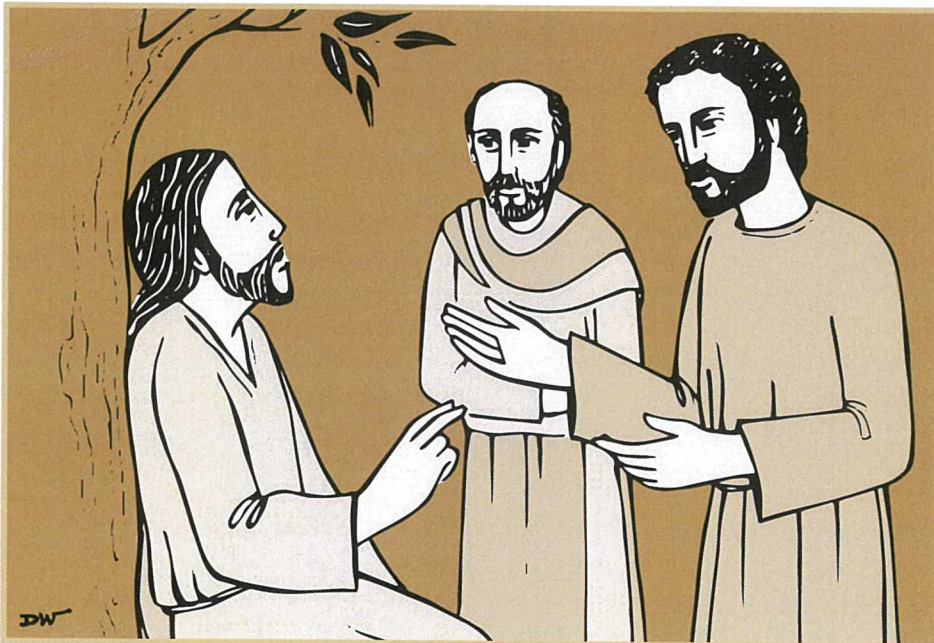


# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

11 DECEMBER 2022



**THE BLIND SEE AGAIN.** Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Phil 4: 4-5

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P: Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**R. For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's

Nativity,

enable us, we pray,

to attain the joys of so great a salvation

and to celebrate them always

with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever

**R: Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees

and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy in their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

**R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /  
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is  
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,  
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the  
blind, / who raises up those who are bowed  
down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger /  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but  
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord  
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to  
age. **R.**

## SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the  
Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.  
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for  
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had  
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too  
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because  
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make  
complaints against one another, brothers, so as  
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the  
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.  
For your example, brothers, in submitting with  
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the  
name of the Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the  
poor. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mt 11:2-11

P: The Lord be with you.

**R: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**R: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**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.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R: Blessed be God for ever.**

P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,

be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

**R: And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**R: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R: It is right and just.**

### PREFACE I OR II OF ADVENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P: The mystery of faith

**All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

#### COMMUNION RITE

P: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P: Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

**R: Amen**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R: And with your spirit.**

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

### LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R: Lord, I am not worthy**

**that you should enter under my roof,**

**but only say the word**

**and my soul shall be healed.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Isa 35:4

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen**

#### THE CONCLUDING RITES

P: The Lord be with you.

**R: And with your spirit.**

P: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R: Amen.**

P: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

#### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

##### ARE YOU THE ONE?

One can only begin to imagine the excitement, questioning and discussion that must have accompanied the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Reports were flying thick and fast about the carpenter-turned-preacher from Nazareth, whose preaching was accompanied by miraculous healings, and disconcerting sayings. Was it true that Isaiah's prophecy about the eyes of the blind being opened, and the deaf once again being able to hear was being fulfilled?

John the Baptist had spoken with courage about the messiah who was coming and this led to his imprisonment. He had preached that the coming messiah would be a figure of purification and judgement upon Israel. Could it be that Jesus was the promised one? John could not reconcile Jesus' message and ministry with the message for which he had risked his life. Jesus' response to John's question is simple – you must make your judgement based on what you see. If Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled, then there is no need to look any further.

A challenge for James' community was that they recognised Jesus was indeed the saviour, but how were they to manage until his return at the end of time? Their impatience for the Lord's return was leading them into the trap of being fractious with each other. James provides both them and us with the timely reminder that patience with the Lord and each other is a better way to prepare to greet the Lord on his return.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

## Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

### Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: [Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au)

Follow us on: [@StGregsDonny](https://www.instagram.com/StGregsDonny)

 [www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster](https://www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster)

 Website: [www.stgregs.org.au](http://www.stgregs.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Charles Balnaves

**Parish Secretary: Mon & Tue :** Nadia Bolzonello

**Wed-Fri:** Vera Arief

**Mon:** Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

**Sacristan:** Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

**MASS TIMES: (This Week) (no livestreaming)**

**Sat: Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9:00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm**

**Wed & Fri: 9:00 am** (plus Tu/Thu 9:15 am St Kevin's)

**CHILDREN LITURGY:** 10.30am Mass

**Please be alert! People we know have Covid-19—it IS still with us: Masks, sanitising, isolating**

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa 7:10–14 , James 1:1–7 , Matt 1:18–24

**RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9.30-11am**

By request before/after any Mass (come 15-20 m early)

**BAPTISMS:** Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

**ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY**

**SCHOOL:** Principal: Michelle Verna Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: [principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:**

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at [DoncasterRE@cam.org.au](mailto:DoncasterRE@cam.org.au)

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:**

Wednesdays at 9.45 am in the church meeting room.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

**CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP:** First Friday of the

month from 7pm-9pm (Closed till February)

**PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday every Fortnight in Church Meeting Room (Closed till February)

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP:** Monthly 4th Fridays from 7:15pm—9.30pm (Closed till February)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE:** Third Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Church meeting room

**ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB:** Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

### Please pray for:

Those who are **sick** at this time including Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Michael Mullens, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Brian Croft, Chee Choong Seng, Chee Mee Lian, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Lilia Go, Maria Stone, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin, Vincent Aloï, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Wang Wei Qiao, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Eliasari, Dennis Clarke, Marisa Rodolfo, Angel Gustavo, Margaret Hansen, Angelique Giacomini, Maureen Tresise, Kevin Parker

**And those who died recently** Max Jennings, Elio Varrasso, and **for the repose of the souls of** Min Mullens, Edith McManus, Kevin McManus, Julie Nunes, Ljubica Ficovic, Cico Ficovic, Gensio Braganolo and all whose anniversaries occur about now.

From the PP's Desk:

This past Tuesday I went into Melbourne to meet with Archbishop Peter—at my request. I wanted to, and did, give him a 'situation report' for us, St Greg's and St Kevin's. I wanted him to know how wonderful you are and how willing you are to learn to grow in faith and to spread the faith. I also wanted him to know that we don't have all the answers but we are seeking them. That is what the two forums we've held are for: to look at our ministries and seek to enrich them and perhaps grow them to focus through the lens of Jesus' Mission to go out to all with the Good News. Archbishop Peter was delighted to hear what I told him. As we drew to a close he said 'Charles, there is one thing I didn't hear ...' (oh dear I thought ... what ...) "I didn't hear about complaints / arguments about having this renewed focus" ... (whew, that's an easy one) ... "Well", I said, "that is because there aren't any. We may not know exactly how to move ahead but we want to and so people are willing to work forwards an allow space for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we work."

So, I must say to you THANK YOU. It is you who have enabled me to have that conversation with the Archbishop with such a positive message.

And to a different thought: I spent 30 minutes with the Grade 4 children during the week, answering or trying to answer their questions. All sorts of Advent questions: why purple? what do the candles in the wreath mean? And then all sorts of other questions. Why is the Sabbath important? What would happen to the Sabbath if God created the world in 3 days? Can animals be stewards of creation? "40" seems special why? Why is the Pope called 'pope'? Did I have to give away everything to be a priest (no) and do I get lonely (yes sometimes, like everyone)? There were a lot more questions and we couldn't get to them all.

Some of those questions are matters of just explaining something (the colour in advent for example, or that pope means 'father' in Greek (a fact I had forgotten at the time). Some are really deep like that one about animals being stewards and about the Sabbath or creation in 3 days.

I love spending time with the children answering their questions. It inspires me to look at the world through fresh eyes and challenges me to understand what I've always known in a new way. I know the teachers are there and they control things and prepare the children but I have never had an inappropriate question (the nearest, back in 2016, was about the colour of my underwear—the teacher was shocked but I just had a good laugh).

Jesus does this to us all the time in the Gospels: he challenges us to open our eyes, to change our perspective. The parables do this: the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. This weekend our Gospel challenge is different:

"What did YOU go out into the wilderness to see?"

You need to answer that question again this year. Not because you don't know the answer but because each time you ask it your understanding deepens about God's dep and abiding love for each of us.

By chance the opportunity exists for a particular way you might help answer that question for yourself: you could take a space on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr Bill Edebohls of Mary Mother of the Church Catholic Parish Ivanhoe. The brochure is in the narthex if you're interested.

God bless, Fr Charles.

*St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love*

**THIS WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

**CARE OF THE CHURCH****MONEY COUNTERS:** Marisa Maiolo, Anne McGrath**LECTORS**

Anne Davine, Patrick Soosay

Siona Fernandes, Tony Nimmo

Karen Chay, Aidan Leung

Enza Scaffidi, Gerard O'Donnell

Mary Wilson, Leth Go

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Robert &amp; Dianne McHugh

Rachael Kay, Ray Lewis

Maggie Yong, Edith Ma

Mary Tonti-Filipini, Judy Ablaza

**MORNING TEA:** N/A

Gerard O'Donnell (Collectors)

**FLOWERS** Geraldina Donato

Mary Piccoli

**NEXT WEEK 17/18 Dec**

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

**CARE OF THE CHURCH****MONEY COUNTERS:** Phillip Dunlop, Josie Masters**LECTORS**

Frances Cannizzo, Ian Barnes

Peter Molinari, Angela Molinari

Tony Ting, Paola Villanueva

Benedicta Wong, Viviana Pereira

Carole Tang, Boris Klaric

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell

Katica Puhaj, Joan Dineen

Fred &amp; Agnes Fulia

Tina Paolino

**MORNING TEA:** Seeking volunteers**FLOWERS** Connie Amalfi**SANITISING/DISTANCING/MASKS/ISOLATING !!!!** Maybe with our care we can keep ourselves and those around us healthy**Weekday Mass times in the coming week:** Tue/Thurs: 9:15 am St Kevin's Lower Templestowe; Wed/Fri: 9:00 am St Greg's Doncaster.**For those who are Coeliac**, we can provide low gluten (<20ppm) hosts or a separate chalice.**Anointing of the Sick**, can be provided before, during or after any Mass. Just let the Sacristan or the Priest know ahead of time.**Facebook: Live-streaming:** We are no longer live streaming our Masses. We look forward to seeing you in person at one of our Masses.**Transport** : Don't leave people stuck at home unable to come to Mass: offer a hand or let us know at the Parish Office.**Who has not rejoined?** Have you got friends who haven't come back to our community fully yet? Maybe ask them if you can help?**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

For future Open Day or a School Tour please contact the School Office on 98484483.

**Parish Facilities:** The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made:

st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com and Jess will get back to you.

Tennis club use for tennis playing: contact Gianna on 0438 410 506.

**Christmas Masses Sign Up Roster** is out in the Foyer. Please add your name and contact details if you could help in any of the Masses.**FLORIST WANTED**— Our church has been adorned by beautiful flower arrangements done by a very small team of volunteers. And we need more people to help! It's usually once a month either on a Friday or Saturday morning roster. We also need help during the December & January holidays. So if you are only available during this time please contact us. 03 9412 8425 or email doncaster@cam.org.au.**URGENT!!!** ALL volunteers must have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) and sign an new Code-of-Conduct (it is over two years since you last signed one so it is time for renewal). Please Renew your WWC and Sign the Code of Conduct available in the church foyer or our website. If you like them emailed please email the office.**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
good works**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

Thank you for your generous response to our Vinnies Christmas appeal. Donations amounted to over \$1341 and this total will rise when online donations have been processed. Thank you also for the donations of gifts and toys, from our school and parish, which will bring Christmas joy to many people who are struggling financially. This year we are helping those in need in Box Hill, as well as our own Doncaster area. A huge thank you to the parish and the school community.

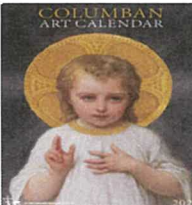
Congratulations to Vittoria &amp; Guido Rocco who are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary this week!!

**You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.****Palms Australia**  
Reach Beyond**In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.**

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

**At Home**Palms' **Neighbours Without Borders** program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.**Overseas**

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

Columban Art Calendar is still available for purchase from the Piety Stall. The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. They are \$10 each and make a great Christmas present!

Members of local churches will again co-operate to collect for the Christmas Bowl outside supermarkets on Christmas Eve. Volunteers are asked to collect for 1 hour. Please add your name to the roster or for enquiries re helping at Coles, Tunstall Square and Woolworths, Devon Plaza contact Pauline Smit 0438 034 739 or for Woolworths, Macedon Plaza contact Brian Parkinson 0432 178 995

There will be a Special Collection next weekend for Catholic Deaf.

**CHRISTMAS AT ST GREGORY'S****Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**Rite of Reconciliation at  
St Kevin's Church  
26 Herlihy Road,  
Templestowe Lower  
at 7.00 pm

(with individual absolution available)

**Christmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**Carols at 6.30 pm, Mass at 7.00 pm  
Carols at 9.30 pm, Mass at 10.00 pm**Christmas Day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**Mass at 9.00 am  
Mass at 10.30 am  
(No 5.00pm Mass)**New Year's Eve**  
**Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> December**  
Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm  
**New Year's Day**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January**  
Masses at 9.00 am, 10.30 am  
and 5.00 pm