

# 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 10th December 2023** **Second Sunday of Advent - Year B**

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

“Waiting and preparation” are two important Advent themes. The Church during the season of Advent does not call her children to engage in idle waiting or meaningless preparation but in the active dawning of the reign of God in our lives and amongst us. The readings we reflect upon during this season of Advent broaden our views and insist that we actively wait, prepare and anticipate the coming of the reign of God.

The use of the image of the wilderness is indicative of the fact that we will experience moments of discomfort before we can enter into the new experience of what God is doing in the here and now of our lives. We will need to strip ourselves of things which might be obstacles on our path to growth. In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah uses the metaphor of road construction to remind us of the things we need to let go from our lives. The Prophet was quite intense and serious. He wasn't just proposing minor repairs, such as filling of potholes or putting of new road markings. He was calling for serious transformation of the landscape of our lives as human beings.

In the gospel, John the Baptist takes on the message of transformation as he calls for a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John's message of transformation is quite direct as well: Repent! John challenges us to acknowledge and repent from our sins of anger and hatred and lack of a spirit of forgiveness which can perpetually keep us in bondage. As an Advent figure, John the Baptist comes not only to point to Jesus Christ as the Messiah but also to lead us to an intimate experience of the person of Jesus Christ. Like many of the Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist suffered martyrdom. He left the stage wearing the crown of martyrdom. John committed no criminal offence. His only 'offence' was the message he proclaimed. This message of truth and liberation hurt the authorities. If John the Baptist was alive today, he probably wouldn't have travelled far with the message he preached. He might well have been out of a job, accused of upsetting people's peace of mind and forcing them to take antidepressant pills. There are currently instances of young people being deprived of moral education because no one wants to invade their personal space or upset their way of life. There are Catholics who don't believe in the sacrament of reconciliation. We live in a time where sin has been trivialised. The truth is that when we airbrush sin as non-existent, we undermine the inexhaustible mercy of God available in the sacrament of reconciliation.

The waiting, and preparation which are characteristics of the Advent season are intended to help us break away from any form of lifestyle which might be irreconcilable with who we are as Christians. We cannot claim to be Christians and have nothing to show for it. We need to prepare the way for the Lord. Jesus Christ to come to free us from the bondage of sin and damnation. We must ready the road to our heart and soul for Christ. In some families, the connections linking parents to children, siblings to siblings have been blocked for years due to hatred or even anger.

The 'Gospel' is rightly referred to as 'good news' because it arouses hopes of wellbeing, health, peace of mind and heart, transformation of the whole person. People rejoice when they hear it. The Gospel is not 'good news' if it stirs nothing in us when we hear it. This is why in the second reading, from the second letter of Saint Peter, the Apostle Peter wrote: "since everything will be destroyed in this way, what



### PARISH PRIEST

FR John Echewodo

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### PARISH OFFICE

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Website: [www.olaparishchermside.org.au](http://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](mailto: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@stoline.com.au](mailto:AOB@stoline.com.au)



(Contd. from P1.) kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you wait and look forward for the day of God. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells," (2 Peter 3:11-13).

In our joyful waiting and expectation may righteousness (which is ultimately right relationship with our God and Father and right relationship with our fellow human beings) be at home in us and among us.

Wishing you all a blessed new week ahead.

**God bless you all, Fr. John**

**Congratulations** to Fr John Echewodo on the 13th anniversary of his ordination. Thank you for your selfless dedication, guidance and commitment to our parish community. We pray that God continues to bless you abundantly with good health, wisdom and unwavering faith as you continue to lead and guide us.

### Break and Enter

On Tuesday night (6/12) the Parish Office was broken into by criminals. The perpetrators caused some damage to property and regrettably valuables were taken. We are looking to enhance security to prevent such incidents in the future.

Queensland Police are currently investigating the incident and they will be in contact with the office with an update.

### Building Maintenance—St Paschal's

Parishioners can be advised that over the next two weeks there will be some building maintenance works on the front roof of St Paschal's Church.

### 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.

### 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**

**This weekend 9/10 December, God's Word 2024 will be available for purchase at St Paschal's.**

God's Word 2024 will be available for purchase at St Gerard's anytime.

### OLA Parish Social Media launch

We're excited to invite you to like and follow our new Parish, Youth and Young Adult Social Media accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

@Our Lady of the Angels Chermerside Catholic Parish

@OLA\_Chermersideparish

@OLA\_Chermersideyouth

@OLAYA\_Chermerside



## Our Lady of the Angels' Parish

Warmly welcomes new members through Baptism

*Amelia Berkholst*

*Caleb Pearson*

*Brandon Szabo*

*Matteo Gorza*

*Maxwell Schemkes*

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**"Prepare the way of the Lord...." - MARK 1:3**

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

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

## Mass Changes

There are some changes that have been introduced during the weekend 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



## St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2023

Our Christmas tree 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.

## Pageant Notice

Calling all children and young people who would like to be involved in the Children's Pageant at the **4.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Gerard's** on Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve).



A practice will be held and costumes provided at a workshop after Sunday morning Mass ie at 9am, on **Sunday 17 December**. All children who wish to participate will need to attend this practice.

## Op Shop NEWS

The Op shop will be closed on Thursday 21 December 2023 and re-opening on Monday 22 January 2024.

## Prayer for Peace

Loving God

We earnestly pray for peace and stability in Myanmar amidst the ongoing internal conflict.

Our hearts grieve for the children and families enduring displacement, fighting with hunger and poverty.

Hear the prayer of these children and families and respond with the support they desperately need. May your love and warmth reach those who are most in need.

In your mercy, grant peace and perseverance to the internally displaced children and families, providing them with the necessary resources for survival.

We pray for the restoration of community and an end to conflict, allowing children and families to feel secure once again.

Grant families the strength and perseverance they need as they travel through these challenging times.

May your guiding light lead them towards hope and a brighter future.

Amen.

Learn more about how you can partner with missionaries in Myanmar by visiting [catholicmission.org.au/myanmar](http://catholicmission.org.au/myanmar) or scanning the QR code.

 catholic mission  
Reach out. Give life.



## 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
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18 December</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>St Paschal's</b>

*(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:** Edward Meacham, Judy Armstrong

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

**Sick:** Please pray for a 3 yr old child very ill in hospital (name withheld), Amanda Whitfield, Pat O'Shea and all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of the Sick.

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**17 December 2023** Third SUNDAY of ADVENT

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Psalm: Luke 1:46-50

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

Weekend	1st	2nd	Loose	TOTAL
3/12/23	\$	\$	\$	<b>\$3220.25</b>

*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: 11 —15 Dec 2023**

Mon 11/12 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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## Bank Details

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**BSB:** 064 786

**A/C No:** 100000243

**A/C Name:**

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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John Andrew - 0401 343 727

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