworthville

### in the care of the Carmelite Friars

*We acknowledge the Darug people as the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders; past, present and emerging.*

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Carmelite Friars, are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe.

### Connect with us

Online at [www.olmcwenty.org.au](http://www.olmcwenty.org.au)

On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty

Email [ocarmswenty@gmail.com](mailto:ocarmswenty@gmail.com)

#### Parish Office

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Phone 9631 8302

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Albino Dos Santos, O.Carm

**In Community:** Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm,

Fr. Paul Gurr, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior),

Fr. Wayne Stanhope, O.Carm (at Jamberoo),

Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

**Parish Secretary:** Paola Yévenes

**Finance Officer:** Gennie Cosgrove

#### Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School

**Principal:** Olimpia Pirovic

**Phone:** 8832 1100

### Liturgy times

#### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm

#### Weekday Masses

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9am

Friday: 9:15am (except on the first Friday of the month)

#### Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 8am

#### Rosary Group

Monday - Friday: 8am

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

#### Anointing within Mass

First Friday of the month at 9am Mass followed by a shared Morning Tea

#### Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

On request

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