



St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish.

The Second Sunday of Advent

4/5 December 2021

Year C

WELCOME BACK TO YOUR  
SPIRITUAL HOME!

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

*Kevin Cannon, Kevin Fennell ( Gymea legion Of Mary), 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, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Carmel Farnham, Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Maree Hinton, Gloria Klein, Doug Maybon, Evie Morgan, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Marie 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.**

**Dear Parishioners,** I was pleasantly surprised to see such a large turn out for the first Advent talk, titled, 'Why the Greatest Signs of Hope Happen in Silence'. As I said before, I want our parish to be a place of real formation in the intellectual richness, beauty, and joy that is our Catholic faith. After last Wednesday, I'm even thinking of putting on a series of philosophy lectures next year or even starting a Thomas Aquinas reading group. For now, you are all warmly invited to attend the next talk, which is on the topical issue of Euthanasia. Finally, as there is little space left, I am in the process of developing a larger bulletin in conversation with one or two other parishioners. The current bulletin does not provide enough space to list current events, let alone a little missive from the Parish Priest! Please bare with me... I know some of you struggle to read the relatively small writing. God bless!

**FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Further to the advice in recent bulletins, the Audit of the Parish Finances for the 2020/21 financial year is in progress and should be completed within the next month. On the further advice of the Parish Finance Committee and in response to some questions, the Parish Finance Committee would like to provide a brief update. At the conclusion of the 2020/21 financial year, the Parish had a net surplus of \$264,000. About \$200,000 of this was then used to pay down one of the loans for a residential property. This reflects an operating surplus which is a positive result considering weekly giving is significantly down because of Covid-19. Fr Greg would like to thank you, the parishioners, for your ongoing support of the Parish. Fr Greg would like to reaffirm his personal commitment to you all to be transparent and accountable in all things, especially in the administration of the parish finances.

Unfortunately, however, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Mr Chris Meney, contacted the Parish this week and has recommended that the Parish Finance Committee now advise you, the parishioners, of the following: Due to certain procedural and administrative oversights in the past, the Parish must now rectify some important matters. One of the most pressing matters being that the Parish now has an extraordinary expenditure of about \$250 thousand dollars in this current financial year. This includes the need to remediate and repair the installation of a solar cell system on the roofs of the Church, hall, and school. This defective system has also impacted on the roofs of the Church and presbytery requiring repairs to fix water ingress. A more detailed report will be issued once the audit is complete and published. Fr Greg anticipates that this will be early in 2022. A payment plan is currently being finalised by the Parish Finance Committee. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Fr Greg or one of the members of the Parish Finance Committee.

**ADVENT ALMSGIVING:** At the first meeting of the new Committee for the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, it was decided that over 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 (This Weekend). 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 Gynea conference members will be collecting outside the church after each



Mass. Eftpos facilities will be available. You can also donate by using the QR Code. "Go to the Poor and you will find God" St Vincent de Paul. New members of our Parish Conference are always welcome. Frank Tierney, Conference President.

**Third Sunday of Advent: Fijian Chaplaincy.** I have invited the Fijian Chaplaincy choir to sing at the Vigil Mass next Saturday at 5pm. (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. Details will be in the bulleting next week.

**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!

**HAVE YOUR SAY:** On 10th/11th December, next Weekend, please join Fr Greg after Mass to learn more about the parish's proposal for the future use of 10-12 Bonnie View Street. Parishioners are invited to review the plans, discuss the ideas proposed and leave feedback.

**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/BENEDICTION:** 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. Benediction will take place henceforth *every* Friday and Saturday immediately prior to the 9.15am Mass.

**ADVENT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** 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**. Sign up sheet are on the windows at the back of the Church. Please 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.

**PARISH PHONES:** It seems our parish phone line has been repeatedly disconnected due to some confusion between Telstra and the NBN installers. For the time being, please ring (02) 9525 9993. For emergency sick calls, please contact Fr Greg directly on his mobile: 04320 586 77. We apologise for the inconvenience .

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We welcome our recently confirmed children who are joining us specially at Mass this Weekend to receive their certificates. We also warmly welcome their parents, especially those who have been away from the regular practice of their faith. Please know you should feel very much at home here at St Cath’s and do not hesitate to reach out if you’re keen to get more involved. Congratulations again to the children!

**“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 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!

**ALTAR SOCIETY:** A meeting of all the members of the Altar Society is to take place next Saturday 11th December at 10:30am for morning tea. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the care of the flowers, candles, and liturgical vessels in our church, please let Fr Greg know. It would be great to welcome some new members.

**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. We would also 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.

ADVENT VIRTUE #2

**PEACE**

Fr Greg Morgan

*From New Life to a Peaceful Death:  
The Myth of Euthanasia*

An exploration of the reasons as to why Catholics  
oppose euthanasia

*Talk, questions,  
discussion and prayer*

7pm  
Wednesday  
8 December

@ St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church, Gympie

**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 re-source ourselves with good information in order to defend our faith in public life. The Parish has now quadrupled our 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.

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

**CATECHIST CORNER:** It was a real joy to celebrate and thank our unsung heroes, our parish catechists, who teach Scripture to children in our State Schools at a Christmas lunch last Friday. A special thank you to Elena and Vicki who have done a marvelous job in leading and supporting our catechesists throughout a very turbulent time. Thank you, once again, to our catechists 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. Please contact the parish office.





**PARISH DIRECTORY:**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Gregory Morgan  
**Presbytery:** 123 Gynea Bay Rd Gynea  
**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 9993  
**Email:** office@stcaths.org.au

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

**Gynea Music/Choirs - Clare (Coordinator)**

**E:** musicgynea@stcaths.org.au

**Legion of Mary - Mike (President)**

**E:** legionofmarygynea@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@sclgynea.catholic.edu.au

**Website** <https://www.sclgynea.catholic.edu.au>

**11/12 December 2021: The Third Sunday of Advent**

	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5.00pm
<b>ACOLYTES AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:</b>	David Gormley Emma Honey Cathy Bonello	Sam Keir Judith Rumsey Paul Marsden	Jim Gothard Michele Anthony Barbara Foster Peter Cobcroft	Graham Ward Margaret Reid Amelia Paras
<b>1ST READER:</b>	Emma Honey	Adele Greenaway	Carole Venier	Graham Ward
<b>PSALMIST:</b>		Doreen Vernon	Jim Gothard	
<b>2ND READER:</b>	Maureen Pocock	James Clancy	Jed Loader	Ronald Paras
<b>INTERCESSIONS:</b>	Lesley Newman	Judith Rumsey	Maira Loader	Margaret Reid

**AUDIO -** Mark/ Pauline

**VISUAL OPERATORS:**

Hugh/Faye and James

**SENIOR CHOIR**

**THE ALTAR SOCIETY:** Group 2: Doreen Vernon, Ava T Mahne & Aurora Hall

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

**THE CLEAN TEAM:** Group B: Paras Family