

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 17th December 2023 **Third Sunday of Advent - Year B**

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called 'Gaudete Sunday', which means 'Rejoice Sunday.' In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah exclaimed among other things. 'I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels,' (Isaiah 61:10). Saint Paul in the second reading re-echoes the theme of joy and happiness when he writes, "brothers and sisters, rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus....May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it," (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24). In the gospel, the man sent from God, who lived a hermitical life in the desert, might not come across to us as a cheerful person, but in actual fact, John the Baptist was capable of rejoicing. In fact, his life was filled with joy and his joy was complete. His fullest joy and fulfilment came from being 'the friend of the Christ' and from being able to listen and hear the voice of Christ (John 3:29).



The season of Advent is not only about the anticipation or preparation for the birth of Christ and the second coming of Christ but also a celebration of the many ways Christ is present among us and with us. The experience of the presence of Christ fills the hearts of the faithful with joy, and should make us rejoice. Joy is one of the signs of a life of faith and an infallible sign of Christ's presence amongst us. 'The disciples rejoiced when they saw the lord,' (John 20:20). There might be times in our individual lives when we feel lost and alone - but we are never alone. Christ is always with us. On August 19, 2000, in his 15th World Youth Message in Rome, Pope Saint John Paul, while addressing young people from across the world, said among other things: 'it is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; Christ is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; Christ is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is Christ who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is Christ who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is Christ who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.'

The gospel this weekend opens with "there was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light," (John 1:6-9). John the Baptist was sent as a witness to the supreme person of Jesus Christ and how indispensable an intimate relationship is in every human person. Every Christian by virtue of baptism is called to be witness but sadly today there is little or no witnessing happening. We don't necessarily need to knock on doors or do letter box drops of our Christmas Mass times but we can witness by our life of joy.

(Contd. P2)

PARISH PRIEST

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Email: chermsidewest@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

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

(Contd. from P1.) Regardless of what life might be for us, let's always rejoice in the Lord and let our soul, heart, mind and whole being always be joyful in the God who brought us into life and who walks with us everyday on the journey of life.

Wishing you all a blessed new week ahead.

God bless you all,
Fr. John

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will close at 3pm on
Friday 22nd December and re-open on
Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 9am.

FRANCE—PARIS AND LOURDES 2024

with Fr Dan Ryan

Would you like to travel to France mid May to mid June next year with me on a French Saints Pilgrimage, with a possible extension to Rome.

I have organised a pilgrimage with Harvest Journeys to travel through France and visit the Places of Saints.

The trip will include Paris(2nights), Rouen, Liseux(2), Mont-Saint-Michael(2), Chartes, Nevers(1), Taize, Paray le Monial (2), Ars, La Salette(1), Avignon, Lourdes(3), Montserrat(1), and Barcelona(1), Optional Rome Extension(3)

If you would like more information, you can contact Harvest Journeys on 1800 819 156 or harvestjourneys.com/pv2445. If you contact Harvest Journeys mention my name and the pilgrimage is French Saints Pilgrimage. There are a few brochures at the back of the church.

Books for sale

- 2024 Daily Mass Book—\$25
- God's Word 2024: Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary—\$20
- With Expectant Hearts 2023 Year B—\$5.00
- Heart of the Disciple 22/23 Year A—\$2.00

This weekend 16/17 December, these books will be available for purchase at St Paschal's. Columban calendars and Christmas cards will also be available for purchase.

These books will be available for purchase at St Gerard's anytime.

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 or St Paschal's** on Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve).

Pageant Practice— St Gerard's

After Sunday morning Mass ie at 9am, on **Sunday 17 December**. All children who wish to participate will need to attend this practice.

Pageant Practice— St Paschal's

After Sunday morning Mass ie at 10.30am, on **Sunday 17 December**. All children who wish to participate will need to attend this practice.



Our Lady of the Angels' Parish

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.

Op Shop NEWS

The Op Shop will close on
Thursday 21 December 2023 and
re-open on **Monday 22 January 2024.**

Penitential Rite

Monday 18 December 7:00pm 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/>.**



St Gerard's Morning Teas

This Sunday 17/12 will be our last morning tea for 2023. Morning teas will resume on Sunday, January 14th 2024. A big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for your generosity and support to provide morning teas every Sunday. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas. *Anyone who would like to be added to the morning tea roster for 2024 please contact the parish office.*



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.

R C I A (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.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

St Paschal's Morning Teas



As 2023 draws to a close, we would like to sincerely thank all our volunteers who provide and serve our wonderful morning teas after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays. Special thanks to Jan Thiele who has volunteered since morning teas began, well over 30 years ago and will be unable to continue in 2024. Sabine is also unable to continue in 2024. Many thanks for all the extra things you have helped with.

To our youth group volunteers many thanks for your continued help, it is always much appreciated. Sunday 17th December will be our last morning tea for 2023. We will resume on Sunday 14th January.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas. Judith.

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.



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 Chermside Catholic Parish

@OLA_Chermsideparish

@OLA_Chermsideyouth

@OLAYA_Chermside



Introducing—Containers for Change



We're thrilled to introduce a meaningful way to contribute to our parish's growth while making a positive impact on the environment: **Containers for Change!**

We kindly ask parishioners to consider using the parish **Scheme ID C11176245** when lodging your return at the refund station.

Every container recycled through this program generates funds that will directly support our parish's activities, renovations, or community programs.

For more information and to find your closest return stations please visit their website:

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/>

C11176245



DONATE YOUR CONTAINERS

WE RECEIVE 10 CENTS FOR EACH

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

Stewardship

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

(Accessed on December 4, 2023 from www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-biblereflections)

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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 5:30pm (for a 6pm start)
Mary Immaculate Church Hall, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley QLD
Drinks and light fare provided.
Please RSVP at trybooking.com CNQ/5 for catering purposes.

WE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Veronica Whittington, Edward Meacham

Anniversaries: Please pray for Ben Cuevas, Tony King, 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

24 December 2023 Fourth SUNDAY of ADVENT

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalm: Psalm 88:2-5, 27, 29

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

Weekend	1st	2nd	Loose	TOTAL
10/12/23	\$402.20	\$ 643.00	\$2036.80	\$3082.00

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: 18 — 22 Dec 2023

Mon 18/12 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

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 www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com



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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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