



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Year A | 21 December 2025

Problems and difficulties are part of life: some of our own making, and others not. Joseph is caught up in a problem not of his own making. Mary, his betrothed appears to have been unfaithful. How is Joseph going to resolve this heartache - his dark night? As A man of honour, Joseph does not in haste nor in the heat of hurt emotions, He gives himself time - sleeping on his problem and waiting for divine light. In his sleep, Joseph is informed by an angel of Mary's situation - the blessing bestowed upon his beloved. Furthermore, Joseph is invited to accept the challenging situation and to co- operate with God by taking responsibility for Mary and her child. Joseph accepts God's invitation, however demanding. Doing God's will is always a blessing, but often costly. We Too, when confronted with problematic situations, like Joseph, would profit from waiting upon the Lord in prayer for light and the grace to act with integrity, charity and justice. Like Joseph, we too may come to recognise that our way forward is to accept and take responsibility for the situation which may not be to our liking but, nevertheless, may facilitate unforeseen blessings for us and others. From God's Word Daily Reflections 2025

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 oconnor.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 - Cf. Is 45: 8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First reading - Isaiah 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."'

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 23(24):1-6

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

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**

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**

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 - Romans 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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Matt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 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.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon - Is 7: 14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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INNER NORTH

Please refer to the Christmas Flyer for all Mass times over Christmas and New Year.

Mourning Prayer

May those whose lives were taken at Bondi Beach be held in peace. May comfort surround the families and friends who are mourning and may healing reach everyone shaken by this tragedy. Give strength to the community as they support one another and guide all hearts toward compassion in the days ahead.

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 works: 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)

RECEPTION OF SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Anjelina Kelly, Mila Sayers

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Victims of Bondi massacre, Amparo Sugay, Bob Jones, Kathleen Coyle, Maria Perre, Maria Basso, Nobby Clark, Noel Isaac Y Cristobal, John Walton.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Paula Savas, Gabriel Savas, Petronila Rico, Labele Jazrawi, Bill Olsen, Bill McManus, Tran Van Thanh, Nissanka Peiris, Helen (Jelica) Zobec, Mary Boyle.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Victims in hospital recovering after the Bondi massacre, Paul Thorpe, Una Bell, Vivien Arnold, Gwenda Romer (nee Hewitt), Brian Brown, Maggie McKeown, Mateo Sendo, Sally Grant.

*Prayer intentions will remain
in the bulletin for four weeks.*

ST JOSEPH'S O'CONNOR

24 December 6:30pm - 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 by 9pm Christmas Vigil Mass

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

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

Mass Times over Christmas & New Year

26 December –9am

27 December - 5pm Vigil

28 December - 10am,5pm

29 December - 2 January- 9am

3 January - 5pm Vigil

Important Notice – Recitation of the Rosary

As many parishioners travel during January, the Recitation of the Rosary will not take place at 9-30 am on Sunday mornings during that month. There will also be changes from February onwards and parishioners will be notified of these as soon as possible. Thank you Carmel

Children's Christmas Eve Mass – Wednesday 24 December at 5 pm in Holy Rosary Church.

Children are invited to take part in this special celebration, with roles such as Mary, Joseph and readers (for the older children) available. Practice will be held on 21 December after the 10 am Mass, and children must have parental permission and be committed to attending the Mass. **Please arrive at 4 pm on Christmas Eve for a final practice**

HOLY ROSARY CHOIR – Love singing carols? Join us on Christmas Eve from 8.30 pm leading into the 9 pm. Midnight Mass, and again at the 10 am Mass on Christmas Day. Music enquiries: 0491 077 678.

CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

Love you to join us for our Christmas Caroling on 24 December at 7.00pm, before the 7.30pm Mass

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.

ARCHDIOCESE

Pambula - Parish Officer -

People are invited to apply for the position of **Parish Officer** for the **Catholic Parishes of Pambula** including Our Lady Star of the Sea Eden, St Joseph's Merimbula and St Peter's Pambula. This is a permanent part time position of **12 hours per week** and will be based in the Parish Office, Merimbula. There may be some travel between parishes when required. Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. For a copy of the Duty Statement please email the Parish Office pambula@cg.org.au Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Leanne Boyd, Parish Support Manager leanne.boyd@cg.org.au and kose.joseph@cg.org.au by CoB 9 Jan 2026.

COMMUNITY

19th Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil

The Marian Movement of Priests warmly invites you and your friends to welcome the New Year in prayer.

Location: Mary Help of Christians Parish

Address: 115 Hodgson Crescent, Pearce (South Woden)

Date & Time: Wednesday, 31 December 2025, starting at 8:00pm

Schedule of Cenacles:

8:00pm – Joyful Mysteries

9:00pm – Luminous Mysteries

10:00pm – Sorrowful Mysteries

11:00pm – Glorious Mysteries

Eucharistic Exposition will run from 8:00pm until Benediction just before midnight.

For details, visit mmp-oceania.net.

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 UNTIL CHRISTMAS

	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 **Through out Advent, during Adoration	6.00-7.00pm**		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		