

# 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 24th December 2023** **Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B**

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

Like most girls of her time, the Virgin Mary must have had plans and dreams of who she wanted to marry, and spend the rest of her life with, but the God of pleasant surprises had a different plan for her. Mary's perspective on marriage and family would have come from her mum and dad, **Joachim and Anne**. She must have wanted the same type of commitment that her parents shared. But all her plans and dreams changed because God had destined her to be an active player in the drama of the incarnation. Mary was just an ordinary young Galilean lady who found herself in the enviable position of being chosen by God to be the Mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ. When it became obvious to her that God's plan was different, Mary had no hesitation in agreeing. It was through faith, obedience, humility and of course with a sense of wonder and awe, that Mary cooperated with the divine plan as God moulded her into the new Eve.



In the gospel this weekend, as Luke presents this supplementary unit to the nativity stories of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25), and Jesus Christ (Luke 1:26-38), we read about Mary's initial silence and puzzlement. 'Mary was deeply disturbed by the angel's greeting and asked herself what this greeting could mean' (Luke 1:29). It took a bit of convincing from Angel Gabriel before Mary was ready to set out in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was already in her sixth month of pregnancy. Mary was spontaneously surprised by the immensity and beauty of her encounter with Angel Gabriel. She was overwhelmed with joy. It was a contagious joy which Mary couldn't contain. She responded by setting out in haste to share the good news with her cousin Elizabeth.

Like Mary, who responded quickly to share the good news with her cousin Elizabeth, how do we intend to celebrate this year's Christmas as we come to the end of the Advent season? Do we intend to celebrate alone or with others? Mary took the initiative to reach out to her cousin so that Elizabeth could share in what God has done for her. As Christians, we cannot sit and feel untouched by the agony and loneliness of the homeless, the elderly, the sick and all those who for one reason or the other cannot celebrate this joyful season. While Christmas is a joyful season for many; it is sadly very different for others. These might be people who are going through separation and divorce, those who have been ostracised from their family, or who are nursing the painful emotion of losing a dear one. The list can go on, but let's spare some thoughts for these people and keep them in our prayers, reaching out where we can. Joy shared is joy lived to the fullest.

In 1999, Saint Pope John Paul II during one of his Angelus messages said: 'Christmas is not simply the remembrance of the event that took place over 2000 years ago when, according to the Gospel, the power of God took on the

(Contd. P2)

### 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: chermsidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

**Dianne Trudgian**

Email: admin.chermsidewest@bne.catholic.net.au

### SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

**Larissa Skuce**

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

### LOCAL SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE & WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATOR

**Compliance Officer: Carmela Knauth**

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

Phone: 0493 655 502

### YOUTH COORDINATORS

**Alice Grogan & Antonio Cunha**

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

### RCIA COORDINATOR

**Carl Singson**

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### 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: 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.) frailty of a baby. It is rather a living reality that is repeated every year in the hearts of believers.'

It is my hope and prayer that the God, who found a dwelling place in the womb of the Virgin Mary, will find a dwelling place in our hearts so that we can make the celebration of this year's Christmas a living reality for ourselves and for all those around us.

Wishing everyone in Our Lady of the Angels Parish and School, a merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



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.

## Weekday Masses

There will be NO weekday masses on the 28th and 29th of December. During January 2024, there will only be one weekday mass on Fridays at St Gerard's. Normal weekday masses will re-commence on Monday 12th of February 2024.

## Meditation Group

Monday Meditation has finished for the year and will resume again in 2024 on Monday 8th January from 5.45pm.

## 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 Saturday 23 December, these books will be available for purchase at St Paschal's before and after 6.00pm Mass. Columban calendars and Christmas cards will also be available for purchase.**

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

## 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](http://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.

## 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 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.*

*To our Lady of the Angels' Parish*

*Wishing you a Joyful  
Christmas Season*

*Many blessings to you and your family  
as we remember and rejoice  
in our Savior's birth*

*Thank you for being such a wonderful Parish. It has  
been a great first year with you.*

*Merry Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year.*

*Fr John*



Dear fellow volunteers,

I am so grateful to all for being so understanding and compliant with Archdiocesan Safeguarding standards. Without your commitment to supporting the Safeguarding Accreditation Requirements for the Archdiocese the volunteer commitment process could not run as smoothly as it does: and without your loyalty and dedication our community would not be as unified as it is.

May the Christmas story shine on you and your families and fill your homes and hearts with love, peace, joy, and good health this Christmas and flow into the New Year.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Carmela Knauth – Local Safeguarding Representative

## Op Shop NEWS

The Op Shop is now closed  
and will re-open on  
**Monday 22 January 2024.**

## OLA Parish Social Media launch

**Follow OLA Parish on Social Media**

Please like, follow & support our Parish, Youth & Young Adult pages:

**Facebook:**

@Our Lady of the Angels Chermside Parish

@OLA Chermside Youth

@OLA Young Adults Chermside

**Instagram:**

@OLA\_Chermsideparish

@OLA\_Chermsideyouth

@OLAYA\_Chermside



## Blue Card News – November 2023

### Clarifying the Difference between Exemption Cards and Exemptions.

Exemption cards are a type of blue card that are only issued to Queensland police officers and teachers registered with the Queensland College of Teachers.

While police and teachers do not need an **exemption card** to undertake their regular duties as they are already screened by other government bodies, they do need to apply for an exemption card to engage in regulated activities outside their professional duties. For example, a police officer assisting with the Parish Sacramental Program or a teacher volunteering with Children's Liturgy Ministry.

While police officers and teachers are already screened for their regular employment, holding an **exemption card** means that they are also subject to continuous monitoring for relevant changes through the blue card system. This means that should a police officer or teacher have a change in their criminal history or disciplinary information that results in a change to their exemption card status, notification of this change is sent to their other linked organisations.

Child-related activities or services are regulated by the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (the Act), they need to hold a blue card, unless an exemption applies. Under the Act Exemption Cards and Exemptions are separate concepts.

#### Exemptions under the Act

Under the Act, there are specific exemptions from screening that can apply to certain individuals, meaning that they do not need to apply for, or hold, a Blue Card for activities or services that are otherwise regulated by the Act.

Some exemptions from screening include:

- Volunteers under the age of 18,
- Volunteer parents whose children are participating in the activities they provide themselves to other children, e.g., a parent who volunteers for a reading or art program at their child's school.

The Act allows other exemptions from Blue Card screening for:

- Ambulance Officers,
- Lawyers providing legal or advocacy services,
- Registered health practitioners,
- Employees under the *Corrective Services Act 2006*,
- People providing help or guidance to a child employee, i.e., work experience.

Understanding the difference is important to ensure compliance with the Blue Card System.

Carmela Knauth - LSR

## St. Vincent de Paul

**Thank you Thank you Thank you**

What a wonderful Christmas you have enabled us to pass on to our families in need. Your generosity with beautiful gifts of toys and food have enabled us to pack and deliver over 50 Christmas Hampers, adding a little joy, happiness and hope for families, and put a smile on the faces of their children.

On behalf of the Members of St. Gerard's and St Paschal's SVDP, a big THANK YOU, and we wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and God's blessings in 2024.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

C11176245



## 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.



## Stewardship

**"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" - Luke 1:28**

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

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

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## WE PRAY FOR

**Recently Deceased:** Nancy McCloud, Mario Barichello, Veronica Whittington

**Anniversaries:** Please pray for Thomas Wright, Kathleen Irwin, Ben Cuevas, Tony King, and all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of Remembrance.

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

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**31 December 2023** The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Psalm: Psalm 104:1-6, 8-9

2nd Reading: Hebrew 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

Weekend	1st	2nd	Loose	TOTAL
17/12/23	\$330.50	\$651.00	\$1917.55	<b>\$2899.05</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: 25 — 29 Dec 2023

Mon 25/12 Christmas Day Mass St Gerard's 8:00am  
St Paschal's 9:30am

## 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](mailto:AOB@stoline.com.au) [www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com](http://www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com)



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## Bank Details

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 064 786

A/C No: 100000243

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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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