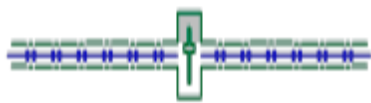


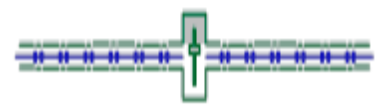
St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

18 / 19 December 2021



Welcome back to your
Spiritual Home!



ADVENT VIRTUE #4
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.

7pm
Wednesday
22 December



@ St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church, Gymea

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

Carmel Farnham, Baby Atticus, Leoni Bashall, Mary Fitzgerald, Geoffrey Jones, Elaine Matthews, Kevin Fennell, Kevin Cannon, Frank Humphries, Aileen McDonnell, Jonah Iona, Valerie Joan Tye, David Morrison, Giuseppe Sellaro, Rodney McGovern, Raymond Ragoo Govindon, Jack Carey, Helen Dobson, Dominic Berinati, Norma Estrada, Miriam Mitchell.

We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

Helen & Charles Bombala, Ivan Bosnjak, Thelma Gaye & Anthony Bloye, Bernadina Carlino, Kevin Henry Cashman, Peg Cockram, Glenn Michael Dorman, Roy & Mary Esplin, Thomas Ginman, Lurline & Lewis & Jack Grime, Father William Hannon, Lean Family, Brian Parker, Tom Richards, Silvano Venier, William 'Willy' Von Herzog, Deceased Members of the Friendship Club, The Holy Souls

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

Joseph Hansell, Catherine Bassiuoni, Gerry Banister, Jean Bell, Pamela Buckley, Hugh Casey, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Joseph Hansel, Maree Hinton, Gloria Klein, Laurence McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Evie Morgan, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Marie Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Marie & Norm Whittaker, Gary Wood.

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!!**

WEEKDAY MASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS:

Please be advised that Mass on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th will be at **12:00 noon** (not 9.15am). There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass on these days.

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!

FUNDRAISING FOR FIJI: Last week, as part of our "Advent Almsgiving" program, the parish raised funds to purchase new books for an impoverished school library in Naililili in the south west of Fiji. Nearly \$3,000 was raised and the funds have already been transferred to the Fijian Catholic Chaplaincy who will ensure the money goes directly for the said purpose. Thank you to you all for your *exceptional* generosity. Next year, we might explore the possibility of a book drive where people can donate children's books to help build up their library/libraries.

FUNERAL FOR CARMEL FARNHAM A former parishioner of this parish. Her funeral will be at St Pat's, Sutherland, on Tuesday at 10:30am.

ADVENT ADORATION: Our "holy week", where adoration of the blessed sacrament will run from **8:30 am-8:00 pm** from **Friday 17th – Friday 24th December**, has begun. I have been very impressed with the number of people who have been coming in and out of the Church to spend time with Our Lord. The sign up sheets to nominate a time are on the windows at the back of the Church. Please consider spending an hour with Our Lord in quiet prayer. There are still several hours that need to be filled by willing adorers. 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.

CONFESSION TIMES: Besides the usual confession times (before and after every Weekday Mass – just approach Fr Greg), I will make myself available for confessions at the following times this week in the lead up to Christmas: Wednesday 22nd between 6pm and 6:45pm and Thursday 23rd between 7 and 8 pm.

ADVENT CATECHESIS: "GRILL A PRIEST" Will take place this Wednesday night in the Church between 7 and 8pm. The final gathering will be a very informal QandA session about anything and everything to do with our faith. If there is a particular question or topic that interests you, please feel free to email the parish office (or Fr Greg directly) or to write a note and put it in the parish letterbox. Alternatively, you can send a message on Facebook or, **if you would like to remain anonymous**, you can upload a question via the following address: <https://forms.gle/ErquSWiRXF5tfbU48>. I would also like to acknowledge my gratitude to Laurence Klein who has been creating the various flyers to promote the talks. He is also doing a great job looking after our social media. Thank you, Laurence!

FUNDRAISING FOR TIMOR-LESTE The Consul-General of Timor-Leste has kindly asked that we dedicate our "Advent Almsgiving" this week towards the repair of the Cathedral in Dili, which, I am told, has several significant leaks and is in a general state of disrepair. The Church is at the very heart of day-to-day life for the Timorese people. It is a country I have visited and certainly is one of the poorest, but most faith-filled, places I have been to. I marvelled at how many people would walk through the night just to get to Mass in time! Please give generously to this worthy cause.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Available at the back of the Church. Please take home your family copy!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We would warmly welcome anyone interested in assisting with **reading/serving/acolyting** at Mass. We are also looking for anyone who might be able to assist with the **care of our gardens and for new catechists** 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.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB: Is a marvellous asset to our parish. The Club provides a fun and faith-filled forum for senior members of our parish/local community to form new (and sustain old) friendships. At the recent Christmas party, the Friendship Club very generously presented Fr Greg with a \$500 donation to support the endeavours of our parish family. On behalf of that same parish family, Fr Greg would like to thank you, the members of the Friendship Club, for your support. New members are always welcome!

THANK YOU TO "ST JOSEPH" I would like to express my gratitude to our very own St Joseph (a parishioner) who, on his own volition, constructed the beautiful stable for our Nativity scene this year. Thank you for your great initiative!

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS Following the NSW health advice, the Archdiocese of Sydney has confirmed the following now applies:

- There is now no density limit for churches.
- Masks are no longer compulsory while inside a church, though they are still strongly encouraged in settings where social distancing is not possible.
- All members of the congregation are permitted to sing.

QR Codes and our established check-in procedures, however, are to continue.

BONNIE VIEW DEVELOPMENT: Thank you to all those parishioners who took an interest in the suggested redevelopment of 10 & 12 Bonnie View Street by Catholic Care. As I said last week, the patrimony of this parish does not belong to me but to you and, thus, I appreciate everyone taking a vested interest in such matters. For those of you who have completed the feedback forms, feel free to put them in the parish letter box or in the box at the back of the Church. A question has been raised about the exact remuneration to the parish: \$100,000 PA (CPI indexed) over the 15 year lease.

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 9:15 am 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The Altar Society are requesting donations of Christmas Bush to decorate the Church. Please deliver by 10 am on Christmas Eve to the Church. Also, new members are needed to support the work of the Altar Society. Please see Doreen Vernon (President) or Fr Greg for details.

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

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (PFC) The PFC currently comprises of a total of eight parishioners. I feel incredibly blessed to have such a fantastically qualified PFC. On this score, further details about the members will be provided in the coming weeks. Details will be placed both in the bulletin and on the parish website (with photos). I will also make further announcements about restarting the Parish Pastoral Council in the new year.

PARISH ACTIVITIES 2022 Over the coming weeks, I intend to put together a flyer that lists some of the parish events for the coming year. If there is something you would like to start in our parish (a bible study, reading group, prayer group etc...), please let me know.

CATECHIST CORNER: Please get in touch with Fr Greg if you would like to become a catechist next year. Now is the time to step forward! Training will be provided and you get to join a wonderful group of parishioners. A great way to make new friendships, too!

