



# St Mary's Cathedral Parish

180 Harrington Street  
Hobart 7000

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**E-Mail:**

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**Administrator:**  
Fr Leonard Caldera

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr Paschal Okpon

**Pastoral Associate:**  
Sr Monica Shelverton PBVM

**Parish Secretary:**  
Jane McKeown

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**  
(MONDAY - FRIDAY)  
9am - 3pm



cathedralparishhobarttasmania

**3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR B - 17th DECEMBER 2023**  
**Gaudete Sunday**

My dear brothers and sisters all of us are happy being Christians. Our faith does not make us long-faced. We are enthusiastic and happy. Even in Lent, though we reflect on the passion of Christ, the Sunday at the midpoint of the journey to Easter has a theme of rejoicing. In the same way, on this third Sunday of Advent, our liturgy takes up a joyous theme. In our first reading, from Isaiah, the prophet calls us to be filled with joy. In the name of God, he is spirit filled and brings us 'good news' of encouragement, healing, freedom, and an outpouring of God's special favour. This message is especially for 'the poor' – those who have no security except in God. So, this proclamation was read by Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth. And he added, 'This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen'. As the text continues, the prophet 'exults for joy', using marriage themes to express the covenant bond of love between the chosen people and their God.

The second reading from first Thessalonians brings us to the climax with its reference to 'the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ'. It is a good choice, because the reading takes up today's theme of joy. Paul refers to a few actions, that unite the early Christian community and this provides a useful check list to evaluate the life of our own communities: 'constant prayer', thankfulness to the Father, offered in and through Christ; an openness to the promptings of the Spirit that comes through members who are in tune with God's ways ('the gift of prophecy'); and the 'peace' that is the fruit of all these shared blessings. True joy comes with the experience of what we are made for; the joy brought by Christian faith, the joy all true believers have experienced, the joy that only God can give, comes through the things Paul speaks of.

And then comes the important figure, John the Baptist in the Gospel reading according to John. John the Baptist guides us through the season of Advent, He has revived the ways of Israel's prophets and has caused quite a stir, and the authorities of Jerusalem send interrogators who asked him to give an account of himself. But he clearly said, he is not the messiah; he is not one of the old prophets come back to life; he is not the New Moses of Israel's expectations and that his role is that of a herald, 'a voice crying in the wilderness', that announces one who stands among the crowd, still 'unknown' to them. So, the description of his witness in this Gospel passage leaves his hearers eager to know more of the one to whom this great figure shows such reverence, 'the true light' that is going to transform a darkened world.

**Children's Christmas Nativity Play**

Dear Parents .... I would like to invite all interested primary aged children (or younger) in our parish to a **Nativity rehearsal at the Cathedral at 10am on Saturday 23rd December 2023** The children will then perform their enactment during the 6pm Cathedral Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Costumes will be provided, for further information please contact, parish office on 62344463 or 0408778152.

**Fr Leonard**



**MASS TIMES**

**St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart**

**7.30am:** Tuesday - Friday  
**5.00pm:** Saturday Vigil Mass  
**10.30am:** Sunday  
**6.00pm:** Sunday

**Sacred Heart Church New Town**

**9.00am:** Tuesday - Thursday  
**8.00am:** Saturday  
**8.30am:** Sunday

**Lawrenny Court**

**NO MASS UNTIL 2ND FEB 2024**

(131 Hill St West Hobart)

**10.30am:** Friday

**SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS**

*ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISMS*

*AND MARRIAGE*

*PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE*

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart**

**4.00pm - 4.30pm:** Saturday

**ROSARY and NOVENA TO OUR LADY**

**Sacred Heart Church, New Town**

**After 9am Mass:** Wednesday  
**7.30am:** Saturday

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**St Mary's Cathedral Crypt (Cathedral Centre)**

**6pm - 12am:** Friday

***ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA)  
Please contact 62086236***



WHAT'S  
NEW?

## IN THE PARISH

### ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th December 2023

- 6pm** St Mary's Cathedral  
(Family and Children's Vigil Mass)  
**7pm:** Sacred Heart Church  
(Family and Children's Vigil Mass)  
**11.15pm:** **Carol Service followed by Midnight Mass**  
St Mary's Cathedral

Monday 25th December 2023

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

**8.30am:**  
Sacred Heart Church

**10.30am:**  
St Mary's Cathedral

**Please note NO  
Evening Mass  
on Christmas Day**



### "A YEAR IN CELEBRATION"



**From Our Anniversary Book:** Mary Johnston, Mary McDonald, Joan Dempsey, Rosa Schiro, Kenneth Grubb, Patricia Jones, Michael Waters, Grace Donnelly, Ellen Baker, Leona Fulton, Cynthia Parker, Augustine Bravo, Marguerite Harris, Sr. Paschal Mary Philbin PBVM, Bessie Thornhill, Mary Collins, Rose Fitzpatrick, Antony Carnevale, Ivana Parodi, Florence Crowe, Bernard Ray, Ronald Andrews, Sr Antony Burke PBVM, Sr Paschal Philbin PBVM





WHAT'S  
NEW?

## "A YEAR IN CELEBRATION"



### Advent Recollection

**Time:** 6pm onwards

**When:** Friday 22nd

December

**Where:** St Mary's Cathedral.



Come join us for  
Adoration, silent prayer  
and Sacrament of  
Reconciliation.



## Children's Corner



### Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday; the Sunday of Joy!

What are three things you can do to bring joy into the lives of others during this week of Advent?

1

2

3

### The Angelus Prayer

**V.** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

**R.** And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

**Hail Mary, full of grace,** The Lord is with Thee; Blessed art thou among women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

**V.** Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**R.** Be it done to me according to your word. **Hail Mary. . .**

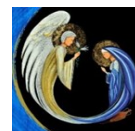
**V.** And the Word was made flesh.

**R.** And dwelt among us. **Hail Mary. . .**

**V.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray:** Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



## READINGS OF THE DAY - 3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR B

### **First Reading** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 R. Is 61:10

#### **(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

### **Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.  
Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.  
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God has called you and he will not fail you.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

#### **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

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.  
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'  
Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as "**Gaudete Sunday**," from the Latin word for "rejoice." It is called this, from the first words of the second reading, because Christmas is near and the Church lifts the penitential atmosphere of Advent to turn our hearts to the joy that is to come.

*Rejoice!*

### **Registrations are now available for the 2024 St Mary's Cathedral Sacramental Program.**

For all children in Year 3 and upwards (Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist).

Information Night - 6pm - 7.30pm Tuesday  
**13th February 2024** at St Mary's Cathedral

Register at the Parish Office by

**Phone: 03 62344463** or

**Email:**

[smcsacramentalprogram@gmail.com](mailto:smcsacramentalprogram@gmail.com)



### **GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

Monday 18th December	Matthew 1:18-24
Tuesday 19th December	Luke 1:5-25
Wednesday 20th December	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday 21st December	Luke 1:39-45
Friday 22nd December	Luke 1:46-56
Saturday 23rd December	Luke 1:57-66

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - 4th Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	Psalms 88:2-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38

### **Pray and Reflect on the Word of God**

**Please take your copy of the AVE home to reflect and to share with family and friends.**