



## Catholic Parish of St Canice

We acknowledge the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians on whose land this Church was

10th December 2017

### Parish Directory

St Canice Parish  
28 Roslyn Street, Elizabeth Bay  
NSW 2011  
[www.stcanice.org.au](http://www.stcanice.org.au)  
Tel: 9358 5229 Fax: 9358 3170  
[parish@stcanice.com.au](mailto:parish@stcanice.com.au)

### Parish Priest

Chris Jenkins, SJ  
[chrisjenkinssj@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisjenkinssj@hotmail.com)

### Parish Manager:

Lynelle Lembryk  
[lynelle@stcanice.com.au](mailto:lynelle@stcanice.com.au)  
9358 5229

### Parish Secretary

Elizabeth Strutt  
[elizabeth@stcanice.com.au](mailto:elizabeth@stcanice.com.au)

### Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council

Caroline Coggins  
[carolinecoggins@exemail.com.au](mailto:carolinecoggins@exemail.com.au)  
Tel: 0407 575 557

### Director JRS

Carolina Gottardo  
[carolina.gottardo@jrs.org.au](mailto:carolina.gottardo@jrs.org.au)

### Jesuit Refugee Service - Australia

[www.jrs.org.au](http://www.jrs.org.au)  
9356 3888

### Jesuit Mission (National Office)

[www.jesuitmission.org.au](http://www.jesuitmission.org.au)

### Mass Times

Sunday- 8:30am & 10:30am  
Tuesday to Friday- 7:00am  
Saturday- 9:00am Vigil- 6:00pm  
Public Holidays- 9:00am

### Reconciliation

Before Vigil & Sunday Masses or on request

### Anointing

As requested - please contact the Parish Office

### Healing Mass

11:00am - First Friday of each month - otherwise by request

## 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B

### Wilderness

Wilderness plays a large role in the scriptures. The children of Abraham spend forty years wandering in the wilderness until they learnt to trust in Yahweh. Even Jesus spent time in the wilderness, praying and fasting in preparation for his public ministry, as did many of the Old Testament prophets. It seems that if you want to get close to the Lord, you will encounter the wilderness at one point or another.

What is our wilderness? Its our old life of sin and separation from God. It's that part of us that remains wild and untamed, not yet surrendered to the Lord.

The good news that we are preparing to celebrate at Christmas is that we don't have to wait until we have tamed the wilderness before we can come to Jesus. In fact, it works the other way around. We need to let Jesus in first, and then our wilderness will be gradually transformed. Just as John the Baptist invited people into the wilderness to receive his baptism, so Jesus is inviting us into the wilderness in our lives. As we enter those darkened, wild places, we may be suprised to see Jesus right there, waiting for us. He is in those places where we feel the most barren and unattractive, offering healing and restoration. He is there, ready to clear away the brush, turn the burning sand into a lush garden and fill the rocky landscape with every possible good fruit.

Our sins are already forgiven; Jesus has already paid the price. All we need to do is turn to him on that crooked path and ask for forgiveness and healing. He will make our path straight.

We can experience this healing and celebrate his forgiveness in a concrete way at our 2nd Rite of Reconciliation service to be held here at St Canice's on Thursday 21st December at 7pm. Come and lay those burdens down!

*Fr Chris*



**Entrance Antiphon:**

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Entrance Hymn:** No 281 (Gather) Advent Song

**Opening Prayer:**

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. The word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4. 6**

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair; with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of the Lord.

**Offertory Hymn:** No 455 (Gather) A Trusting Psalm

**Communion Antiphon:**

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**Reflection Hymn:** No 477 (Gather) Blest Are They

**Recessional:** No 463 (Gather) Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Let Us Pray For:**

**Recently Deceased:** Anne Streda, Rene (Yai) Hatsaturis

**Anniversaries:**

**Recently ill:** Jeanette Reid, Graham Fear, James Toohey, Joan Pyne, Sandra Holyeak, Ray Walsh, Omar Soliman, Yvonne Nobbs, Lisa Powell, Tony Musgrave, Nola Rowe, Dulcie Kennedy, Flynn Cawood, Valentino Close, Wendy Watson, Penelope Anne Quinn, Jayne Bernstan, Ronald Soussa, Albert Jacobs, Sophie Napier, Hélène Herington, Veronica Rainbird, Joan Agbor

**During November we pray for:** Marcia Cadiz McIlvenna, Jean & Ted Sykes, Esther & Allan Higgins, Pamela & Pat Shoughnessy, Max Higgins, Gordon & Katherine Randell, Jane Kelly, Murray Willis, John Harburne, Peter Hanlon, Martin Snee, John Dempsey, RAA, Eric Goucia, Selma Forsythe, Jack Baker, Dennis Keogh, Mick Scanlan, Mick & Lui.

Roster for Eucharistic Celebrations			
16/17th Dec	Vigil 6pm	8.30am	10.30am
<b>Greeters</b>	W. Fothergill	A. Hurst	S. Barnes
<b>Readers</b>	S. Wittenoon	H. Campbell	C. Coggins
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	As available	As available	S. Buckingham B. Clulow M. Woodburne S. Woodburne

**Next Week's Readings:**

16/17 Dec

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel:

John 1:6-8. 19-28



**Parish Calendar**

**Mon 11th December**

**\*\*This week\*\***

**Spiritual Conversation Series 7-8.30pm - Church**

**Thurs 14th December**

**\*\*This week\*\***

**St Canice's Conversation - Beyond Belief:** 6pm, Parish Hall  
A discussion with Fr Chris Jenkins and Hugh Mackay (Author of the book Beyond Belief)

**Thurs 21st December**

2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7pm, Church

**Christmas Masses**

See insert (with this bulletin)

**Christmas Events at St Mary's Cathedral**

**Christmas Remembrance Service – 17 December 2017 at 7:30pm**

All are welcome to join in St Mary's Cathedral as we remember and pray for all those who have died and whose memory we cherish over the Christmas season.

**A Christmas Celebration 2017 – Friday 15 December 2017**

Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes Including congregational carols and music to lift your spirits in the joy of the season! For tickets and more information please visit [www.achristmascelebration.com.au](http://www.achristmascelebration.com.au)

## Parish Notices

**LAST CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS:** If you are attending the Hugh Mackay event on Thursday night we ask that you register for the event online (if you haven't already done so). It is important that we know how many people are attending so we can ensure we have adequate seating etc.

You can register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-canices-conversation-with-hugh-mackay-tickets-38566937749>

**St Canice's Conversations**  
... listening, thinking, talking ...

with **Hugh Mackay** about belief

Thursday 14th December, 6pm arrival for 6.30pm start  
St Canice Church Hall

Entry by donation - **please reserve your place @**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-canices-conversation-with-hugh-mackay-tickets-38566937749>

**A**s a prelude to Christmas, you are invited to an interesting local community conversation on belief and belonging. In *Beyond Belief*, one of Australia's most insightful and influential social commentators, Hugh Mackay, argues that while our attachment to a traditional idea of God may be waning, our desire for a life of meaning remains as strong as ever. Hugh will outline the central themes of the book. This will be followed by a period of discussion between Fr Chris Jenkins SJ and Hugh, and then the conversation will open up to questions and contributions.

**Can you help?** Next Thursday 14th December, we are expecting about 80 - 100 people attend the St Canice's Conversations evening with Hugh Mackay. During the evening we will be serving wine and cheese, [and selling kitchen aprons and spoons. We are in need of some extra hands to assist on the night with these tasks.

If you are able to help, please contact Lynelle at the parish office on 9358 5229 or send an email with your name and contact phone number to [lynelle@stcanice.com.au](mailto:lynelle@stcanice.com.au).

**Farewell Harry:** As some of you may be aware Harry (owner of Smash Repairer across from the church) has sold his business and will be closing shop on Friday 15th December. Over the years, Harry has been an important part of our community and has helped out in many ways. To offer our thanks for the many years of service we invite you to a farewell Mass for Harry next Sunday the 17th December at the 10.30am Mass. Morning tea will be held after Mass.

### An Advent Prayer

God of light and hope  
Look upon us in love,  
And fill us with the Spirit of Jesus  
That we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.

Protect us during this week  
And keep us watchful in prayer  
As we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
Who is the light of the world,  
And who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.

