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Face masks are recommended when attending worship in Church
N.B. Only Cantors can sing!

Catholic Parish of St Canice

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

27 December 2020

The Holy Family — Year B

Parish Directory

St Canice Parish
28 Roslyn Street,
Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011
Tel: (02) 9358 5229
Website: www.stcanice.org.au
Email: parish@stcanice.com.au
Facebook: [StCanicesElizabethBay](https://www.facebook.com/StCanicesElizabethBay)

Parish Priest

Paul Fyfe SJ
parishpriest@stcanice.com.au

Assistant Priest

Gaetan Pereira SJ
gtnpereira@gmail.com

Parish Manager

Lynelle Lembryk
9358 5229
lynelle@stcanice.com.au

Community Relations Manager

Carrie Deane
carrie@caniceskitchen.org

Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council

To be advised. Coordinator:
Brian Anderson – ppc@stcanice.com.au

Director JRS

Carolina Gottardo (on leave)
carolina.gottardo@jrs.org.au

Jesuit Refugee Service - Australia

aus.jrs.net
(02) 9356 3888

Masses – see within for Christmas time.

Tu 7am, W & Th 9am, F 12noon, Sa 9am
Register: Sat 6pm, Sun 8:30am 10:30am.
Online: Sat 6pm Zoom Meeting ID: 893
9545 6461 Passcode: 990013

Weddings, Funerals – for ≤100 people

Contact Parish Office Tel: 9358 5229

Reconciliation

By arrangement

Viaticum & Anointing

As requested - contact the Parish Office or
0427 566 324 after hours.

Healing Mass

Cancelled

Baptism, Child Sacraments & RCIA

Contact Parish Office Tel: 9358 5229

Fluff and real stuff

Christmas is marketed in fluffy and tinselling ways – in pastel colours, lots of emphasis on here today and gone tomorrow presents, chocolate and bubbly, friendly faces and cute children. The domestic reality, of course, is more mixed than that. It is certainly about showing children love, celebrations, and families coming together. But it is about real families and relationships. Christmas has its fair share of tensions, tantrums, jealousies and unspoken harsh words, as well as of love, generosity and affection. It needs rich and deep colours to describe it, not just soft blues, yellows and pinks.

It is not surprising that each year Christmas is so celebrated in the midst of deep anxiety. Last year was Bushfire Christmas, with fires tearing through Australia in November and peaking in January. This year is a Covid Christmas, celebrated at a time when the virus is largely controlled in Australia but ravaging many other parts of the world. It is a time for family Christmas, but also one of anxiety for the future as we face economic pressures in addition to the threat to our health.

This is serious, not fluffy, stuff. It poses serious questions to us about what matters to us in our lives. When we think of the story of the first Christmas, that element of seriousness is appropriate. The question underlying the Gospel stories of Christ's birth asks where we might look to find God in our world. The answer given in the stories is that we might expect to find God in unnoticed people, in marginal and poor places, in simple human realities like giving human birth, in danger from paranoid rulers, in flight from home, in intimations of a troubled future. The stories address the deep realities of human life and not just the surface. That is where we find life in our work at Jesuit Social services: in the reality of young people's lives, in their failures as well as their successes, in their resilience as well as their fragility.

The Christmas stories also say that where God is found, joy can also be found. Like fire it spreads first unnoticed through the social undergrowth. It does not break out in the cities nor even the villages, but outside them in grotty fields, and from them to shepherds on the hills grazing their sheep, to old women and men who spend their declining days in the temple, away from public life. And of course, as this theme was picked up in the later stories, the joy was shared by animals in the stable and servant boys tending to Mary in flight to Egypt. The direction of the narrative also illuminates where God and life might be found in the experience of the coronavirus. Here, too, we might look outside the decision-makers to simple places and human actions. The joy associated with freedom from restriction grows out of the grind of wearing a mask, of staying at home, and of sacrificing our own freedom and interests for the good of the larger community. The restrictions of a CV Christmas, cheerfully borne, are the seedbed of joy.

As at the first Christmas, joy is built with the bricks of unselfish love, the straw of unexpected growth in times of solitude, the mortar of conversations that happened because there was nothing more interesting to do, and the sharp eye that notices and responds to the joys and sorrows of others. *Andy Hamilton SJ*



Help everyone by promptly booking a place at mass!

THE HOLY FAMILY, YEAR B — 27 DECEMBER 2020

Entrance Procession

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you...

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." The Lord brought Abraham outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And Abram believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 105.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; constantly seek his face

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith Sarah herself, though barren, received power to conceive, even when she was too old, because she considered God, who had made the promise, to be faithful. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." Abraham considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead- and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."... When Mary and Joseph had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



Remembering those who have gone before us...

Recently Deceased: John Hallett, Cassandra Woodbourne, Heinz Reuthlinger, Patricia Emberson, Antonios Constantin, COVID-19 victims.

Anniversaries: Tristan & Stephen Antico Muriel Hardwick, Penelope Quinn, Veronica Fyfe, Graham Fear.



Let us pray for...

Recently ill: Harry Tsagaris, Aristeo Albay, Josie Lynch, Caroline Crilly, Kathleen Doherty, Mary Woodburne, John Harding, Paul Scharrer, Maurice Heading SJ, Jillian Wells, Alison Dudley, Marina Byron, Hayden Ure, Amanda Sinclair, Michael Kelly SJ, Br Terry Kavenagh OSB, Fr Peter Maher, Wilhelmina van Wanrooy, Kevin Matthews, Gwen Feeney, Aloysious Mowe SJ, Anne O'Sullivan, Susanne O'Sullivan, Belen Latorre, Michael Taylor, Tony Catt, Siobhan Pearson, James Toohey, Maria Grazia Orlandi, Robert Horder, Clive Adams, Patrick Brogan, John Laing, Linda Stein, Ruby Naidu, Sandra Holyeak, Ray Walsh, Omar Soliman, Dulcie Kennedy, Flynn Cawood, Valentino Close, Ronald Soussa, Sophie Napier, Veronica Rainbird, Joan Agbor, those with Covid-19.

Initiation: Our new RCIA candidate and her sponsor.

If you would like the parish to pray for someone or to bring them Holy Communion, please contact Lynelle at the Parish Office on 9358 5229 or email <lynelle@stcanice.com.au> Please note you must have a person's permission for their name to be on the bulletin's sick list.

COVID-19: Please remind yourself of the expectations listed on the sheet at the desks: we should (and are obliged legally) to follow our plan!

Parish Calendar

Sun 27	HOLY FAMILY (on Zoom, Sat 6pm).
Mon 28	Holy Innocents (public holiday Mass 9am)
Fri 1	MARY MOTHER OF GOD <i>Solemnity</i>
Sat 2	St Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bps, Drs 6pm vigil—not live or recorded.
Sun 3	EPIPHANY <i>Solemnity</i> Prior booking preferred! 6pm, 8:30am, 10:30am.

Complete an attendance form at church
Mon 28 December Mass 9am
Tue 29 –
– Thu 31 **no masses**
Fri 1 January Mass 12 noon
Sat 2 **no a.m. mass**

Added rules for mass (21/12/20)

- No singing except for the cantors.
 - The congregation must remain seated, apart from Holy Communion and the collection when 1.5m spacing should be observed.
- NB. Our numbers are not affected practically.

Silent Ignatian retreats

At Canisius, Pymble, a 4- or 8-day retreat begins on 16 January. See <jisa.org.au> or ring 1300 EXAMEN (1300-392-636)

Join Australian Jesuit Mission in prayer for Hearty Laughter &c. at <<https://jesuitmission.org.au/who-we-are/our-spirituality/fse/>>.

Jamberoo Retreat live online

16 Jan–13 Feb <www.jamberooabbey.org.au> - go to Retreats – Hospitality: a versatile charism

Christmas season...

We continue to rejoice in the birth and manifestation of God's Son, Jesus, born of Mary and trained by Joseph.

Thank you – Christmas

Thank you to **everyone** who helped with our very trying Christmas situation, and to those who donated items to our Christmas Hamper appeal. Your generosity was very much appreciated. Thanks especially to Gerhardt for the wonderful Church decoration.

Sydney's Mission Plan

The Archbishop has launched *Go Make Disciples*. Take a booklet near both entrances to read the plan.

Madonna magazine

Pray with *Madonna* magazine or give as a gift! Get a subscription **online** (cf. p.4) or at 1300 72 88 46, 9–5 M–F. This will also help ensure its future which has been in doubt.

Remember! Christmas giving concludes with the Epiphany, next Sunday!

Gifts from Jesuit Mission's

Gifts for Change!

<<https://shop.jesuitmission.org.au/>>

Apologies if you are having trouble phoning us. We are still fixing bugs in the new system.

Parish Notices

Next Week's Readings:

2 / 3 January – Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.

Closing, Stopping, Opening, Starting!

The **Parish Office** will be opened in January – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8.30am – 3.30pm.

The preferred method of contact is via email to <parish@stcanice.com.au>

Weekday masses with some exceptions will be paused until 17 January. This week masses will be celebrated on the special feasts: Monday 9am (Holy Innocents) and Friday 12 noon (Mary Mother of God)

The **Parish Priest's** away from 30 Dec to 13 Jan.

More Christmas Kitchen news

A reminder that special funding allows the Kitchen to remain open for lunch, Monday to Friday through the summer, except New Year's Eve & Day.

'Live' paused

No masses will be Live from 26 December to 15 January but will resume on 16th.

Videos are posted afterwards to our Facebook page here <facebook.com/StCanicesElizabethBay> including the 7pm Christmas Eve mass.



News, depth, spirituality:

Australian Jesuit News– <www.jesuit.org.au>, Australian Catholics– <australiancatholics.com.au>, Eureka Street– <www.eurekastreet.com.au>, Madonna– <www.madonnamagazine.com.au>, Jesuit/Ignatian Spirituality– <jisa.org.au> Catholic Weekly <www.catholicweekly.com.au>: for the printed copy, \$2 to the StVdP box please.

Remember to register: online / email / phone

East Timor Christmas Appeal

The annual Christmas Appeal for our sister parish in Railaco took place at all Christmas Masses. You can still donate online to ensure that the awarded three programs addressing nutrition, health and education can continue. Thank you! Donate **here**: <<https://jesuitmission.org.au/donate-railaco/>> Some envelopes are on entrance tables. Or simply hover your camera over the QR code below:



JRS news

The new country director, Ms Tamara Domicelj will take over on 25 Jan. The Westmead offices have now moved to 10 Victoria Road, Parramatta NSW 2150 (7 Dec.) The new JRS website is <aus.jrs.net>

*The Pope's Prayer in the Year of Laudato si'
Loving God, Creator of Heaven, Earth,
and all therein contained.
Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.
Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
Help us to show creative solidarity
as we confront the consequences
of the global pandemic.
Make us courageous in embracing
the changes required to seek the common good.
Now more than ever, may we all feel
interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to succeed in listening and responding
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.
We pray through Christ our Lord,
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
Amen.*

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or <safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org> You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.