

18th December 2022
4th Sunday of Advent
Year A



"That They May All Be One."

Faith Communities
of Adamstown
Cardiff and Kotara

*'Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve.' (Mt 20:28)*

~ A humble service with a smile ~

All Saints Catholic Home - Blackbutt South

'Listening to God's word, growing in faith, reaching out to all'

WEBSITE:

www.allsaintsblackbutsouth.org.au

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Joseph Figurado

Presbytery: (02) 4957 5949

Parish Mobile: 0452 280 687

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ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

Lockyer Street, Adamstown

ST KEVIN'S CHURCH

226 Main Road, Cardiff

ST PHILIP'S CHURCH & PRESBYTERY

31 Vista Parade, Kotara

PARISH OFFICE

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PARISH STAFF:

Anna Bojkowski, Liza Ruitenbach

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9am—3pm

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- St Columba's, Adamstown
- St Kevin's, Cardiff
- St James', Kotara

PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS

- St Pius X, Adamstown
- St Paul's, Booragul

OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

- www.mn.catholic.org.au/agencies/office-of-safeguarding
- www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Kotara

Sunday: 8.00am Adamstown

9.30am Cardiff

Sunday Adoration has been cancelled
till further notice.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday: 9.30am Adamstown

Wednesday: 7am Kotara

9.30am Adamstown

Thursday: 9.30am Cardiff

Friday: 9.15am Kotara

1st Saturday: 9.00am Kotara

Greetings and Welcome to the 4th Week in Advent :

The theme of God's presence amongst us is the main focus of all the readings on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, the greatest manifestation of God's presence amongst us was pronounced by God. In the Gospel of St Matthew this was expressly realized in the family of Mary and Joseph through the power of the Holy Spirit. This act of God is the reason for this Advent season and for the great feast of Christmas we earnestly await. Emmanuel is God's personal intervention into human history. As we move close to Christmas, the reality of the Emmanuel - God is with us - is an invitation to a life of "our apostolic mission to preach about the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name", as St Paul tells us in today's Second Reading. At Christmas we celebrate not only the presence of God in our midst but we also celebrate the presence of one another. Jesus invites us to imitate him by being present in the lives of others. Our presence matters a lot in the lives of our beloved families and friends. Our presence matters so much to those who are lonely: those without family and friends and those who are forgotten by society. St Joseph made space for the miracle of Christmas through his openness and trust. He did this in his own heart and life, and in the people he affected around him. Let us do the same. At Christmas, if we give ourselves, if we give the gift of love to each other, then that is the heart of Christmas. Christmas tells us that God is teaching us how to love. To teach us how to love means to teach us how to give. And to teach us how to give is to become Emmanuel, God is with us, among all others.

An anonymous author says: "Somewhere there's someone who dreams of your smile, and finds in your presence that life is worthwhile. So, when you are lonely, remember it's true: somebody, somewhere is thinking of you."

Dear Parishioners,

I arrived back in the Parish from Sri Lanka on Tuesday 13th December. I want to extend to you all my sincere and most grateful thanks for your support, your messages of condolences, and for your prayers following the sudden death of my brother, Theeban Edman Figurado. You have greatly helped to sustain me each day since my brother's passing. I needed to be strong for the sake of my parents, my brother's widow, and all my family when I was there, now I have started mourning for him. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. It is still a difficult time for me. You are all remembered in my Masses.

Fr Joseph Figurado

'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.' John 15:9

ANNOUNCEMENTS—MASS ROSTERS

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Presider:

The Presider or an assistant lights the fourth candle, which is often named the Angel Gabriel Candle for those messengers who bring God's Word into our world.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah when he proclaimed 'The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means God is with us.'

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now in your Word and Sacrament to give us the strength to live according to the Good News you revealed.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come in glory in the fullness of time because you are the Christ the one who has saved his people from their sins.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [Collect: Fourth Sunday of Advent]

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever **R. Amen**

Important information

Dear Parishioners,

My apologies for not scheduling the Christmas Vigil Mass at Cardiff.

Fr Gordon has kindly offered to celebrate this Mass with us again. Music by Richard Cootes and Company. We need volunteers to make this outdoor vigil happen—Sign up sheet is at the back of Cardiff Church.

Bring your singing voices family and friends to any of our celebrations.

See Revised Timetable on next page.

Fr Joseph

<u>18/12/2022</u>	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Dot Reynolds	Margaret Bourke	Peter Cunningham
Readers	Christine Williams Paul Smith	Cathy Waugh Anne Lamotte	Giavanna Angeli Christine Sheppard
Presentation of Gifts	Preciosa Winter Gloria Ramage	Murphy Family	Burgess Family
Extraordinary Minister	Narelle Smith	Majella Maher	Jessica Moulder
Counters	Francine Goodman, Kathy Kelly, Paula O'Neill	N/A	N/A
<u>25/12/2022</u>	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF 24/12/2022	KOTARA 24/12/2022
Commentator	Paul Smith	Anne Lamotte	Vina Gibson
Readers	Stan Heaney Albert Erzetich	Sr Carmel Moore Paul Gleeson	Grace Dever Wayne Dever
Presentation of Gifts	Sr Ann and Sr Kim	Volunteers	Emma Elias & Family
Extraordinary Minister	Narelle Smith	Sr Clare McCudden	Narelle Heard Faye Robertson
Counters	Hamilton Koelmeyer	Mary Nixon	John Bourke, Mark Noonan, Val Menzies

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our faith community...

Thatcher Ray Rook

SICK/SPECIAL NEEDS:

We remember in our prayers ...

Leonie Pickett, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Emma Pacifico, Lorraine Caldwell, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Chris Patsan, Dorota Bakowska, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Maria Kanonczuk, Sharyn Trappel, Clare Sullivan, Jill Heffernan, Laurel Dixon, Jarrad Bryant, Barry Moore, Tom Campbell, Baby Anthony Dib, Helen Tumbers, Kathleen Gurr, Don Robertson

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lois Green, Bill McWhinnie

ANNIVERSARIES:

Narelle Sullivan-Chaffey, Sr Jude Pearson Sr Helen Brooke, Pat Feenan, Noreen Heaney, Sandra Ogradnik, Bronislaw Palka, Mary Cooey, Mark Cooey, Margaret Sawkins

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults — particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our faith communities in parishes.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS SET UP OF CHURCHES:

- Helpers needed to help decorate St Philip's Church Kotara for Christmas on Wednesday 21st December at 12.30 pm.
- Help needed to decorate St Kevin's Church Cardiff for Christmas on Thursday 22nd December at 10am after 9.30am Mass.

Christmas Holiday Mass / Office Schedule:

Weekday Masses on 26th & 27th December are cancelled

Parish Office will be closed from 23rd—29th December.

Sunday Adoration will resume on the 1st week of January.

There will be no bulletin printed for Christmas Day.

Thank you to those families, staff and parishioners who attended the St Kevin's Year 6 Graduation Mass on Sunday. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate such a wonderful group of children who have finished their primary school education at St Kevin's. We wish them and their families all the best in High School and the adventures ahead.

The Bereavement Support Team has concluded its meetings for this year. The team's next meeting is on Tuesday 7th February 2023.

Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards (\$7.00) and Columban Calendars (\$7.00) are now on sale at Adamstown, Cardiff and Kotara.

Meditation Group at Kotara will be in recess from December 14th until January 10th.

Missing from Kotara Sacristy: A small white plastic basket that holds the used hand towels and purifiers is missing from the sacristy at Kotara. If anyone knows where it is could they please let Faye know.

Praying the Gospels has concluded for 2022 and will recommence on February 1 2023. For more info Contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Save the Date: Toronto Men's Weekend

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: www.menalive.org.au



Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society wish to express our gratitude to the parishioners of All Saints Parish, Blackbutt South who have supported the work of the Society so faithfully throughout 2022.

We have been able to continue to assist several families and individuals with rent, utility payments, food, clothing and medical expenses. Without your generous support, none of this would have been possible.

With the assistance of the children and their families within the primary schools across our three parish centres along with the generosity of the parishioners our 2022 Christmas Hamper Campaign was a wonderful success. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project in so many ways.

Our volunteers thank you all for your trust and support as we seek to help those whose lives are difficult and who need a helping hand. May we always be able to extend that hand in love and kindness.

We would also like to say thank you for your generous support to the 2022 Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. Your continued belief, gift of giving and prayers have enabled us to provide for those in need. We would like to share the thank you sentiments received from those who received help as well. The thank you was often expressed in words, smiles on the faces of people when help was given, as well as some tears of gratitude.

Again, may we express our sincere appreciation for your faithful and generous support in 2022 and we ask that you keep the Society and its clients in your prayers.

May 2023 bring you much health and happiness.

God bless you all.

*Open our eyes to the dignity of all people,
And our ears to the cries of the earth.
Let us walk in solidarity with the poor,
And cleanse our world from oppression.
Let us shout out for justice for all,
And renew our hope for change.
The Lord is coming,
Let us share the Good News! Amen.*

Christmas Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday 24th December

Kotara Vigil 6pm

Cardiff Vigil 6pm (BYO CHAIRS)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th December

Adamstown : 8am

Cardiff : 9.30am

BOXING DAY

Monday 26th December

Cardiff : 8am Polish Mass



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation

READINGS— 4th Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading

Is 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

(R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to

preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.