



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 12TH & 13TH DECEMBER 2020, YEAR B



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE STAND. WE WALK ON A LAND ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE GADIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION, WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR OVER 30,000 YEARS.

MAY WE CONTINUE TO LOVE AND RESPECT THE LAND AS THEY HAVE.

Parish Details:

📍 213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040

☎ (02) 9569 2267

☎ (02) 9569 5381

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

🌐 www.stcolumba.org.au



www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/

Office Hours:

9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

All bulletin notices to be in by 12pm Wednesday

(Please email or leave under office door and write your message clearly).

Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Smith.....✉ pp@stcolumba.org.au

Parish Office Administrator

Marcia Droguett.....✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Nicola Connors.....✉ pa@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Council

Secretary.....✉ secretary@stcolumba.org.au

St Columba's School

Principal: Bernard Ryan.....☎ 9569 1270

**EVERYONE MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR MASS
USING THIS GOOGLE FORM**

<https://forms.gle/mcYGVy1r9mkrorBG6>

**OR PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT
HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, YOU WILL
STILL HAVE TO FILL OUT A FORM BEFORE MASS**

Sunday Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil.....5:00pm

Sunday.....8:00am

Sunday Family Mass.....10:00am

Weekday Services:

Friday: 9:15am

Reconciliation:

By appointment

Marriages:

By Appointment, please email Marcia, admin@stcolumba.org.au to arrange.

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving please speak to Fr Peter, pick up a form in the Church foyer or contact the office.



From Fr Peter's Desk....

COVID RESTRICTIONS:

In the past week, many COVID-19 restrictions have eased across NSW.

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, the recent changes do not allow us to increase the number of people who can attend Mass due to the configuration of the pews at St Columba's Church.

PLEASE BE AWARE: that NSW Police have been conducting spot checks on Parishes in Sydney.

It is imperative that we collect your contact data (for contact tracing purposes only). Failure to adhere to NSW Public Health Orders can result in fines against the Parish Priest and in serious cases, Churches can be shut down.

Only laminated flyers are allowed to be displayed, hence you will notice the foyer looks very empty. Please check with the Parish Office before adding anything to the notice board.

Again, we thank everyone who is pre-registering using the google form to attend Mass. It makes it easier to allocate seats and comply with our capacity of 38 and for wonderful volunteers who are Ushers at the door.

PLEASE REMEMBER: if you do not pre-register, you MUST FILL OUT HARD COPY FORM FOR CONTACT TRACING. If you do not fill out a form, you will **NOT** be able to enter the Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

ENTRY VIA QR CODE

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS.



For our Readers, Thank you for giving up your time to read at our Masses. Please find your new copies of 'Break Open the Word 2021' books in the sacristy for collection.

Live Masses can be found on

www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/



Fr Peter's weekly Podcasts of the Gospel are uploaded weekly onto our website and Face Book page.

<https://scln1.podbean.com/>

TODAY'S LITURGY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Philipians 4:4-5
Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

1ST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
I exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
My soul rejoices in my God.

2ND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
May you all be kept blameless,
spirit, souls and body, for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Isaiah 61:1
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28
The stands among you,
unknown to you, the one
who is coming after me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Isaiah 35:4
Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and go not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

USHER: checking phones, as people walk in through school gates.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: needed for both Masses

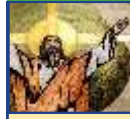
READER: only needed for Christmas Day Mass, Christmas Eve has
already been arranged

Please note:

*Names will be removed from the sick list
after 2 months, unless parish office is notified.*

We pray for all those who are sick, including:

Dan O'Brien, Sr Alice Sullivan rsj, Sharon Weetman,
Carmella Scarpellino, and all those at The Marion
Aged Care and Lewisham Nursing Home



*We remember and pray for all our deceased,
Relatives and Friends*

Recently Deceased: Bardiya McKinnon
Anniversary: Kathleen Foster, Ashley Pereira



USHERS, and EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS 24TH @ 6PM AND 25TH @ 9AM READERS NEEDED FOR THE 25TH.

We are in desperate need for volunteers. Please contact the
parish office or volunteer through google form when you
register for this weekends mass if you can help out with any
of these roles.

	Eve	Day
Usher	*	*
Minister	*	*
Reader	x	*

We also need a roster for these Masses over the holidays.

	26&27/12	2&3/1	9&10/1	16&17/1	23&24/1
Usher	*	*	*	*	*
Readers	*	*	*	*	*
Cleaners	*	*	*	*	*



During this uncertain time,
Clergy and faithful are
encouraged to download the
CovidSafe App and abide by the
latest public health advisories.

**The NSW Government has
recommended parishioners wear face
masks when attending religious
services as an additional safeguard to
help combat the spread of COVID-19.**

ST COLUMBA'S MASSES—COVID-19 SAFE

EVERYONE MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND MASS

Please use the following google form to register for the Mass
you would like to attend by **Wednesday evening each week.**

<https://forms.gle/AuxwBtUy5FaCqVNC6>

Every one needs to PRE REGISTER to attend Mass.

**You will need to complete a new google form every week or
a paper version upon entering the Church.**

We are only able to accommodate 38 people at St Columba's

If your Mass registration request was successful, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not
have access to the internet, please phone the Parish Office to register for Mass.

*** PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS If you or any member of your
house hold are unwell or exhibiting common symptoms of COVID-19.**

(fever 37.5 ° or higher, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell or loss of taste)

***PLEASE ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REGULATIONS WHILST ATTENDING MASS.**

***PLEASE SIT IN YOUR ALLOCATED PEW FOR THE DURATION OF MASS.**

ONE HOUSE HOLD PER PEW (HOUSEHOLDS MAY INCLUDE 1 PERSON, 2 PEOPLE OR FAMILY).

PLEASE VISIT SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE www.sydneycatholic.org AND NSW HEALTH
www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19 For up to date regulations regarding COVID-19



Social Justice - St Columba's

Looking back on 2020...

This is our final social justice column for the year. To say it's been the strangest of years is no overstatement. Our columns over the year have highlighted many issues, not least being the effects of COVID-19 and the government's response to it. It almost goes without saying that disasters of all kinds, the pandemic included, fall disproportionately on the poor and marginalised. So we've concentrated on the unfairness of JobKeeper, in that it was denied to so many – casual workers, temporary visa holders, people seeking asylum. We also pushed the campaign to increase the rate of JobSeeker.

The two main areas we've concentrated on of this year have been support for Jesuit Refugee Service in its work of looking after refugees and asylum seekers, and highlighting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues. These were included in every column of the year.

But there were many other issues that we wrote about from time to time. These included:

- Care for creation, especially around the time of the Season of Creation and the fifth anniversary of the release of *Laudato Si*.
- Homelessness and affordable housing
- Modern day slavery
- The prosecution of Bernard Collaery and Witness K.

As well as these issues, we tried to foster a sense of togetherness as a community in the face of the COVID restrictions in a series called "Let's Stay Connected". We also highlighted this year's Catholic Bishops' statement on mental health in Australia today. And naturally in such a year as this, there were many links to podcasts, webinars and zoom meetings about social justice issues.

I guess the basis of social justice is the observance of human rights. Where human rights are observed, there are no big social justice issues to be dealt with. And, of course, the converse is also true. We referred to human rights briefly in last week's Mass bulletin, and Keegan speaks about them again in this bulletin, in reference to Aboriginal issues. **Dignity, equality and mutual respect** – we do pretty well in Australia – but there remain some disturbing gaps that I hope we can all join in to change!

Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service

Thank you everyone, for your ongoing support.

- **December target: Toiletries** – shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap



- **January target: cans of chick peas and cans of tuna**

Please leave your donations in the basket in the Church Entrance or at the Parish Office.

To donate to **the JRS Australia's Emergency cash appeal**, please call 9356 3888 or email jrsreception@jrs.org.au.

For more information on JRS: <https://aus.jrs.net/>

Making masks for JRS

After Christmas we'll have some more ready-to-sew kits. Our design is simple (and effective). The masks are made up of 3 layers of rectangular fabric with ties attached. ie – only

straight seams to sew! Please contact Fay if you can help: fayhair11@gmail.com

Spotlight on Aboriginal issues and Universal Declaration of Human Rights

This past week saw the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly.

It was the atrocities of the Second World War that sparked worldwide motivation for some form of acknowledgement about the basic rights of a human being. It is interesting to note that Australia played an active role in developing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international treaties that followed.

Human rights recognise the inherent value of each person, regardless of background, where we live, what we look like, what we think or what we believe. They are based on principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect. (humanrights.gov.au). Many of these fundamental human rights are reflected in our laws, policies and programs.

However, many gaps remain. The absence of a national Human Rights Charter means that core human rights and freedoms may not be properly safeguarded at a federal level.

The gap is particularly concerning for marginalised vulnerable groups...

People from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage regularly face racial discrimination, disproportionate incarceration and a lack of access to basic human necessities - something that occurs more frequently in rural and regional Australian communities.

With the anniversary of this declaration, it is important to acknowledge that it doesn't miraculously enforce the basic human rights it sets out, but instead reminds us of what those rights are that we as a society must be sure to enforce.

Post Script: The Australian Human Rights Commission is currently undertaking an enquiry on the need for a national Human Rights Charter.

Merry Christmas everyone! We hope it's a time of love, peace and joy for you.

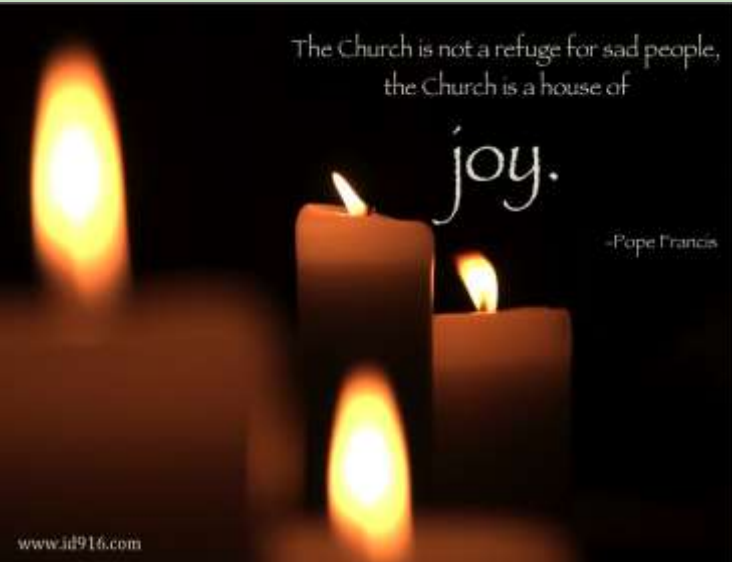


St Columba's Parish Council
Would like to wish the St Columba's a
very holy Christmas and happy new year



**Call out for Magazines & Books
for Men and Women**

We are in search of books and
magazines for men and women to
donate. If you can assist, please drop
off to the Parish office (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thurs-
days between 10am and 2pm) OR email and parish and
collection may be arranged. They not only want
things to read, but also for collage etc.
Thank you for your kindness.



**The St Vincent De Paul
Christmas appeal will be held
this weekend 6-7 December**

This year for convenience we have access to a EFTPOS
machine. To avoid crowding we will be available
before and after mass on the **6-7 Dec and 13-14 Dec.**
Envelopes if preferred will be available.
The conference once again thanks the community for
its generosity.
Gifts of \$2 or more to the social work of The Salvation
Army in Australia are tax deductible.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
CONTACT: SECRETARY@STCOLUMBA.ORG.AU

VISION STATEMENT

To witness to the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit,
to the eternal love of Christ; by building and sustaining
an open, welcoming and friendly community in which
people grow in their relationships with God, each
other and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council is to:

- welcome and embrace new parishioners;
- support and direct the work of the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate, and parish groups;
- support and encourage the people of St Columba's parish;
- provide vision and direction to the people of St Columba's parish;
- collaborate with the parish school;
- give members of our parish community a voice; and
- empower people to lead and make positive contributions to our parish and the wider community.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- see;
- judge;
- act; and
- review.

WE, AS A GROUP, ARE FUNDAMENTALLY COMMITTED TO:

- prayer and reflection;
- our shared Catholic faith;
- bringing Christ's love and grace to Leichhardt and the broader community;
- acting co-operatively as a group based on participation and consensus, not factions or parties; and
- facilitating the spiritual growth of all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL ARE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fr Peter Smith <i>Parish Priest</i> | David Hair |
| Bernard Ryan <i>Principal</i> | Jennifer Cheal |
| Nicola Connors <i>Family Ed.</i> | Therese Pacey |
| Renata Popovic-Tomac | Adrian Overs |
| <i>Chairperson</i> | Tino Mian |
| Vasile Tiano <i>Secretary</i> | |

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney
Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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.

PLEASE NOTE UPDATED CHRISTMAS EVE TIME



St Columba's Christmas Masses

ENTRY TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUND WILL BE VIA QR CODE

WE WILL HAVE SIGN IN FORMS FOR THOSE WITH OUT DATA ON THEIR MOBILE PHONES

Christmas Eve Vigil, Thursday 24th December @ 6pm

Christmas Day Mass, Friday 25th December @ 9am

Christmas Masses will be held on the school play ground.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Christmas Masses.

Everyone will enter via the school main gates and have your phone checked for QR Registration.

Please sanitize your hands upon entry. NSW government encourages the use of face masks and down loading the CovidSafeApp. Please remember you must adhere to social distancing of 1.5m between house holds.

Please bring your own picnic rugs, chairs etc.

Volunteers are needed for Christmas Masses, please contact the office if you can help!

Sunday 13th December 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, this Sunday is infused with hope and joy at the nearness of Jesus, who transforms us in grace to be a Christian people.

1. May Pope Francis, celebrating his 84th birthday next Thursday, receive the blessings of health of body, wisdom of mind and peace of heart. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. May we all be *constant in prayer* with a spirit of *thanksgiving*, be wrapped in the cloak of God's integrity, and open to the presence and influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. May the peoples of our world, still struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, be kept *safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body*. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. May people across the globe, struggling with political unrest, armed conflict, suppression of human rights, and the burden of famine be delivered from their present dangers and experience a new time of *integrity and praise*. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. May those from our families, parish and community *exult for joy in the Lord* in the heavenly home. We remember ... *Bardiya McKinnon, Kathleen Foster, Ashley Pereira* **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Father, may the heartfelt prayer of Mary be on our lips and in our hearts, rejoicing in you, our Saviour, experiencing your mercy from age to age, and living under your protection. Through Christ our Lord.