

St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish.

The First Sunday of Advent

27 / 28 November 2020

Year C

WELCOME BACK TO YOUR
SPIRITUAL HOME!

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

*Kevin Cannon (brother of Don), Frank Humphries (husband of Kay), Aileen McDonnell,
Jonah Iona (husband of Michelle), Valerie Joan Tye, David Morrison, Giuseppe Sellaro,
Rodney McGovern, Raymond Ragoo Govindon, Jack Carey, Helen Dobson, Dominic Berinati,
Norma Estrada, Miriam Mitchell, The Holy Souls.*

We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

*Judith Canterbury, Kevin Henry Cashman, Val Cobcroft, Ken Connolly, Roy & Mary Esplin,
Bill Godfrey, Rev. Father William Hannon, Anna & Joe Natoli,
John Vincent Sidgreaves, The Holy Souls.*

We pray for all the sick of our Parish Community and their carers.

*Especially: Gerry Banister, Leoni Bashall, Jean Bell, Pamela Buckley, Val & Hugh
Casey, Valerie Cobcroft, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Carmel Farnham,
Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Maree Hinton,
Gloria Klein, Aileen & Larry McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach,
Marié Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Marie & Norm
Whittaker, Gary Wood*

*This current SICK List of names will end this week-end. If you wish for a
loved one to be mentioned, please contact the Parish Office.*


From Fr. Greg:

Dear Parishioners, May I wish you all a very Happy Parish Feast Day! This Sunday, the 28th November, is the Feast of St Catherine Labouré. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful and inspiring patroness to intercede for us. Coincidentally, I made a pilgrimage to pray at her tomb in Paris shortly before returning to Australia from doctoral studies in England. I remember being impressed by the number of people who were simply in the Church praying throughout the day. I also remember time passing so quickly there. I think my friend and I spent several hours in the Church but both of us said afterwards that it only felt like a matter of minutes!



St Catherine Labouré is well known for being the instrument through which Our Lady brought about the devotion to the Miraculous Medal. It is worth reading up on the story that gave rise to this powerful devotion. Until the end of her life, no one knew (with the exception of her confessor who advocated for the production and promotion of this medal to the bishop) that she was the one who had received the inspiration for this great initiative from our Blessed Mother. By then, the devotion had spread throughout the world and many favours/graces had been granted – a powerful sign of the devotion's divine origins and authenticity. Her body, as you probably know, remains incorrupt; even many years after her death. Another sign of her true sanctity.

Today is also the First Sunday of Advent. Throughout this holy season of preparation, there are a variety of events in our parish and various opportunities for us to grow spiritually. Most importantly, can I encourage everyone to avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation – this is the BEST way to prepare for Jesus' coming; especially if we have been away from the sacrament for some time. My prayers for you all. Fr Greg



ADVENT VIRTUE #1
HOPE
Fr Greg Morgan

*Why the Greatest Signs of Hope Happen in Silence:
The Incarnation and the Eucharist*

An instructional account of the ancient signs
and symbols of the Mass

Talk
Questions
Discussion
Prayer

7pm
Wednesday
1 December

MIRACULOUS MEDALS: Are available at the back of the Church. They have been blessed already. Please take one home with you today and perhaps given one to a lapsed Catholic or agnostic friend. In the words of another great saint, Maximillian Kolbe: "Even though a person be the worst sort, if only he/she agrees to wear the medal, give it to him/her...and then pray for him/her, and at the proper moment strive to bring him closer to his Immaculate Mother, so that he/she have recourse to her in all difficulties and temptations." My gratitude to the generous benefactor who provided these medals.

ADVENT ALMSGIVING: Last Thursday, I was delighted to host the first meeting of the Committee for Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Currently, the committee comprises of around ten parishioners who have each expressed a desire to take a lead in this important area. (I will have more to say about this over the coming weeks.) It was decided that during the next three Weekends of Advent, there will be three different appeals for three different charitable projects. It is entirely up to you whether you choose to support one or all three of these worthwhile causes. Instead of buying something new for ourselves or just giving away old things, we might consider how we could give the cost of one new gift to one of these causes as part of our Advent preparations.

Second Sunday of Advent: St Vincent De Paul Appeal. Christmas can be a very lonely and desperate time for many Australians. This Christmas, St Vincent de Paul will help over a half a million people in need of assistance and companionship. Please support this year's Christmas Appeal. Our Gymea conference members will be collecting outside the church after each Mass. Eftpos facilities will be available. **"Go to the Poor and you will find God" St Vincent de Paul.** Thank you, Frank Tierney, President Gymea Conference.

Third Sunday of Advent: Fijian Chaplaincy. I have invited the Fijian Chaplaincy choir to sing at the Vigil Mass. (I believe they have wonderful voices.) I have asked them to nominate a charitable cause we can support for the poor back home in Fiji.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: East Timor. The Consular-General of East Timor here in Australia is coming to visit our parish this week. He has asked us to consider supporting a project for the people in East Timor. It is a country I have visited and certainly is one of the poorest, but most faith-filled, places I have visited. Further details will be provided over the coming weeks. Thank you so much for your generosity of spirit!

MASS/DEVOTIONSCHEDULE: Please take note of our Mass schedule and inform your family and friends.

Mondays: 9:15 am Mass

Tuesdays: 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration
9:15 am Mass

Wednesdays: 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration
9:15 am Mass

Thursdays: 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration
9:15 am Mass

Fridays: 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration
9:15 am Mass

Saturdays: 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration
9:15am Mass



Saturday Vigil: 5 pm Mass Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 5:00 pm

CONFESSIONS: will be available before and after every Weekday Mass (including Saturdays). Just approach me. On Saturdays, I will be in the confessional immediately following the 9:15am Mass for as long as necessary and from 4:30 – 4:55 pm. Extra hours of confessions will be announced next week.

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: In light of our daily Adoration, Benediction will take place henceforth *every* Friday and Saturday immediately prior to the 9.15am Mass.

PARISH FINANCES: I fully intend to publish our balance sheet for the last financial year once audited. The parish will be audited on the 30th November. My gratitude to Kerry and the finance committee for their hard work on this score.

CONGRATULATIONS: Mike and Dianne Batty celebrated 50 years of marriage in September. A wonderful vocational witness! Fr Greg will present them with a Papal Blessing at the 5:00pm Vigil Mass this Weekend. Congratulations to them! (Please let Fr Greg know if you are celebrating a special vocational milestone so that he can arrange a special blessing for you.)

ADVENT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Things become very busy in the lead up to Christmas such that we can quickly forget the 'reason for the season'. I would like to host a "holy week" where adoration of the blessed sacrament will run from **8:30am-8:00pm** from **Friday 17th-Friday 24th December**. A sign up sheet will be put at the back closer to the time for people to nominate an hour to spend with Our Lord in quiet prayer. When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, Church law requires two people to be present at all times. A praying parish is (will become) a thriving parish.

“ADVENT VIRTUES” (CATECHESIS TALKS): During the four weeks of advent, Fr Greg will give a talk on a different topic of faith and morals; contrasting the true immaterial virtues of Christmas with the false materialism that is often upheld in pop culture. A great way to reflect more deeply upon and prepare for Christmas. The talks will be held on a Wednesday night from 7pm in the Church and there will be an opportunity for questions, discussion, and, hopefully, a little prayer too!

Wednesday 1st December: Advent Virtue Hope. *Why the Greatest Signs of Hope Happen in Silence: The Incarnation and the Eucharist* (An instructional account of the ancient signs and symbols of the Mass.)

Wednesday 8th December: Advent Virtue. Peace. *From New Life to a Peaceful Death: The Myth of Euthanasia* (An exploration of the reasons as to why Catholics oppose euthanasia.)

Wednesday 15th December: Advent Virtue. Joy. *Why it is Great to be Catholic! Rediscovering Truth and Mercy in a Fallen World* (Followed by wine and snacks in the Church forecourt.)

Wednesday 22nd December: Advent Virtue. Love. *Grill a Priest (Lovingly...): A QandA with Fr Greg about Anything and Everything* (An opportunity for people to ask ANY question(s) about the faith.)

Please invite your family and friends to attend. A good way to introduce them to the “faith and reason” that is the Catholic faith!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Christmas this year falls on a Saturday. Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation (like every Sunday). Mass Times will be as follows: Friday 24th December (Vigil): **5pm, 8pm, 12:00am (Midnight)**

Saturday 25th December: **8:30am and 10:30am**

There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day/no Saturday Vigil.

Whilst I can imagine some might hesitate, we are also *obliged* to attend Mass on Sunday, Feast of the Holy Family. A good Christmas present to Jesus is to keep our commitment to Sunday Mass! I promise, the Homily will be three minutes tops! You can time me...Mass times on Sunday 26th December will be: **7:30am, 9:30am, and 5pm ! See you there!!**

NEW YEARS EVE MASS: Start the year on a spiritual high. On the 31st December, join me for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11pm to 11:45pm followed by Benediction. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will then be celebrated at Midnight. Mass will also be celebrated on New Years Day at **12pm Noon** (not 9.15am). What better way is there to bring in the New Year of Grace, 2022, than with Our Lord!

PASTORAL COUNCIL: After consultation with current and former members, I have decided to dissolve the current Pastoral Council and reconstitute it with members of each of the parish groups. The exception to this are those I have spoken to who have expressed a desire to continue to serve on this committee. **I plan to have our first meeting early next year.**

COVID RESTRICTIONS: We can now have 250 in the Church (though 200 at each Mass would be ideal), and singing is permitted. Masks must still be worn. Please remember to sign in. On the 15th December, all restrictions will be lifted – just in time for Christmas! However, everyone will need to continue to sign in.

SUPPORTING REFUGEES: I am currently liaising with Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection about supporting refugees arriving from Afghanistan. I have offered to assist to drive them to English classes etc. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know. The parish owns a “Community Car” for such purposes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The parish is in need of some parishioners to step forward to help with the running of the **audio-visual** slides at Mass. It is very easy (even for the technophobes like me). We would warmly welcome anyone interested in assisting with **reading/serving/acolyting** at Mass. It would also be wonderful to re-energise the Altar Society – the lovely ladies who look after the flowers and keep the sacristy in fine order. We are also looking for anyone who might be able to assist with the **care of our gardens**. All are welcome to chat with Fr Greg if they are open to getting involved. I am delighted with the number of people who have already come forward, but I would love for everyone to be involved.0

LEGION OF MARY: Meets every Thursday morning at 10am (in the parish conference room). **New members always welcome!**

IWITNESS CONFERENCE: A conference started by young Catholics for young Catholics, Friday 10th December to Sunday 12th December at Stanwell tops. The event draws hundreds of young Catholics together for prayer, fun, and formation. Fr Greg will be giving a talk titled: "Rebuilding a Catholic Culture in a Metamodern World: Sex, Money, & Politics." This is an excellent event to encourage young(er) (lapsed) Catholics to attend. A few tickets left!

CATECHIST CORNER: My gratitude to our wonderful unsung heroes that are our parish catechists who teach Scripture to children in our State Schools. Thank you for all that you do to spread the faith! We are, however, in desperate need of some new catechists/heroes to come forward. Please have a think about this and be brave! Training will be provided. For more information, please contact the parish office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: It was wonderful to welcome the conference back for their first face-to-face meeting post-Covid and to hear about all the wonderful work they are doing to serve the poor and those struggling in our community. If anyone is interested in getting more involved in the wonderful work that our local Conference does, please contact the parish office for details. Please also give generously to the blue poor box at the back of the Church.

MEDJUGORE PRAYER GROUP: Did you know we have a wonderful group of faith-filled parishioners who gather each Thursday evening at 6pm in our church to say the rosary and some special prayers? Why not join them? Everyone is welcome!

FACEBOOK PAGE: Remember to like our Facebook Page! I am very grateful to one of our younger parishioners who is running this now.

COLUMBAN ART CALENDERS 2022: Are now available at the back of the Church. Please place \$10 in the assigned box. A lovely Christmas gift too.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY: The Catholic Weekly has been around for a long time and, I have to say, I think it has really improved in quality and substance. I would like to think that *every* family will take home a copy and have a read of some of the very fine articles. It is vital that we resource ourselves with good information in order to defend our faith in public life. As I mentioned last week, I have already doubled the order to 20 copies. These all sold out in one Mass. For this reason, I am now doubling the order to 40 copies! I would hope that a medium-sized parish like ours would eventually be able to distribute over 100 per week! The cost is \$2. Please find your copy on the table at the back of the Church.

WATCH YOUR PROPERTY: Very sadly, a parishioner had her purse interfered with and certain of her credit cards taken at the evening Mass last Sunday. We also found that one of our collection boxes was “unusually” empty of cash-notes after the same Mass. (Our collection was down quite considerably last week.) After the 15th December, once restrictions ease, we will return to the usual methods for the parish collections. Until such time, please be vigilant. More generally speaking, please also keep an eye on your own property.

CHURCH DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS: I would like to meet next Saturday morning at 10:15am with all the current members of the Altar Society to plan about decorating the Church with fresh flowers for Christmas. During Advent, flowers are discouraged from use.

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Priest: Fr Gregory Morgan
Presbytery: 123 GyMEA Bay Rd GyMEA
Secretary: Kerry Ginman
Office Hours: 8:30 am - 12 noon & 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Monday to Thursday
 Friday: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm then closed.
Office Telephone: 9525.1138
Email: office@stcaths.org.au

Website: <https://www.stcaths.org.au>
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/St-Catherine-Labour%C3%A9-Parish-GyMEA-108678858244000/>

Pastoral Council:
Email: pastoralcouncil@stcaths.org.au
Parish Safeguarding Officer:
 Kerry
Email: safeguarding@stcaths.org.au

Archdiocese Website and links:
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org>

Sacramental Programme:

Vicki
E: sacramentalprogramme@stcaths.org.au

Catechist Coordinator:

Elena
E: catechists@stcaths.org.au

GyMEA Music/Choirs - Clare (Coordinator)

E: musicgyMEA@stcaths.org.au

Legion of Mary - Mike (President)

E: legionofmarygyMEA@stcaths.org.au

Medjugore Prayer Group - Bruno

E: medumedjugorjepraye-group@stcaths.org.au

St Catherine's Friendship Club:

E: friendshipclub@stcaths.org.au

St Catherine Labouré Parish School:

Principal: Jodie McKay

School Office: 9524.9706

E: info@sclgyMEA.catholic.edu.au

Website <https://www.sclgyMEA.catholic.edu.au>

4/5 December 2021: The Second Sunday of Advent

	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5.00pm
ACOLYTES AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:	David Gormley Margaret Reid Matthew Delasey	Sam Keir Paul Marsden Doreen Vernon	Kevin Bourke Barbara Foster Peter Cobcroft Carole Venier	Graham Ward Cathy Bonello
1ST READER: PSALMIST: 2ND READER: INTERCESSIONS:	Margaret Reid Lesley Newman Maureen Pocock	James Clancy Doreen Vernon Adele Greenaway	Michele Anthony Barbara Foster Carole Venier	Jed Loader Maira Loader Graham Ward Faye Reardon

AUDIO - Mark/ Pauline
VISUAL OPERATORS:

Hugh/Faye
SENIOR CHOIR

THE ALTAR SOCIETY: Group 1: Maureen Huckstep, Jacqueline Parker, Jeanette Brennan & Maria Black.

IN THE COUNTING HOUSE: NOT RETURNING UNTIL SUNDAY, 2 JANUARY 2022

THE CLEAN TEAM: Group A: Mary Vee Tondi, June Digby, Hazel & Larry Lange.