



# THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

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.



ST COLUMBA'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

## Parish Details:

📍 213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040

☎ (02) 9569 2267

☎ (02) 9569 5381

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

🌐 www.stcolumba.org.au

📺 FOLLOW US ON facebook [www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/](http://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/RpiaT2n3wrpbJWbQ7>**

**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....

*The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice which many of his contemporaries ignored. There are many lonely voices in our world. Somewhere at his moment a child is crying—crying for love or maybe simply for bread. Somewhere a young person is crying—crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart. Somewhere an old person is crying—crying for a visit or a word from his /her children. There are a thousand unheard cries in our world, coming from the victims of injustice and neglect. Lord, help us to listen to these voices. Above all, help us to listen to your voice, whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts, telling us that we are loved by you, and that we are to love another.*

**There is no registration available for 915am Mass on Friday 11th December, as the school will be celebrating its end of year Mass**



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/](http://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:** Cf. Isaiah 30:19, 30  
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord  
will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory  
of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**1ST READING:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Prepare the way for the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 84:9-14  
Lord, let us see your kindness,  
and grant us your salvation.

**2ND READING:** 2 Peter 3:8-14  
We wait for new heavens  
and a new earth.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Luke 3:4,6  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Mark 1:1-8  
Make straight the paths of the Lord

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Baruch 5:5, 4:36  
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the  
heights, and behold the joy which  
comes to you from God.

*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:** Darryl Waters  
**Anniversary:** Annie Kent (Queenie), Gerome  
Chetcuti, Elio Quardascione, Sr Roma Reed



As you know, one of the most significant changes, since  
resuming Masses is our ushers and \*cleaners at each  
weekend Mass. At the moment this is being done by the  
Pastoral Council and a couple of wonderful Volunteers.

**IF YOU ARE ABLE HELP WITH EITHER OF THESE  
ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE  
VIA EMAIL OR PHONE, THERE IS ALSO A SIGN UP  
SHEET IN FOYER.**

**\*\*Readers are always needed as well\*\***

(\*Cleaning is at the end of the Mass you have attended, wip-  
ing down pews and lectern approx 15mins)

We have proper weekly cleaners for the whole church.

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 recom-  
mended parishioners wear face masks  
when attending religious services as  
an additional safeguard to help com-  
bat 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/RpiaT2n3wrpbJWbQ7>**

**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 adhering to social distancing of 4m square.

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](http://www.sydneycatholic.org) AND NSW HEALTH  
[www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19) For up to date regulations regarding COVID-19



## Social Justice - St Columba's

### Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service



#### Gift vouchers for Christmas ....

Would you like to help make Christmas a little brighter for refugee families this year? This year, JRS is collecting gift vouchers to enable families to buy their children presents. Maybe you are in a position to help? Gift cards of \$20 or \$50 from the Coles group, Myer or Westfield are the most helpful.

Please leave in an envelope in the JRS basket, or with Marcia in the Office by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks!



**December target: Toiletries – shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap.** 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](mailto:jrsreception@jrs.org.au)**

*Thank you everyone, for your ongoing support.*

### Making masks for JRS

We've done it! **We made the first 200 masks** and this coming Wednesday we're taking them out. Thank you for all your support in this.

We'll have more ready to sew kits after Christmas.



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](mailto:fayhair11@gmail.com)

### Coming up:

#### Thursday, December 10 is International Human Rights Day.

On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the United Nations.

For me, obvious human rights relate to refugees and people seeking asylum, to people with disabilities, and to indigenous peoples. But there are many other, less evident, human rights. Last year's Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops, the one about "Genuine Human Encounter in our Digital World", had an interesting take on what could, and maybe should, be considered a newly evolved right - digital inclusion. If, like me, you've ever struggled to deal online with government departments, you'll have



As the bishops say: *"It is clear that social divisions are being replicated online. More worryingly, as essential services continue to shift online, digital inclusion becomes mandatory for basic participation in society. It should therefore be considered a human right. This is important in the context of e-government, where the welfare of the most vulnerable is at stake".* In this situation think the injustice of Robodebt, think home schooling in the COVID-19 crisis where the home does not possess even a basic computer, and so much more.

### Spotlight on Aboriginal issues: Sir Douglas Nicholls

#### Food for Thought

On December 1 1976 Sir Douglas Nicholls was appointed Governor of South Australia. He was the first Aboriginal Australian to be appointed to a vice-regal role within the country.

Aboriginal Victoria, a Victorian State Government Agency, speaks in depth about the person Sir Nicholls was and the contributions he made to Australian society over his many years of public life.

*"The achievements of Sir Douglas Nicholls are many and varied, taking in the fields of sport, politics and social justice. He broke new ground – as the first Indigenous Australian to receive a knighthood in 1972, and the first to be appointed to vice-regal office, when he became Governor of South Australia in 1976... He never shied away from exposing the realities of prejudice and inequality. By the end of his life in 1988, Sir Doug was credited with helping to return a sense of pride and hope to people who had lost both. That he enacted real change for the better is unquestionable and a statue in Parliament Gardens in Melbourne attests to his status as one of Australia's truly influential figures of the 20th century".*

If you would like to read more, please visit <https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/sir-douglas-nicholls-kcvo-obe-jp>

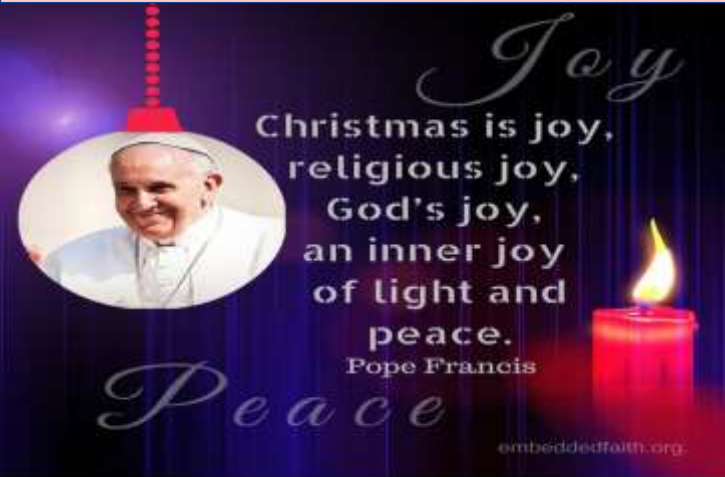
All this year I've been reading "A Daily Cuppa with Mary and Julian" by Sue and Leo Kane. It's a series of daily reflections based on the sayings of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. I thought their reflection for last Tuesday was particularly appropriate from a social justice viewpoint:

*"We welcome Advent, with its theme of expectation, of longing for God's coming amongst us. The question is, "Will God come in our hearts and hands in this season?" How else will the work of compassion and kindness, of justice and peace continue? In the darkness of our world, it is we who have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, to be peacemakers."*



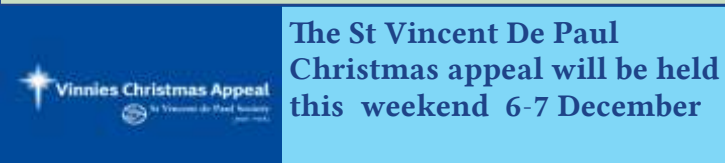


St Columba's Parish Council  
Would like to wish the St Columba's a  
very holy Christmas and happy new year



The Charitable Works Fund (CWF)  
November Appeal envelopes will

be available in the foyer till Early December. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our local Aboriginal community, as well as single mothers facing homelessness, people struggling with mental health issues and many others. Special envelopes are available in the foyer of the Church and can be placed in the donation box. Alternatively, you can learn more and donate securely at [www.ourfaithourworks.org/](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/)



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.

### 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](mailto: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.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CONTACT: [SECRETARY@STCOLUMBA.ORG.AU](mailto: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 *Parish Priest*  
Bernard Ryan *Principal*  
Nicola Connors *Family Ed.*  
Renata Popovic-Tomac  
*Chairperson*  
Vasile Tiano *Secretary*

David Hair  
Jennifer Cheal  
Therese Pacey  
Adrian Overs  
Tino Mian



### *St Columba's Christmas Masses*

*\*\*We will have more information in the coming weeks\*\**

*As restrictions have eased for out door gatherings,  
we can confirm\* at this stage:*

*Christmas Eve Vigil, Thursday 24th December @ 7pm*

*Christmas Day Mass, Friday 25th December @ 9am*

*Christmas Masses will be held on  
the school play ground.*

*\*This will change and be communicated if restrictions  
change again closer to the 25th December 2020*



**ST COLUMBA'S**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

## RE: St Columba's Christmas Eve – Nativity Play

3/12/2020

Dear Families,

Every year St Columba's Parish celebrates a special Family Mass on Christmas Eve.

As with most events in 2020, this year's celebration on Christmas Eve will be different from previous years.

St Columba's Parish would like to proceed with preparing a COVID Safe Nativity Play, which is a special part of the Family Mass at Christmas Eve Mass.

This year, we will have children read prayers and dramatise the events of the Nativity. Children who wish to volunteer for these responsibilities will need to attend some after school rehearsals. The dates are listed on the attached permission slip.

If your child/ren would like to be part of the Nativity Play, please fill in the attached permission slip to the school or parish office no later than **Tuesday 8 December 2020**.

We also invite all the children who attend the Christmas Mass to dress up as an angel or a shepherd. During the Nativity Play, all the children who dress up will be able to participate in the telling of the story.

Thank you for your support.

Warm regards,

Nicola Connors (Pastoral Associate)



**St Columba's Family Mass – Christmas Eve (Thursday 24 December 2020 at 5 pm)**

**Please return this form by Tuesday 8 December 2020.**

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select a role that you or your child/ren would like to be involved in:

Name: _____ Grade: _____	Name: _____ Grade: _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Performing in the Nativity play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Performing in the Nativity play</li> </ul>

NB: Children involved in the Nativity Play, there will be 2 compulsory rehearsals on Thursday 10 December at 3:30 pm and Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 3:30 pm (The final run-through will be before the Christmas Eve Mass at 4:15 pm)

It is very important that your child attends the rehearsals so that the play runs smoothly.



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,  
we have heard those words from St Mark: *The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* The truth of those words makes us confident in our Advent prayer.

1. That the life of every Christian will be rooted in the truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and so give vitality and hope to this Time of Advent.  
**Lord, hear us. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayers.**
  
2. That leaders in the Church, lay and clerical, will have that humility of St John the Baptist, to kneel before the poor and distressed, serving Jesus in them. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayers.**
  
3. That all who are distressed through the Covid 19 Pandemic, and by war and famine, by religious persecution and being on death row around the world, will receive that consolation which comes from the Heart of Jesus.  
**Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayers.**
  
4. That children will be safe and happy, secure with food, shelter and education, and surrounded by love, as we mark this St Nicholas' Day, the patron of children. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayers.**
  
5. That the dead will enter *the place where righteousness will be their eternal home.* We remember *Darryl Waters, Annie Kent, Gerome Chetcuti, Elio Quardascione, Sr Roma Reed.* **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayers.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,  
in you *mercy and faithfulness have met,*  
*justice and peace have embraced;*  
may peace be your blessing for all people  
through Christ our Lord.