



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Wentworthville

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 22 December 2024



And blessed is the fruit of your womb
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflections

Lk 1:39-44

Undeserving?

Have you ever received something nice that you thought you didn't deserve? Perhaps it was a gift, or kind words of acknowledgement from someone? The mix of emotions and thoughts - happiness and gratefulness for what we've received, while feeling unworthy to receive it - can leave us feeling quite awkward.

While still grappling with her courageous acceptance of the call to be the Mother of God, [Mary responds to the news that her cousin Elizabeth is pregnant](#). She makes an over-one-hundred-kilometre journey to visit and stay with her until John the Baptist is born. Elizabeth, recognising the divine presence within Mary, asks: "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?"

It could be said that Elizabeth didn't deserve to be a witness to the incarnation. After all, we are all flawed, including Elizabeth. Yet the profound mystery which we believe in and celebrate is that God chooses to work through all of humanity, with all its flaws and failings. Christmas celebrates that God not only works through us, but became one like us. A God who is so completely love is not concerned with what we think we deserve.

Many people carry the burdens of painful experiences that have left them feeling unworthy, undeserving and unloved. Christmas can be a time that heightens that pain. Throughout Christmas and beyond, we have a duty to look for those who carry this pain and honour them by sharing the promise of God's love and life. For God's love and life is not earned or deserved, but given freely. This is the true Christmas gift.

Small is beautiful

At our parish we call them L.O.L.s: Little Old Ladies. They're the backbone of the community. They come to meetings, bake cakes for functions, crochet for fundraising, pray for a storm, drop their money in the baskets, bringing communion to the sick, volunteer for everything. They go about their work almost invisibly, but what they accomplish is enormous. Without L.O.L.s, someone once observed, you could close the doors of most parishes.

Elizabeth was a Little Old Lady. To look at her, one might not expect much more to come from a person of her advanced years. Certainly, the contribution of new life was biologically behind her. Yet God's grace proved that assumption wrong, as often explodes our careful theories and plans. God's grace can overshadow us and bring new life from the "too old," the "too young," and every other place where we've closed a door in our minds. God may be opening a door for you right now, in the place you least expect.

From GPBS eNews

Parish News

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 candles this week, pray the Collect Prayer for today's Mass, which is provided below:

Let us pray.

*Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Volunteers Still Needed for our Christmas Masses

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve at our Christmas Masses. We still have a number of roles to fill. If you can help, sign up on the sheets in the parish centre today.

Parish Christmas Raffle

Congratulations to Alan Alphonso, the winner of the Nativity Set and to all other winners who will be notified by phone as soon as possible. Thank you everyone who bought tickets in the Christmas Raffle. We raised just under \$4,000 towards the replacement of our audio system. A great thank you to the young lady who donated \$1,300. Much appreciated.

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 Celebrations



Parish Dinner Dance

The Dinner Dance is on again in 2025. Mark Friday, 21 February next year in your diary. Following last year's success, we are expecting a bigger attendance. It is a great opportunity for fellow parishioners to get to meet others who attend a different mass to them. Tickets will go on sale early in the new year. Seats are limited so it will be first in best dressed. All proceeds from this function will also go towards the replacement of the audio system.

Scam email warning

We have been notified that there is a scam email from someone pretending to be Fr Januario Pinto stating that he urgently needs your assistance but that he will be out of the office and needs you to respond to his email.

Please do not respond! This is a scam email and we are concerned that, if you respond, the culprits will then be able to access your online information. Remember to check the sender's email address first. If it's not familiar to you, don't respond!

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.

Staff changes in 2025

It is a great sadness we announce to this Parish community that Paola is leaving OLMC Wenty Parish as Parish secretary and Sacramental coordinator.

She has been part of OLMC Parish community for many years.

We thank her for her contributions to this Parish community in so many ways. We thank her for her friendship, her love, her gifts and her time for this Parish.

We wish her all the Best as she begins a new chapter in her life journey. God Bless her.

During this period of transition, Parish Office hours and availability will be limited. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

Janu Pinto (PP)

It is with a bittersweet feeling that I say goodbye. I moved out of Wentworthville a few years ago and have found the commute to and from home increasingly taxing. I have found employment closer to home and will begin my new role in the coming weeks.

You can't know how deeply honoured and delighted I have been to be a part of this community for the past 20+ years. You and the Carmelite Fathers have been such an important part of my life, I bless and cherish every moment we have spent together and I will always carry you in my heart.

With sincere appreciation, Paola
Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Pray for us.

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 Stephen, Nikola, Mara & Ankica Senjak, Drs Gregorio & Natividad Patacsil, Ising Fontanilla, Agaton, Andres & Petronillo Patacsil, Tranquilina Llanillo, Evelyen Cotter, Donald & Angela Lopez, Agnes Patacsil, Santiago Tito, Reema Joseph Joy, Michael Perez, Leonardo Perez Tito, Maria Hoang, Nga Tran, Rachael & Benvienido Sumagui, Anna Cassar, Pasqua Rosin, Donald Muir, Yolanda Patacsil Muir, Joseph & Mary Borg, Artemio Patacsil, Edgardo Perez, Stella Aaron, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Franz Tito, Rebecca Patacsil, Fr Augustus Patacsil MSC, Eugenia Fontanilla, Caridad, Gaudencio, Simfrosia, Ceferino & Domingo Robles, & Domingo Robles, Francisco Llanillo Sr, Francisco Llanillo Jr, Caridad, Ceferino & Domingo Robles, Clara Fontanilla, Petronillo Patacsil, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Clivin family, Norman De Luca, Charlie Sultana, Charlie Zammit, Brian Bourke, Souls in Purgatory, Thanksgiving to Our Lady, and in honour of St Anthony.

Catholic Outlook out now



Parish Finances

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: \$3124

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 870

Planned Giving (credit cards): \$

Loose cash: \$ 889

Direct Deposits: \$ 760

Tap & Go: \$ 605

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

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/

Liturgical Ministry Courses in 2025 If any of the following courses interest you, please collect an enrolment form from the Parish Centre or visit the Diocese of Parramatta website. You can choose between two days and locations to attend:

- Mondays at 7pm** at the Bede Heather Centre
1-5 Marion St, BLACKTOWN
- Thursdays at 7pm** at St Nicholas of Myra Parish
Entry via Higgins St, PENRITH

Compulsory Introductory Session

BLACKTOWN:	17 February
PENRITH:	20 February

Ministers of the Word

BLACKTOWN:	24 February and 3 March
PENRITH:	27 February and 6 March

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

BLACKTOWN:	10 March and 17 March
PENRITH:	13 March and 20 March

Communion to the Sick and Dying

BLACKTOWN:	24 April
PENRITH:	27 March

Ministers at the Altar

BLACKTOWN:	31 March and 7 April
PENRITH:	3 April and 10 April

All those who are enrolled in these courses must attend the Compulsory Introductory Session.

If you are wishing to complete Communion to the Sick and Dying, it is compulsory to attend Extraordinary Ministers of Communion first.

If you would like to become a Minister at the Altar, you must attend all 8 sessions. That is, you must attend the Compulsory Introductory Session, both Ministers of the Word sessions, both Extraordinary Ministers of Communion sessions, etc. Enrolments close on 28 January 2025 however, if sessions fill up before this date, enrolments will close early.

Coming events

24 Dec: 5pm Vigil Mass

24 Dec: 7pm Vigil Mass

24 Dec: 9pm Mass During the Night

25 Dec: 8am Christmas Mass

25 Dec: 10am Christmas Mass

26 Dec: St Stephen

27 Dec: St John, Apostle

28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Rosters for 28 and 29 December 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Janine Hanna Bob Hanna Ann Zahra
8am	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Michelle Rodrigues David Rodrigues Cathy Rossiter (Assembly) Roslyn Khattar
10am	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Fiona Bylsma Clyde Fernandes David Touma (Assembly) Skip Fernandes
6pm	Reader 1 Reader 2 Communion	Ramona Grimm Bimy Baby Jovan Titus

Next week's readings

28 & 29 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

First Reading: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28 (Year C)

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 (Year C)

Gospel: Lk 2:41-52



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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