

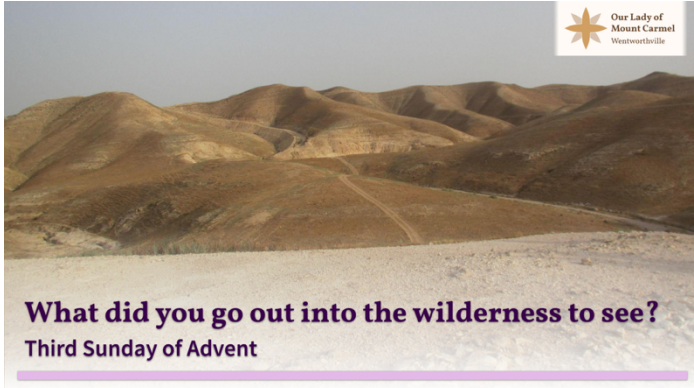


**Our Lady of
Mount Carmel**
Wentworthville

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent, Yr A/2.



Reflections for this week's readings

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145: 6-10,
Second Reading: James 5: 7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

Be strong, do not fear.

On the third Sunday, we light the pink candle of joy, yet the world feels heavy—earthquakes in Japan, floods in Asia, fires in Hong Kong. Innocent lives are lost, justice is scarce, and many struggle with rising living costs. Depression claims lives, while domestic violence, stabbings, shootings, crime, and accidents continue to grow. We ask: Can we help? Will it bring peace? Can any nation end a war? We might feel dejected and depressed. At times, the weight of it all makes me switch off the news in search of something lighter.

As a child, David's life was filled with hardship. He recalls, "I prayed and prayed, yet nothing seemed to change. Hello, Jesus—I'm pounding on heaven's door for help. Can you hear me? Will you help? All I felt was silence, with only the faintest ray of hope." Yet now he's convinced that God was walking with his family through every painful moment.

Today's scripture readings give us hope. Asks us to be patient. To trust and wait.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah predicts Jesus' coming. The blind will see, the deaf hear, the lame walk and the dumb speak. God promises everlasting joy to us.

The second reading gives us the image of a patient farmer waiting for his crops to grow. It recalls Job, the suffering servant. While Job saw only pain, God was at work in ways Job could not yet see—defeating the powers of evil, revealing faithfulness, and preparing restoration. Job's endurance was not wasted; in the end, he was rewarded, and God prevailed over suffering and evil.

The Gospel shows a similar struggle. John the Baptist, who had proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God and witnessed the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus, began to doubt while imprisoned. Facing suffering, he asked whether Jesus was truly the Messiah. Jesus did not answer directly but told John's disciples to report what they had seen—the blind healed, the lame walking, the good news proclaimed. After John's disciples left, Jesus praised John's greatness. If only John had heard those words—imagine the comfort they would have brought him in prison. Was it Jesus's poor timing, or part of a divine mystery?

Strengthen your hearts and don't grumble while we wait. Endure things around you. **God is around, watching over us.** Surrender it to Jesus -what matters in our suffering is for the good Lord to win the battle.

Michelle and David Rodrigues (Parishioners))

Lectio Divina – Weekly Sessions

We invite you to join us for the weekly Lectio Divina sessions at 6:00pm every Wednesday in the "Red Room". For more information or to prepare, please click on the links: <https://ocarm.org/en/item/6761-lectio-divina-december-2025>

Parish News

Parish Secretary

We are very close in filling the role of the Parish Secretary, so look out for a new addition to the Parish Team at the start of January 2026.

🎄 Church cleaning —Christmas Preparation ✨

It's time to prepare our church for Christmas!

The Christmas tree 🎄 and nativity scene ✨ are ready, but the windows are looking a little murky and need some attention.

We warmly invite volunteers to help with a **church cleaning session after the 9:00am Mass on Monday, 22 December 2025.**

Your help will ensure our church is sparkling and welcoming for the Christmas celebrations.

Thank you in advance for your generosity of time! 🙏 ✨

🎄 ✨ Christmas Community Gathering ✨ 🎄

Sunday, 21 December 2025 — After 10 AM Mass

We'd love for you to join us as we come together to celebrate the joy of Christmas! Simply **bring a plate to share**, and don't forget to pop your dish on the **sign-up list in the Narthex** so we can make sure we have a lovely mix of food for everyone.

Come along with your smile, your appetite, and your Christmas cheer—we look forward to celebrating with you! ✨ 😊



Recycle Bottles and Cans for Cash:


Thank you for your overwhelming support in converting recycling cans and bottles into cash to support **East Timor families in need** and the ongoing **East Timor Committee Mission Work**.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the collection.

Your support makes a real difference—please keep the cans and bottles coming!

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

 St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal for donations continuing till Christmas. Vinnies is unable to accept hamper items, but **cash or gift cards** help them provide exactly what families need—especially those doing it tough. 

Thank you for your generous support. 

Parish Social & Fundraising Committee:

Thank you for your continued support in the following campaign to raise fund for our parish maintenance and improvement projects — including upgrades to our church's audio and visual systems.

Parish 2025 Christmas Raffle

Your chance of winning a prize is in sight – **7 sleeps to go...**

First Prize:  A stunning 75-inch Smart TV



Raffle Draw: Sunday, 21 December — immediately after the 10am Mass

Christmas Gift Idea

Devotional Candles for Sale — \$10 Each




Not sure what to gift or what to pop into a Christmas stocking? Our devotional candles make meaningful presents and are ideal for prayer spaces at home.


 A simple gift that brings light and supports our parish! 

All proceeds support our **Media & Visual Improvement Campaign**.

Coming Soon — Parish Dinner Dance

 Friday, 13 February 2026

Venue: Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Hall, Greystanes
Price: \$70 per adult and \$35 for children under 12 yrs.
Book early to avoid disappointment and join us for an evening of fun, delicious food, and community celebration. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

 **Thank you for your generosity and continued support.**

Liturgy Corner

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. Visit olmcwentyliturgy.org/wreath for this week's short ritual and supporting material that you can download or use on a device such as a phone or tablet. When lighting the third candle 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.
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.*



Parish Finances

Thank you for your generosity

Weekly donation to the Parish:	\$3,968.00
Planned Giving (cash/c cards):	\$914.00
Loose cash:	\$908.00
Direct Deposits:	\$725.00
Tap & Go:	\$1,421.00

Parish Online Banking: If you would like to pay fees or to donate, our online banking details are:

BSB: 067 950 **Account Number:** 000 00602

Account Name: Wentworthville Catholic Church
Reference: [Your Surname] **PURPOSE OF YOUR DONATION**

Please pray for...

Recently Deceased: Duyen Tran, Shayne Vaz
Deceased (including RIP, anniversaries and memorials): John Portelli, Emmanuel Sultana, Bernard Weatherall, Mary & Frank Teuma, Joyce Cini, Tony & Antonia Cini, Charlie Zammit, Leticia Gonzalez De Patino, Emily P Dolit, Perlito Dolit, Grazina Drestio, Evelyn Echalyn, Qwienie Pascua, Beth Pascua, Ernesto Pascua, Diogracia Dolit, Crzenciang Dolit, Brian Bourke, Terri and Vincent Saliba, Monica Kong, George Vaz
Those who are sick (in need of healing and peace), especially: Vicky Borg, Thelma Blakeman, Norman de Luca,
Special Intentions /Thanksgiving: ++

Celebrating Sacraments at OLMC

Baptisms:

Anna Andriak (28 December)
May she grow in faith, love, and the grace of God!



Weddings:

Eve & Toriek (27 December)
May our Lord grant them happiness and love



Catholic Calendar

Cleaning Day	Mon, 22 Dec 9:30 am
St Vincent de Paul Meeting	Thurs, 5 Feb 2026 10 am
Advent Penitential Service	Wed, 17 Dec 7:00 pm
OLMC Christmas Morning Tea	Sun, 21 Dec 11 am
OLMC Raffles Draw	Sun, 21 Dec 11 am
Cleaning for Christmas	Mon, 22 Dec 9:30 am

Diocese of Parramatta Notices

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta
To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, the Diocese of Parramatta will come alive with celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who have enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Around other Parishes

Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral: 17-25 December
All are invited to experience St Mary's Cathedral and forecourt come alive from Wednesday 17 December to Christmas Day. The Cathedral's façade will be illuminated with the timeless story of the Little Drummer Boy. Entry is

free and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Learn more at christmasatthecathedral.org.au

Kids' Corner

Third Sunday of Advent, Yr A/2.

Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that **half the wait is over!**

If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. **Pink is a symbol the joy** we have because we're halfway to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?

Rosters for 20th & 21st December 2025

Fouth Sunday of Advent Year A/2

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm Saturday (Vigil)	Reader 1 Reader 2 <i>Communion</i>	Anne-Marie Torrens Elema Fernandes Antoinette Zammit Ann Zahra
8am Sunday	Reader 1 Reader 2 <i>Communion</i>	Cat Paulo Cecilia Cotter David Rodrigues Michelle Rodrigues
10am Sunday	Reader 1 Reader 2 <i>Communion</i>	Jamel Touma Basli Sathi Marina Peter Skip Fernandes
6pm Sunday	Reader 1 Reader 2 <i>Communion</i>	Eliana Almeida Ramona Grimm Isa Urbano

Next week's readings

20th & 21st December 2025: 4th Sunday of Advent Yr A/2

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-6,
Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24



**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 the 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

If you would like to stay up to date with all the news from the parish, please consider [subscribing to the Carmel bulletin](#).

Parish Office

Phone: 9631 8302

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 3:00pm

Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Public Holidays

Parish Priest: Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior)

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

In Community: Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm,
Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

Parish Secretary: TBA

Finance Officer: Gennie Cosgrove

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic

Phone: 8832 1100

Liturgy times

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am (include Children's Liturgy of the Word), 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9:00am

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

Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9:00am 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 morning tea

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

By request

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