



Canberra Inner North Catholic Community

Under the Care of Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS)

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Inner North Office hours:
Tuesday to Friday 9am to 1pm

Third “Gaudete” Sunday of Advent | Year A | 14 December 2025

John laboured diligently preparing the people to welcome the Messiah who, he believed, was coming as a judge to punish the wicked and reward the good. However, languishing in his person cell, John hears of the healing and forgiving ministry of Jesus. He is perplexed and filled with doubt. Because Jesus does not conform to his expectations. So, John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus answers simply: Go and tell John what you see and hear. Clearly in Jesus' ministry the prophecies of Isaiah(29:18-19;35:5-6;61:1) are being realised and the kingdom of God is being inaugurated. And so Jesus declares blessed those who can see the connection between his ministry and the kingdom of God. These are the ones who keep faith in him. Although Jesus holds John in the highest regard, as the greatest born of women, he nevertheless adds rather surprisingly; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. Who are the least? They are those who have had the privilege of knowing and accepting Jesus as their Saviour,. Today, we, the disciples of Jesus, are blessed to be the least in the kingdom.

From God's Word

Parish Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parishes are committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action. This approach is to follow Jesus' command in Matthew 18:1-3. Enquiries or concerns please contact: Fr Renoir Oliver SSS—renoir.oliver@cg.org.au - Maria Hicks (Manager) - Phone **02 6239 9806** - Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) ipss@cg.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Officers –while these email addresses are not available currently please send any concerns to ipss@cg.org.au

Blackfriars Parish, Watson: Nicole watson.safeguarding@cg.org.au

Canberra Central, Dickson & Braddon: Barbara & Catherine: CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Joseph's O'Connor: Noel occonnor.safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Thomas More, Campbell: Margie Campbell.safeguarding@cg.org.au



BLACKFRIARS PARISH
Cnr Phillip Avenue & Antill
Street,
Watson ACT
2602
www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson

CANBERRA CENTRAL incl:
ST BRIGID'S 2 Bancroft St
Dickson ACT 2602
ST PATRICK'S 1 Donaldson St
Braddon ACT 2612

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH
58 Boronia Drive,
O'Connor ACT 2602
Facebook :
www.facebook.com/stjosephsoconnor

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH
30 White Crescent
Campbell ACT 2612
Facebook:
facebook.com/st.thomasmore.campbell

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, as Traditional Owners of the land where we gather today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is 12 pm WEDNESDAY

P: 0416 823 447 | 0412 128 038 E: innernorth@cg.org.au

Entrance Antiphon - Phil 4: 4-5

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

First reading - Isaiah 35:1-6,10

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 on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 145(146):6-10

R: Lord, come and save us.

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,
Lord, come and save us. R

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.
Lord, come and save us. R

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.
Lord, come and save us. R

Second reading- James 5:7-10

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11

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.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon - Cf. Is 35: 4

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

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INNER NORTH

Christmas Mass Schedule - Printed copies can be found in the foyer of your Church

Dear CINCC parishes, schools and community organisations - As we approach the holiday season and the Jubilee Year draws to a close, I am hoping to gather some final reflections from our community on the theme *Pilgrims of Hope* and what this Jubilee Year has meant to you. If you would like to share your thoughts or experiences, please feel free to contact me at shannon.horan@cg.catholic.edu.au.

I would also love to hear from anyone who has read any of the following books: Pope Francis' autobiography *Hope*; his encyclical *Laudato Si*; *Opening the Holy Door* by Joan Watson; *The Way of a*

Pilgrim by Olga Savin; *Prayers for the Pilgrimage* by W. David and O. Taylor; *Unshakeable Hope* by Max Lucado; or *Joy and Hope – Pilgrim, Priest and Bishop* by Pat Power. Recommendations for other books connected to hope or the Jubilee Year are most welcome.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am hoping to organise two CINCC community events: a community art exhibition exploring themes of hope and the Jubilee Year, and a prayer walk together up Mt Ainslie. All are warmly invited to take part. If you are interested in contributing artwork or assisting with the planning or facilitation of either event, I would be grateful to hear from you.

Yours sincerely, **Shannon** (Parishioner at St Thomas More's Parish CINCC Luce Pilgrimage 2025 – Organiser)

Teens Youth Group – Sunday 14 December - Join us for our final youth group of the year this Sunday at 7pm in St Brigid's Parish Hall. For questions, email youth.innernorth@cg.org.au.

RECEPTION OF SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Rocco Mana, Dorothy, Margaret and Edward Liddle, Ernest Daly, Anastasia and Joshua Lewis.

We also welcome Laura into the Catholic Faith

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Maria Perre, Maria Basso, Nobby Clark, Noel Isaac Y Cristobal, John Walton

IN LOVING MEMORY

Tran Van Thanh, Nissanka Peiris, Helen (Jelica) Zobec, Mary Boyle

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Bob Jones, Brian Brown, Maggie McKeown, Una Bell, Vivien Arnold, Gwenda Romer (nee Hewitt), Mateo Sendo, Sally Grant.

Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for four weeks.

ST JOSEPH'S O'CONNOR

Sunday 14 December our last Children's liturgy for the year during the 8.30am Mass.

Saturday 20 December -7pm Parish Christmas Party & Dinner after the 6pm Vigil Mass - bring a plate to share. RSVP on the clip board in the foyer.

24 December 6:00pm - Children's Vigil Mass: children who want to participate (prayers of the faithful, readers, gifts, carry baby Jesus) please contact Donna @ donna.m.mcdonald3@bigpond.com.

Christmas Carols at 8.15pm followed at 9pm with Christmas Eve Mass.

25 December morning tea after 9am Mass. Bring a plate to share.

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

Important Notice – Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will continue to be prayed each Sunday at 9:30 am, before the 10 am Mass, throughout Advent. Changes to this schedule may occur next year, and you

will be informed as soon as possible. Thank you to the parishioners who have faithfully supported the leaders, Siobhan Tanzer, Belle Joseph, Jane Schunghamer, Jasmine and Florence Hope, and myself, Carmel Lewis, through your attendance and responses.

The Children's Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 24th December at 5.00pm in Holy Rosary Church. Come and be a part of our Children's special Mass to celebrate the birth of Our Lord. Children who would like to be involved in this Mass are invited to come and join the celebration. We require children to play parts (Mary, Joseph et.) in the Mass and older children to read during the Mass. A practice for this Mass will be held on 21st December after the 10am Mass. To participate, the children must first have permission from parents/s and an assurance that they will attending this Mass. There is need to practice, children will be required to attend this practice. Please put your name on the form in the foyer if you would like to be part of the Mass.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL - Watson is holding the annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal as a leaving collection at masses this weekend – the **13-14 December**. Cash, eftpos and envelope donations options are available. If you wish to donate via eftpos or require a receipt, please donate to our volunteers in the foyer. To donate online, go to: <https://www.vinnies.org.au>. Tap on the donate button at the top right of the screen. Enter the dollar amount and then tap the 'Next Step' button. Complete your details including email and address to obtain a receipt. In the 'Comments/Conference Name' field – type 'Watson ACT CHRISTMAS Appeal'. Tap the 'Payment Options' button. Complete your credit card or Paypal details. Pls note, you do not have to make a contribution to the 'Cover Platform Costs'. Then finalise payment.

*We are reminded of the importance of the Church's care for the poor in Pope Leo's very recent exhortation, *Dilexi Te (I Have Loved You)*, which includes almsgiving among ways to provide that care. Some reflections on the document and the work of the Vinnies Watson Conference will be placed on the church exit tables.*

HOLY ROSARY CHOIR - Will be practising Christmas Carols on Monday 15th December, at 7.30 pm, in the church. If you love singing carols, please come and join us. The choir will be singing carols celebrating the Christmas Story from 8.30 pm on Christmas Eve, until the "Midnight Mass" at 9 pm, and again at the 10 am Mass on Christmas Day. Enquiries re music 0491 077 678.

Save the Date - 20 December For a family BYO picnic and carol singing following the 5pm Mass at Holy Rosary Watson. Stay Tuned, more info to follow.

CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

The Campbell Conference of Vinnies will hold a Christmas Appeal as a leaving collection at masses at St Patricks/ St Thomas Mores on 14 December. You will be able to donate via cash, eftpos machines and online. Christmas is often a struggle for many in our community and your support is sorely needed and much appreciated.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL – The Watson St Vincent de Paul Conference will hold a Christmas Appeal as a leaving collection at masses at St Brigids this weekend - 13-14 December. If you wish to donate via eftpos or require a receipt, please donate to our volunteers in the foyer. If you wish to donate online, please refer to the information in the Watson section of the bulletin.

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

St Thomas More's Christmas Eve - Christmas Carols at 5.30pm followed by an Outdoor Mass at 6pm -

Everyone is welcome to our annual outdoor Mass on Christmas Eve. BYO chair, Christmas cheer, cherubic voices and stay for cheese, chocolate and ch... drinks afterwards. If you'd like to sing in the choir, play an instrument or can think of a synonym for 'drinks'

beginning with 'ch' that I should have used in this message contact joannegale28@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLERGY & PARISH

To contribute to the First Collection **

Account Name: Central Presbytery Fund
Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (eg Campbell Smith 1st collect) Refer to note below regarding banking details.

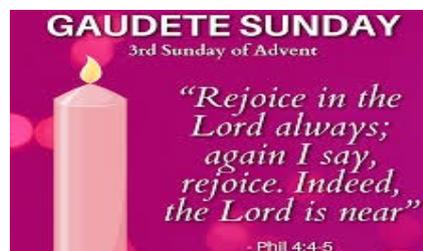
Contribute to your parish via the "Qkr!" mobile app or direct deposit:

Canberra Central : A/C Name Canberra Central Parish
Ref: Name & Giving Number.

Blackfriars: A/C Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson
Ref: Name & Giving Number.

St Joseph's: A/C Name: St Joseph's Parish
Ref: Name & Giving Number.

St Thomas More: A/C Name: St Thomas More Parish :
Ref: Name & Giving Number. **Please kindly call the Parish office for A/C details**



MASS, SACRAMENT & DEVOTION TIMES

	Blackfriars, Watson	St Brigid's, Dickson	St Joseph's, O'Connor	St Patricks, Braddon	St Thomas More, Campbell
Mass					
Sunday	10.00am 5.00pm	9.30am 5.00pm Vietnamese Mass - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month	8.30am	8.00am	10.00am
Tuesday to Friday	5.30pm	9.00am	9.15am	12.30pm	11:45am Mass – Every Friday
Saturday	5.00pm (vigil)	9.00am 6.00pm (vigil)	8.30am 6.00pm (vigil)		
Reconciliation					
Friday - **Throughout Advent, during Adoration	6:00-7:00 pm **		8.15 - 9.00am - during Holy Hour	11.30 - 12.30pm	11.00-11.40am Every Friday
Saturday	4.00 - 4.30pm	9.30 - 10.00am 5.30 - 5.50pm	5.15 - 5.45pm		
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament					
Wednesday		8.00am - 8.00pm	8.15 - 9.10am		
Thursday					
Friday	6.00 - 7.00pm			11.30am - 12.30pm	11.00—11.45am Every Friday
Saturday		9.30 - 10.00am			
Anointing of the Sick					
Sunday		After 9.30am Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month			11.15am - 1st Sunday of the month
Saturday			Within 8.30am Mass - 1st Saturday of the month		
Rosary Prayers					
Tuesday to Friday		8.30am	After 9.15am Mass	12.10pm	
Saturday Sunday	9.30am	8.30am	8.15am - Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help		