



Our Lady of
Mount Carmel
Wentworthville

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 15 December 2024



He will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire
Third Sunday of Advent

Reflections

Lk 3:10-18

Walking the Talk

The trust that people have placed in many of our public figures, organisations and institutions has been challenged in recent years. People have abused their authority and position. We belong to a Church that is criticised for actions that are at odds with what we claim to stand for. At a minimum, it has been a humbling reminder that we are all human and flawed. At its worst, it has caused us to be suspicious and fearful, and to potentially place our trust in 'false prophets' who claim to offer a better way.

This, however, is not a challenge unique to our time. [John the Baptist called out injustice, corruption and greed among those who listened to his preaching.](#) We too, though, can also be caught in these traps. Perhaps we say one thing but do another. Maybe we expect something of others that we don't expect of ourselves. It might be the case that we have found that holding onto power or material possessions comforts us or boosts our ego.

John's warning to those who would listen is that the Good News would turn their preconceived notions on their head. Jesus would not come as an authoritarian ruler who would conquer the Romans and establish a new civil regime. Rather, Jesus' power would lie in not only preaching a Gospel of love, but living it to its most extraordinary, selfless conclusion. Advent gives us time to reflect on our daily lives and to what extent that we, who call ourselves Christian, truly 'walk the talk'.

To consider: Are honesty, integrity, humility and justice hallmarks of my daily living?

Metanoia

Today's gospel is about **metanoia**, the Greek word used by St. Luke meaning **change of mind and heart**.

St. Luke tells us that at the time of John the Baptism, the Jews lived in expectation of the One who is to come, the Messiah. When John the Baptist appeared on the scene, they naturally began to wonder whether he was the One to come. They questioned John to try him to seek advice. John tells them to have a good look at themselves, each in his or her occupation and way of life, and then to metanoia, to change their attitude by first being honest with themselves, and then to be honest with others and with society.

Metanoin, conversion, change of heart and mind, this is what Advent is about too for each one of us. To be true to ourselves and others, levelling the mountains of pride in us, and straitening the crooked paths in our lives in preparation for welcoming the One, the Messiah, into a heart and mind that are true to themselves, humble to understand who it is that we are welcoming, and honest in all our business.

Metanoia! The conversion, the state of mind and the attitude of a loving heart that imitates the example of the One to come, the Messiah who is Jesus Christ. A mind that thinks like Jesus, and a heart that loves everyone as Jesus does.

Metanoia!

- By Fr. Anthony OCarm

Parish News

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to long-time parishioner Moira Peter, daughter of Marina & Peter and sister to Shayna, who marries Santhosh Kumar Sankar this Saturday in their hometown parish in India.

*Heavenly Father,
With gratitude and joy, we ask you to bless the marriage of Moira and Santhosh; may their union be a reflection of your love and faithfulness, may their love for each other continue to grow through your Son, and may their home be blessed with the warmth of family and friends.
Amen.*

Parish Christmas Raffle

This is your last chance to win one of the wonderful prizes being raffled, as we draw the raffle this Monday 16 December. In all, there are 12 prizes including a beautiful Nativity Set kindly donated by Colleen Weatherall, a couple of beautifully crafted wooden pieces made by Fr Janu, two Christmas cakes and other prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards the upgrading of the audio system. So far, we have raised \$2,300 from sale of tickets. Our aim was to raise \$4,000.

Thank you in advance to all who supported this fundraising effort for our parish sound system. Thanks especially to Pauline & John Cassar for their dedication and support in organising this.

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.

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. The final practice is on Monday 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

Singers also needed for the 10am Mass on Christmas Day. Many of Lucia's singers will be overseas during this day, so lots of new singers would be welcomed.

Rehearsal for the 10am Christmas Day Mass will be from 2pm to 3pm on Saturday 21 December.

Celebrating Advent at Home

Visit 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 a home Advent wreath can be a part of a family's prayer before an evening meal during Advent. When lighting the first, second and third (rose) candles this week, pray the Collect Prayer for today's Mass, which is provided below:

*Let us pray.
O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Visit olmcwentyliturgy.org/wreath for online access to these weekly prayers, as well as supporting material for prayer at home.

New Altar Servers

Recently, several new people have begun their Ministry at the Altar. We would like to thank these young people and warmly encourage them to continue learning about and practising their service to our community.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who helped us clean the windows on Thursday morning. Thanks especially to our dedicated group of Cleaning volunteers who make our church look *beautiful*!

Advent Penitential Service



Christmas Celebrations



Parish Sacramental Process

Parents, if your child/ren celebrated their first sacrament of Holy Communion at OLMC this year, you are now welcome to view and download the photos from those celebrations. An email containing the relevant links has been sent to the email address you provided on application.

Thank you to all who have enquired about the Parish Sacramental Process next year. We will publish the dates, times and details on the first week of the school term 2025. If you would like to stay up-to-date with all the news from the parish, please [consider subscribing to the Carmel bulletin](#).

Parish Dinner planning

A meeting to plan next year's Parish Dinner will be held after the 9am Mass on Monday 16 December. This is an opportunity to reflect on the success of last year's Dinner; what went well, how we can improve, etc. If you are interested in assisting with this event, please come along with your ideas and offers of cooperation.

Parish Christmas Raffle will be drawn just before this meeting.

Parish Office hours over Christmas

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 20 December and reopen on Monday 6 January to regular Parish Office hours from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Thursday.

Catholic Outlook out now



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 Dominic Ientile, Carmen Calleja, George Vaz.

Our special intentions for Agnes Rodrigues, Mo Chinh, Michael Bigeni, Stephen, Nikola, Mara & Ankica Senjak, Rafael Howayek, Peter, Marina, Moira & Shayna Peter, Emmanuel Sultana, Leticia Gonzalez de Patino, Josephine & Adolf Tabone, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Lawrence & Sinfarosa Dias, Inacio, Sacramenta & Ilda Boccaro, Anna & Simao Dias, Cleophas James, Benjamin Png, Clivin family, Norman De Luca, Charlie Sultana, Charlie Zammit, Brian Bourke, Thanksgiving to Our Lady, and in honour of St Anthony.

Parish Finances

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: **\$2838**
Planned Giving (cash): \$ 660
Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ 140
Loose cash: \$ 923
Direct Deposits: \$ 560
Tap & Go: \$ 555

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

Around the Diocese and beyond

Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Home: Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal has raised over \$71K ensuring Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home.

Our own parish raised just over \$1605 which is by-far the most success we've ever achieved. *Thank you!*

If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese: There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. For further information, please go to: parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/

Coming events

16 Dec: Choir practice with Robert 7:15 to 8:30pm

16 Dec: Christmas Raffle Drawn

18 Dec: Parish Penitential Service at 7pm

19 Dec: SVdP meet in the Red Room at 10am

21 Dec: Choir practice with Lucia at 2pm

Rosters for 22 and 23 December 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Anne-Marie Torrens Angela Carlino Antoinette Zammit
8am	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Cat Paulo Cecilia Cotter Colleen Weatherall (Assembly) Cat Paulo
10am	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Carmel Gauci Skip Fernandes Volunteer needed (Assembly) Volunteer needed (Assembly)
6pm	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Mark Attwood Michael Williamson Isa Urbano

Next week's readings

22 & 23 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10

Gospel: Lk 1:39-44



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

On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty

Email 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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