



**Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel**  
Wentworthville

## Carmel Bulletin

**Sunday 21 December 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr A/2.**



### Reflections for this week's readings

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

#### **A Faithful Yes:**

##### **Embracing God's Plan, Even in the Unexpected**

*Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. He named the baby Jesus. (Matthew 1: 24 -25)*

As we journey through Advent, we find ourselves on the brink of something extraordinary. This week's Gospel from Matthew gives us a glimpse into the life-changing moment when Joseph, overwhelmed by the unexpected news of Mary's pregnancy, chooses to respond not with fear or rejection, but with trust and love.

This passage is often overshadowed by the focus on Mary, but today, let's take a moment to reflect on Joseph, whose faith is just as profound. Joseph was a man who faced uncertainty, whose plans were turned upside down. Imagine the pressure: he had a dream, and yet, in that dream, he was asked to do something completely unexpected. His response wasn't to fight it or to ignore it but to embrace it with open arms.

For us, especially as families, this is a powerful reminder that life doesn't always go the way we plan. In fact, it often doesn't! We all know how chaotic and unpredictable life can be. From raising kids to navigating work-life balance, from managing finances to dealing with sickness or loss – we're always facing moments of disruption. But in those moments, the example of Joseph challenges us to trust God, even when the road ahead seems unclear.

Joseph didn't just say "yes" to God's plan once – he said "yes" again and again. In each moment of his journey, he continued to follow God's will, not because it was easy, but because he believed in the greater purpose. The good news is that, like Joseph, we don't walk this journey alone. God is with us, and through God's presence, we find the strength to respond with faith.

This Fourth Sunday of Advent invites us to pause and reflect on how we, too, can say "yes" to God's calling in the midst of life's twists and turns. Whether you're a parent, a grandparent, or a member of the parish community, we all have our own struggles and joys. But as Joseph shows us, it's in those moments of uncertainty that God's love can shine the brightest. As we approach Christmas, let's ask ourselves: How can we make room for God in our own homes and hearts? *How can we, like Joseph, say "yes" to the unexpected, trusting that God is always with us, guiding us, and bringing light into our lives?*

Let this be a time of waiting with joyful expectation, knowing that God will never abandon us, even when things don't go according to our plans.

Wishing you all a blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent! Let's take a moment to pray for one another, for families, and for the gift of faith that unites us all in this beautiful season.

*(with permission GPBS eNews)*

#### **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

#### **Thank You**

As we come to the end of this year, we pause with grateful hearts to thank God for the many ways he has blessed us as an individual, family and as a parish family of OLMC.

On behalf of the Carmelites and Parish team, I would like to thank each one of you for making this Parish community continue to be a family parish for all of us. In particular, I would like to thank Liturgy committee, finance committee, ministers of the word, ministers of communion, ministers for the Children liturgy of the world, music ministry, altar servers, finance committee, sacramental team, hospitality, parents, families, friends and volunteers. Thank you all for putting your energies, talents, times and resources into the life of this parish. Your faith, commitment, dedication are the foundation of our parish, and your presence makes our parish community continues to be a home of welcome.

I wish you a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**. May Christ Child fill your hearts with his peace, joy and love. Happy new Year 2026.

**May God Bless you all.**

**Janu (PP)**

**On behalf of the Carmelites (Anthony, John Powell, Alby) & Parish Team.**

## 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.

## Office Holiday Closure

**Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas- New Year holiday period from 22 December 2025 and will reopen on 5 January 2026**

## Church Spring Clean for Christmas

**Christmas is almost here!** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, our church needs a little spring clean.

**Volunteers are warmly invited** to help clean the church after the 9:00am Mass on Monday, 22 December 2025.

Thank you for your generosity and joyful service!

## Recycle Bottles and Cans for Cash:

**Thank you for your overwhelming support** in converting recycling cans and bottles into cash to support families in East Timor and the ongoing mission work of the East Timor Committee.

We will provide **quarterly updates** on the funds raised.

Your generosity truly makes a 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:

### Christmas Thank You & Community

**This Sunday, we swing into the joy of Christmas celebrations after the 10:00am High Mass!**

**The Committee wishes everyone the very best of luck in the raffle draw, followed by our Christmas Community Morning Tea.** Please join us to enjoy the friendship, smiles, laughter, and the food you bring to share.

Most of all, the Committee and the Parish sincerely thank you for your generous support — through your prayers, spirit, and financial contributions — to the many projects and events we have organised, including the train trip to Woy Woy. Your generosity helps us maintain our church, particularly in essential areas such as the audio and visual media systems, which play an important role in our liturgies and community life.

Thank you for being such a supportive parish community.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in the year

ahead. We wish you and your families a **Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



## Christmas Gift Idea

**Devotional Candles for Sale — \$10 Each**

**Running out of time or need a last-minute gift idea? Here's one for you today!**

**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.

*Watch the space - more details to come*

## Liturgy Corner

### Celebrating Advent at Home

An easy way to come to the last week of our community's celebration of Advent in your own home is to prepare an Advent wreath. Visit [olmcwentyliturgy.org/wreath](http://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 fourth candle 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,*

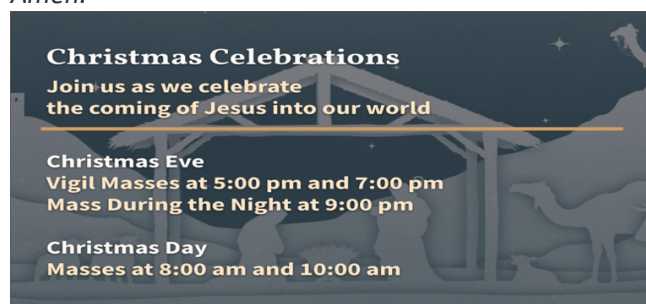
*that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross*

*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.*



# Parish Finances

## Thank you for your generosity

Weekly donation to the Parish:	\$3,586.00
Planned Giving (cash/c cards):	\$875.00
Loose cash:	\$796.00
Direct Deposits:	\$670.00
Tap & Go:	\$1,245.00

**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:** Susan Sultana, Nga Tran, Shayne Vaz, Paul Francis, Gabriel Rockwood  
**Deceased (including RIP, anniversaries and memorials):** Mary & Frank Teuma, Joyce Cini, Tony & Antonia Cini, Charlie Zammit, Kerrie and Vincent Saliba, Stella Galea, Pasqua Rosin, Stella Aaron, Charlie Sultana, Anna Cassar, Danny John Hawkins, Gilbert D’Souza, Maggie Fernandes, Anthony Peter  
**Those who are sick (in need of healing and peace), especially:** Vicky Borg, Thelma Blakeman, Norman de Luca, Vincenza (Vivian) Sultana  
**Special Intentions /Thanksgiving:** Judith Sukumar, Jazmine & Jamaica, Ngoc Tran, Thuy Tran  
**Weddings Anniversary:** Francisco & Edelina Lucido

## Celebrating Sacraments at OLMC

### Baptisms:

Anna Andriik (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*



## Celebrating our Catholic Calendar

<b>The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)</b>	
<i>Solemnity with octave</i>	25 December 2025
<b>St Stephen, the first martyr</b>	
<i>Feast</i>	26 December 2025
<b>St John, apostle, evangelist</b>	
<i>Feast</i>	27 December 2025

### Church Calendar

<b>Cleaning for Christmas</b>	<b>Mon, 22 Dec 9:30 am</b>
St Vincent de Paul Meeting	Thurs, 5 Feb 2026 10 am
<b>OLMC Christmas Morning Tea</b>	<b>Sun, 21 Dec 11 am</b>
OLMC Raffles Draw	Sun, 21 Dec 11 am

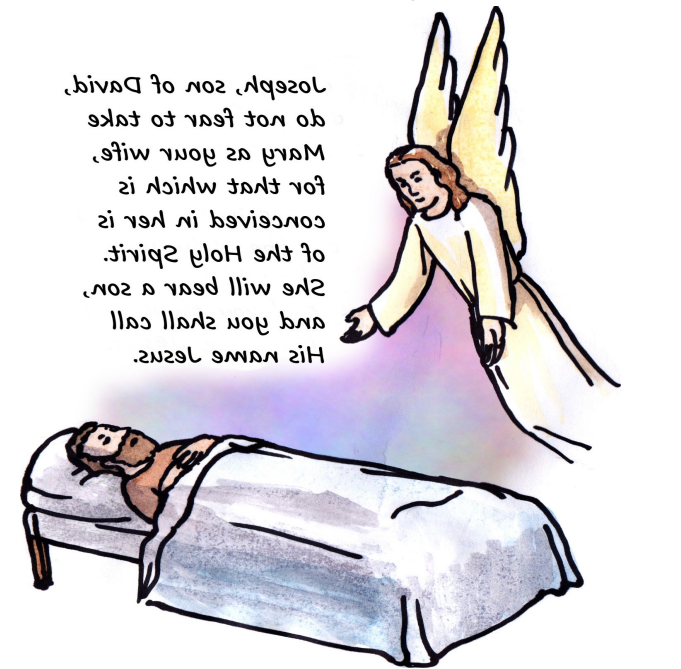
## Diocese of Parramatta Notices

**Bishop Vincent’s Christmas Message 2025**

Bishop Vincent’s Christmas video message for 2025 can be viewed and played via our [YouTube channel](#). The message can be viewed on the Notice Board in the Narthex.)

## Kids’ Corner

### Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21st, 2025



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

Rosters for 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> December 2025		
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		
MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm Saturday (Vigil)	<b>Reader 1</b> <b>Reader 2</b> <i>Communion</i>	Bob Hanna Janine Hanna Eleana Fernandes
8am Sunday	<b>Reader 1</b> <b>Reader 2</b> <i>Communion</i>	David Rodrigues Michelle Rodrigues Eric Dias Colleen Weatherall
10am Sunday	<b>Reader 1</b> <b>Reader 2</b> <i>Communion</i>	Jamel Touma Basli Sathi David Touma Rosemary Chung
6pm Sunday	<b>Reader 1</b> <b>Reader 2</b> <i>Communion</i>	Mark Attwood Nelissa Almeida Fran Sharpe

### Next week’s readings

<b>27<sup>th</sup> &amp; 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025: the HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>	
<b>First Reading:</b>	Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	Psalm 127: 1-5,
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Colossians 3: 12-21
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23



## 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](http://www.olmcwenty.org.au)

On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty

Email [ocarmswenty@gmail.com](mailto: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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