

OUR *Lady* OF THE *Angels* PARISH

Chermside West Wavell Heights

St Gerard Majella
146 Maundrell Terrace, Chermside West

St Paschal Baylon
30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights

SUNDAY 3rd December 2023 **First Sunday of Advent - Year B**

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

This weekend we begin the season of Advent. Etymologically, the word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word 'advenio,' "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. In the Christian calendar, 'The season of Advent' is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. Typically, while Advent is regarded as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a season of waiting and expectation, much like the season of Lent. Expectation and waiting inextricably form part of our lives as humans, though we are not always good at waiting and living in expectation. Often times we like to be on the move, with hardly any time to stop and reflect. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, as bad as it was, forced humanity to stop for once. Whether it was planned or unplanned, gradual or sudden, we experienced during the pandemic an unprecedented shift in the way we lived and did things. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, who would have thought that a whole state could go into total or partial lockdown? 'There is good in every evil' is an old saying which held true in our experience of COVID-19. Regrettably many people died from the virus and many got sick, but the outbreak of Covid-19 ushered in an unexpected Advent in human history. The hustle and bustle which are often characteristic of human life gave way to a slow pace sort of lifestyle. We were forced to be home to ourselves and to realise like Mahatma Gandhi once said that, 'our greatness as humans lies not so much in being able to remake the world as being able to remake ourselves.'

The waiting and expectation which are characteristics of the season are intended to help us to rediscover and remake ourselves. In the readings this weekend, especially the gospel, we are admonished to "stay awake, be prepared," for the Son of Man is coming.' There is a greater urgency for us to live in the now. We are meant to live every day as if the second coming of Christ were years away but also live as if it will happen now. As we begin this season of Advent, let us find time to be quiet and be at home to ourselves. We can do this at the start of the day with a morning prayer or sometime during the day with a cup of coffee or tea. It will be helpful to have a sacred space with a candle, a crucifix or a sacred image and Bible. When you are in this sacred space, you can read a passage from the Bible or say a decade of the Rosary or simply spend time in gratitude to God who has blessed us and continues to bless us. While the season of Advent is a time of waiting and expectation, it also reminds us that Christ is always with us and amongst us. As Christians, we are not only aware of Christ's presence around us and among us but we also celebrate His presence in the person of the priest who leads the celebration of Mass, proclaims the Gospel, preaches and who during the Eucharistic Prayer offers praise and thanks to God and does what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Additionally, we celebrate Christ's presence in the readings from Scripture proclaimed at Mass, as well as in each other-the gathered assembly. Finally, we celebrate and adore Christ's presence in the elements of bread and wine which become Christ's Body and Blood. Christ has never been away from us. Christ is amongst us and His presence lives on in the challenges associated with living the Christian message. As we begin the season of Advent, let us ensure that 'the waiting and expectation' we celebrate liturgically this season will lead us to discover and contemplate the presence of Christ around us and among us every day.

Wishing you all a blessed new week ahead.

God bless you all, Fr. John

PARISH PRIEST

FR John Echewodo

Email: echewodoj@bne.catholic.net.au

Mob: 0493 636 632 (only urgent or after hours calls)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Phone: 07 3359 0239

Margaret Gee (Parish Secretary)

Email: chersidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

Dianne Trudgian

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SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

Larissa Skuce

Email: sacramental.chermside@bne.catholic.net.au

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE & WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATOR

Compliance Officer: Carmela Knauth

Email: lsr.chersidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

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YOUTH COORDINATOR

Alice Grogan & Antonio Cunha

Email: yc.chersidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH OFFICE

146 Maundrell Terrace, Chermside West 4032

Phone: (07) 3359 0239

Office Hours: **Monday-Friday 9am to 3pm.**

Mail: PO Box 859, Aspley Qld 4034

Email: chersidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

Website: www.olaparishchermside.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL

Our Lady of the Angels Primary School

30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights Q 4012

P: 07 3359 9198

Leadership Team:

Principal: Mr Matthew Beacroft

APA: Mr Sam O'Leary

APRE: Mrs Kirsten Karey

PLL: Mrs Liz O'Brien

Email: pwavellheights@bne.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES

St Gerard Majella - 146 Maundrell Tce, Chermside West

Mon: 9.00am FRI: 9.00am

Sat 4:30pm Sun: 8:00am & 5:30pm

St Paschal Baylon - 30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights

Wed: 8.45am (During School Term)

Thu: 9.00am Sat: 6:00pm Sun: 9:30am

RECONCILIATION is available after Parish Mass
Please approach Fr John

STOPline Service 1300 304 550

STOPline receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by Archdiocesan workers (including priests, religious, employees and volunteers). Information can be shared anonymously.

AOB@stopline.com.au

Wednesday Mass at St Paschal's
There will be no Wednesday morning Mass at St Paschal's until February 2024.

PYXES

People taking communion to the sick or requiring gluten free hosts—would you kindly place your pyxes on the tray in the sacristy (not at back of church). Thank you.

Altar Server Roster Training for St Gerard's and St Paschal's

Session 2 of Altar Server Training will be held on the following days:

St Paschal's

Saturday 2nd Dec 4:00pm – 5:00pm **OR**

Sunday 3rd Dec 11:00am – 12:00pm

St Gerard's

Sunday 3rd Dec 9.30am – 10.30am **OR** 3:00pm-4:00pm

If you have nominated to be an Altar Server, or interested in learning about this important ministry, please attend one of these sessions.

For those who were unable to attend Session 1 an alternate date will be advised.

Please direct all enquiries to Julie Herden on 0419 795 561 or Margie Morton on 0407 009 676.

Youth News

Youth Team volunteers needed! Are you 18yrs+ (ideally 18-35yrs) and enjoy nurturing fun & faith with youth 13-17yrs? Please contact our Local Safeguarding Representative Carmela to explore joining our 2024 fortnightly Friday night roster during school terms. lsr.chermsidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

Young Adult Events

RECLAIM, a monthly YA formation talk held on **5 December** at Emmanuel City Mission. A Christmas-themed free event.

The Saint Francis Social Christmas Dance will also be held on **9 December** at Bowen Hills Parish. This is the last dance of the year. The social is inspired by the Catholic parish dances held around Brisbane during the 1950s – 1970s, and all proceeds from the night are donated to local Catholic Charities. This is the Facebook event for the Saint Francis Social: <https://www.facebook.com/events/343348011537653>.

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The RCIA team is looking forward to assisting people who may wish to become part of our Catholic community. These could be people with no previous religious commitment, ones who have been members of another Christian or non-Christian tradition or former Catholics who have been separated for some time. Please contact the Parish Office on 3359 0239 or email chermsidewest@bne.catholic.net.au.

Centacare Pastoral Ministries Volunteer EOI

"Expressions of interest are welcomed for those willing to provide pastoral and spiritual care for people living with mental health challenges @ Centacare's Mental Health Hub in Fortitude Valley. If you would like to put your hand up for this ministry work (providing morning tea, companionship, prayer and mass support) alongside an existing team of pastoral carers and have Wednesday morning availability (each week), please contact Judy Norris (Director – Pastoral Ministries) on Ph 3324 3193 for more information."

Our Lady of the Angels' Parish

Warmly welcomes new members through Baptism

Molly Pedler

Isla Worth

Flynn, Bronte & Phoebe Shanahan

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday mornings at 10:00am alternately at St Gerards' and St Paschals'. Bookings to be arranged in person at the Parish Office **Monday - Friday between 9am - 3pm.**

Please check the Parish website for documentation required when making a booking.

Baptism preparation sessions will be held on the 1st Sunday of the month at St Paschal's Church following a Welcome Mass at 9:30 a.m. During mass the family will be presented with their child(ren)'s Baptismal candle to keep for the day of their baptism.

Stewardship

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

(Accessed on November 28, 2023 from www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-biblereflections)

Mass Changes

From this weekend, 3rd & 4th December, some changes will be introduced during the Mass.

1. The Readers and Ministers of Communion will gather at the door and enter the church in the entrance procession.
2. The first collection will be taken up after the homily (instead of before the first reading). The second collection will be in its usual position after the Prayers of the Faithful.
3. Music will cease when the distribution of communion has finished so that there is a period of silence for private reflection and prayer.
4. Distribution of the Holy Blood will re-commence for those who wish to receive it.

- a) Note that the only accepted way for Catholics to receive the Holy Blood is by sharing the cup. **Dipping the host in the wine (intinction) is not approved.**
- b) Please do not receive the Holy Blood if you are unwell.
- c) To enable an efficient flow in the communion procession, the people in the "slanted" seats at St Gerard's will be asked to wait until communion has been received by those nearest the Sacred Heart Statue and then move in the opposite direction from usual ie towards the atrium and back by the aisle between the two sections of seating. An usher will direct.

Thank you for your help in implementing these changes.

Simbang Gabi 2023

A Filipino tradition of 9 day pre-Christmas celebration in joyful waiting and preparation for Jesus' birth in our hearts, will be on **15 to 23 December 2023** at **St. Joseph and St. Anthony's church, 30 Eldorado Street, Bracken Ridge**

Sunday to Friday 6:45pm-Rosary; 7:00pm-Carols; 7:30pm-Holy Mass

Saturday 7:15pm-Rosary; 7:30pm-Carols; 8:00pm-Holy Mass

For further info contact: Jima 0432374239

Advent Concert Series St Stephen's Cathedral December 2023



5pm Saturday 2nd
Advent Vespers
Cathedral Schola #

5pm Sunday 3rd
Dominic Perissinotto
(pipe organ) *

5pm Sunday 10th
Christopher Trikilis
(pipe organ) *

5pm Sunday 17th
(in the Chapel)
Susan Collins (violin) *

3pm Saturday 23rd
Christmas Carol Service #

Free Admission
* Ticketed Admission

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2023

Our Christmas tree at St Gerard's is now up, and as part of our Appeal which is ongoing, we ask for your continued support in donations of food and gifts for children (all ages) to be placed under the tree. Your gifts enable us to make up lovely Christmas Hampers, which are then delivered to our most needy families a week before Christmas. Please do not wrap the gifts you kindly donate. Each year there are usually over 40 hampers made up and distributed.

Thank you for your continued support. Your contributions will certainly make a big difference to our most vulnerable families this Christmas.

Book Order for 2024

Parishioners who ordered the books listed below, please pick up your copy from the parish office. Thank you.

Break open the Word 2024—\$25

2024 Daily Mass Book—\$25

God's Word 2024: Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary—\$20

God's Word 2024 will be available for purchase at St Gerard's anytime and will be available at St Paschal's next weekend 9/10 December.

Thomas More Centre presents

The Real Saint Nick

The Life and Legacy of St Nicholas the Wonderworker
A free talk by Dr Amelia Brown

Thursday, 21 December at 7:30pm (for a 6pm start)
Mary Immaculate Church Hall, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley QLD
Drinks and light fare provided.
Please RSVP at trlooking.com (NQD) for catering purposes.

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday 24th December 2023

4:30pm St Gerard's & St Paschal's

6:30pm St Gerard's & St Paschal's

Midnight St Gerard's

Monday 25th December 2023

8:00am St Gerard's

9:30am St Paschal's

There will be a pageant at the 4:30pm masses at both churches. Please put the name and parent contact details of any child who would like to be involved on the list at the church door or ring the parish office. We will be in contact with further details.

Penitential Rite

Wednesday	13 December	7:00pm	St Gerard's
Monday	18 December	7:00pm	St Paschal's

(Please note date change for St Paschal's)

CATHOLIC LEADER NEWS

From 2024 the print edition of the Catholic Leader will move to a subscription-only model. Once you have subscribed, the paper will be conveniently delivered to your door each month. Subscribe now to take advantage of the special offer and also to go into a weekly prize draw! Call us on (07) 3324 3555 or log onto <https://catholicleader.com.au/subscribe/>.

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WE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Judy Armstrong

Anniversaries: Please pray for Dr Thomas Lynch, John D'Silva, Therese Debelak and all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of Remembrance.

Sick: Please pray for Denise Watson, Amanda Whitfield, Pat O'Shea and all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of the Sick.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

10 December 2023 Second SUNDAY of ADVENT

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm: Psalm 84:9-14

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

Weekend	1st	2nd	Loose	TOTAL
26/11/23	\$465.00	\$711.50	\$2192.85	\$3369.35

All donations are greatly appreciated

Regular Parish Activities

1st Friday: Adoration after 9.00am Mass St Gerards

2nd Friday: Anointing Mass 9.00am St Gerards

Rosary : before Friday Mass (*but not during Lent*)
: after Friday Mass

What's on this Week: 4 —8 Dec 2023

Mon 4/12 Christian Meditation St P 5.45pm

OP-Shop OPEN

Phone No. 0493 755 642

Monday to Friday 9:30am to 1:30pm

First Saturday of the Month 8.00am to 12.00 noon

Piety Shop OPEN

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

Shortly before and after weekend masses



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Our Lady of the Angels' Parish



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Turrbal Peoples, who have walked this Country in ages past, who walk it now and will walk it in the future. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their profound connection and respect for the land and waterways of this Country. Spirit and Creator God, may you guide us in the traditions of this land as we walk gently and humbly, in kinship with all of creation.



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