

Year A/2
First Sunday of Advent
1 December 2019
Liturgical Colour: Violet



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane
PARISH TEAM

The Catholic Parishes of
GROVELY-SAMFORD and MITCHELTON
Western Hills Communities from Gaythorne to Mt Glorious

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Hours: Mon 8am - 1pm; Tues - Fri. 8am - 4pm

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St Andrew's School

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Our Lady of Dolours School

2 Willcocks Street, Mitchelton 4053
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Mt. Maria College

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First Sunday Of Advent

"May Jesus, who is the way, be a lamp unto your feet and a light for your path as you journey towards the mystery of the Christmas miracle."

As we celebrate the season of Advent, we think again of the love of God for us, endless and ever new, symbolised in the circle of greenery. The candles of the Advent wreath signify how this eternal and all-embracing love has been manifested through time, and will be manifest forever when the Lord appears in glory. Today, we light the first of the candles, as we look forward in anticipation for the birth of Jesus this Christmas.

Practically every person who has followed the Lord has had to suffer his timing. Whether in discerning a call, sitting on a job offer, or considering end-of-life care; clarity and conviction can be slow in coming. Though we may be filled with a sense of expectation and urgency about all sorts of things, sometimes the Lord has us wait. So we naturally may ask of ourselves, "What is the sense in it?"

On the one hand, his delay is made to deepen our longing. He comes at an hour we do not expect, precisely so that our sense of faith may increase as well as our desire, and ultimately our fulfilment. Our unrest in its own way, can be itself his gift. Advent can be a great time to renew ourselves in grace, to think and to act with charity, love and respect – and above all to live with a true sense of "joy" which God desires for each one of us. To carry our joy in life and to radiate that joy we have come to know from deep within ourselves can be one of our greatest and most challenging tasks no matter who we are.

To have joy in our lives and to know it's true power is so important. It helps us deal with all kinds of other situations and emotions which can so easily stifle our joy. I can think of no other season that can open up true joy for us. In some ways, after a very busy year, we all need time to re-settle and to take stock of our lives and our emotions. Just like parents who wait in expectant hope for the coming of a new child, we find in the season of Advent its own special graces which are meant to offer us comfort and hope for the future.

This Advent, there are many activities you may wish to explore as an individual or working on together as a family unit. You may choose to greet and offer to visit someone unknown to you, you may offer someone else a helping-hand or a listening heart. There are many ideas on the Internet which you might like to explore to help you make more sense of Advent and how you can make a difference and actively involve yourself in the mission of the local church. You may simply be able to spend quality time with another person and help them to connect their passions and purpose as they discover the goodness which God has to offer.

On behalf of Fr. Nigel and myself, Deacon Peter, Sue, Marie-Louise, Katrina, Megan, Sandra and our volunteers, we wish you every blessing for the Advent Season as together we discover the peace and joy which Jesus brings into our world.

Fr. Damien

LITURGY TIMES

2nd - 8th December

Grovely	St William's
Monday	9:15am Mass
Tuesday	9:00am End of Year Liturgy for St Andrew's 6:00pm Graduation Mass for St William's <i>Saint Francis Xavier</i>
Wednesday	6:00pm Adoration 7:00pm Mass <i>Saint John Damascene</i>
Thursday	9:00am Mass CANCELLED 10.30am Anointing Mass at Bellevue
Friday	7:00am Mass CANCELLED 9:00am End of Year Mass for St William's <i>Saint Nicholas</i>
Saturday	7:00am Mass 9:30am Children's Reconciliation 5:00pm Reconciliation <i>Saint Ambrose</i>

Next Weekend's Sunday Masses

Saturday:	6:00pm Vigil
Sunday:	6:30am, 8.00am, 9.30am, 5:30pm

Oxford Park St. Joseph's

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Mitchelton Our Lady of Dolours

Monday	8:30am Mass
Tuesday	8:30am Mass <i>Saint Francis Xavier</i>
Thursday	6:00pm Yr 6 Graduation for Our Lady of Dolours
Friday	8:30am Mass CANCELLED 10:45am End of Year Mass for Our Lady of Dolours <i>Saint Nicholas</i>
Saturday	3:45pm - 4:15pm Reconciliation <i>Saint Ambrose</i>

Next Weekend's Sunday Masses

Saturday:	4:30pm Vigil
Sunday:	8:00am

Samford Sacred Heart

Thursday: 6:00pm Liturgy of the Word

Next Weekend's Sunday Mass

Sunday: 8:00am Mass

This Week's Readings

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2: 1 - 5
Rom 13: 11 - 14
Mt 24: 37 - 44

Next Week's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11: 1 - 10
Rom 15: 4 - 9
Mt 3: 1 - 12

GROVELY

Counters this week:

Sue Skehan, Jan & Lester Whiteway, Monica & John Birchley

Meditation Group:

There will be no meditation on Tuesday Dec 3, due to the St William's Graduation Mass. Meditation will resume on Dec 10. Enquires: Bob 0428 813 483

MITCHELTON

Counters this week:

Group A: Noel Rafter

Counters next week:

Group B: Philip Zabarauskas

Christmas Eve Mass At Our Lady of Dolours: Children are invited to dress up as characters from the Nativity Story at Christmas (e.g. Joseph, Mary, shepherds, wise men, angels, various animals). Carols commence on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm followed by Mas at 6pm. Please join us for refreshments after Mass.

Family Rosary:

This week: Zeny Alcorn

Next week: Nenett & Benny Cabrera

Advent Prayer Box:

During the season of Advent, we are having a prayer box at the entrance of the church at Our Lady of Dolours in which we can place our prayer requests. The box will then be placed in the centre of the Advent wreath and these will be prayed during the Prayers of the Faithful.

SAMFORD

Advent and Christmas Season Items Available:

Advent booklets (first Sunday of Advent today!), Christmas cards, Columban and TLC calendars, Christmas books and gift items

COMBINED COMMUNITIES' NEWS

Advent Begins!

As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus' coming. Are you preparing for it with the same fervour that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to you on a daily basis?

Advent Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration will be held at Our Lady of Dolours, Mitchelton, from **noon to 3pm** on the **Saturdays of Advent**.

Parish Christmas Hampers: Next Weekend, December 7 & 8

We will be receiving hampers and individual gifts next weekend at the following times.

Grovely: The Daley Centre
Sat Dec 7, 7:30am - 10am & 4:30pm - 7pm
Sun Dec 8, 6am - 9:30am
Enq. Hugh & Maria 3351 1020

Samford: Please bring your hampers to Mass on Sunday Dec 8 or to the Daley centre at the above times.
Enq. Mary 3355 5875

Mitchelton: Please bring your hampers to Mass Sat Dec 7, 4:30pm or Sun Dec 8, 8am
Enq. Mary 3355 5875

Thanks to everyone for your support!



ADVENT PRAYER WALL

Our **Advent Prayer Wall** can be found on the wall near the choir. Place your prayer requests in the pockets you will find on the wall-hanging.

Adoration with Meditative Singing using chants from Taize

A wonderful way to spend more time with Our Lord

Sunday Dec 8, St William's Church
From 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Sacramental Program:

Thank you parents and families for attending the last workshop for this year last week. For those who still need to contact me, I will be in the office until Dec 19. The Sacramental Program will be in recess until Jan 29.

Marie-Louise F. Singson

PLEASE NOTE:

Leaflets, notices, and other papers are not to be placed in the Church without prior permission from Fr Nigel.

Mass to Celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of St Stephen's Cathedral

When: Wednesday Dec 4, 7pm

Where: St William's Church

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Stephen's Cathedral. It is celebrated as a solemnity in the cathedral itself and as a feast day in all other churches of a diocese. A special mass will be held at St. William's to celebrate this Feast Day.

Faithful Departed

Recently Deceased:

David Raymer, Madeline Cruz, Bev Fraser, Gabrielle Beaumont (Katrina's stepsister), Noel Peacock

Anniversaries: John Buchanan

We pray for the Sick

We pray for:

Rebecca Agar, Vincent Arthur, Maureen Campbell, Fr David Catteral, Dominic Condon, Kathleen Edden, Kieran Hogan, Jen Nilon, Joyce Powell, Cindy Roberts, Rudi Wagenwood, Tom Moore, Pauline Parker

Please note All requests to have a Mass offered for someone, or newsletter requests for the name of recently deceased family members, prayers for the sick and anniversaries, need to be given to the parish office in writing. Forms and Mass request envelopes are available from the sacristy at all 3 churches, or from the Parish Office. Completed forms/envelopes can be given to the priest or handed in at the office.

Visitor From Our Sister Parish

Juliao Hornai (Jay) is visiting our Parish for the next few weeks. You may see him at Mass or around the schools.

Please say "g'day", and make him feel welcome whist in and around our Parish.



Timor Leste Companions

On behalf of St Williams Church and the Timor Leste Companions, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the Aladdin's Cave Fair which raised \$4000! We are planning another on April 18 2020, which we hope will be bigger and better with profits going to renovate St Williams Church.

We are grateful to St Williams School and our parish for making the St Mary Mackillop Centre and surrounding area available for the event.

Our group has published a Perpetual Calendar which includes artwork by students from our three parish schools. This calendar can provide a very useful help in recording anniversaries (birthdays and weddings, important recurring family and other social events), and could be a suitable gift especially at this time of the year. Parents or grandparents could fill in these dates as an activity with younger members of their families.

These calendars are available for purchase at our schools, the church shops at St Williams, Our Lady of Dolours and Samford, cost is \$25 each.



FAITH MATTERS—GSM



Faith Matters www.faith-matters-gsm.com.au and Plenary Council www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Today we begin the new Church Liturgical Year with the first Sunday of Advent, with the first candle lit in our Advent wreath. Over the next 4 weeks we remember, looking back to Christ's first coming with thankfulness in our hearts, and we look forward as well, with hope and expectation to the final coming of Christ. Thankfulness and gratitude – and hope, expectation, and joy!! Jesus has already come, He is with us, and we look forward to His final coming.

24 days to Christmas! And they'll probably be busier than any other 24 days in the year! Perhaps it can all get too hectic – the preparation, the presents, the good food, the invitations.... but let's try to enjoy these few weeks before Christmas – let's not take the fun out of it so that we forget what we're looking forward to - celebrating the birth of Jesus – God who became a human being.

What can we do to prevent being overwhelmed by preparations? Maybe we can manage a short minute or two each day remembering what we are celebrating at Christmas: the tender merciful love of our God who gave us his Son to become one of us, welcoming us all as his children.

Small reminders around in obvious places where we live, work and play – a candle, a star, Christmas wreath, a picture, can help remind us about the real meaning of Christmas and slow us down a little.

Lord God, thank you. Help us to be still and know that you are God, and that you are constantly a part of our lives. Let us look forward with hope and joy – and peace – during these weeks leading to our celebrations this Christmas.



St William's Merry Little Christmas is on again!

Join us for a day of yummy food, cheerful entertainment, good company and all round good fun on **December 25** in the **St Mary MacKillop Centre** from **12pm to 3pm**

We are taking bookings in the parish office now call 3355 2667 or drop in to find out more.

Tickets are \$25 for those who can afford it.
Transport can be arranged

Everyone in our community is invited!
Spread the word!

If you would like to volunteer on the day or in the lead up, please call 3355 2667

"Today was one of my happiest Christmas days ever :-)"

St William's Merry Little Christmas Volunteer, 2018



Grovely Church Shop

Advent begins this weekend, and we still have copies of two different little books with daily readings to take us through this period:

Little Blue Advent Books & Australian Wollongong Advent Books

See also the range of Christmas Gift Ideas, including Kevin Treston's latest book, *Opening Doors*.

Christmas Season Newsletters

The Parish Office will be closed from Dec 23 to Jan 5. Therefore, there will not be a newsletter for Dec 29. A 2 page newsletter will be released on Jan 5 which will contain the front page, rosters and prayers for the sick/deceased.



BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2020

Copies now available at the Parish Office
\$18 per copy
(Payable by cash or eftpos)

Project Christmas Card

An amazing morning of creating was achieved with 120 cards being made for our friends in nursing homes and the housebound.

In addition, the grade 3 students of St Williams have created a further 100 cards for parish outreach activities.

Hope you all enjoyed Thursday. See you all next year!

COMBINED COMMUNITIES' NEWS

GROVELY 2nd - 8th December

Monday	3:30pm 7:00pm 7:45pm	Library Library Church	Social Justice Group RCIA Grovely Choir
Tuesday	9:00am	Daley Centre	Playgroup
Thursday	7:30pm 7:30pm	Church Library	Baptism Preparation Timor Leste Companions
Saturday	9:30am	Church	Children's Advent Communal Reconciliation

SAMFORD 2nd - 8th December

Monday	6:30pm	Church	Samford Choir
Friday	9:00am	Church	John Main Meditation Prayer Group

CHRISTMAS MASSES

St William's Church, Dawson Parade, Keperra

Tuesday, December 24 **5:00pm, 7:00pm & 10:00pm**
Carols begin 15 minutes before Mass

Wednesday, December 25 **9:30am ONLY**

Sacred Heart Church, Samford Road, Samford

Tuesday, December 24 7:00pm for **7:30pm Mass**
Mass will be crowded. If you wish, come with a folding chair and sit on the verandahs. Pageant/Carols begin at 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 25 **8:00am**

Our Lady of Dolours Church, Corner of Samford Rd and Suez St, Mitchelton

Tuesday, December 24 **6:00pm**
Carols begin at 5:30pm

Wednesday, December 25 **8:00am**

Oxford Park Irish Room

Wednesday, December 25 **9:30am**

COMMUNAL RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday December 12 Grovely 6:00pm

Children's Communal Rite of Reconciliation

For families of the three communities

Saturday December 7 Grovely 9:30am

Thought For The Week

'Mercy' means to come to the aid of another out of a sense of relationship. Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival' - so the focus of the season is waiting. If we put mercy and Advent together, then we are waiting for all individuals and nations on earth to grow into the kind of relationship with each other that will encourage mutual help instead of competition and conflict. Then the Kingdom of God will be established!

Pope's Prayer Intentions: December The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Bellevue Mass of Anointing

There will be a Mass of Anointing on Thursday Dec 5 at 10:30am at the Bellevue Care Centre.

Advent Calendars

Each year Evangelisation Brisbane publishes a free Advent Calendar for children and families. It includes ideas for prayers, reading suggestions and ways that you can bring family and friends closer together during Advent. The calendar can be found here: <http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/assets/uploads/2019-advent-calendar-1.pdf>

Advent Retreat

Want a couple of hours of peace and quiet? Come, relax and be refreshed in a place of quiet and orderly beauty. Spend time with Jesus in a 'Mini Retreat' at the Rosalie Atrium, 333 Given Terrace, Paddington for just \$5.

THEME: Advent - Light in the Darkness

WHEN: Dec 3, 10am - 12pm &

Dec 3, 7pm - 9pm

Dec 5, 12pm - 2pm

Dec 8, 2pm - 4pm

For more information and to save a place: maryehare@gmail.com

December 1, 2019 -

First Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

Bible Quiz

What happened to Elimelech in Moab?

Answer next Week

Last Week's question:

For what did Esau sell his birthright to Jacob?

Answer:

A meal (Gen 25:30-34)



From Left to Right: Jim Chisolm, Fr Frank, Pat Curtin (MacKay) and Leon Livermore after Mass last Sunday at Sacred Heart. Reunion of the Booval Young Catholic Workers Rugby League B Grade Premiers 1971.

They all laughed when I told them that one day I would discover the secrets of invisibility. 😊

If only they could see me now!

Ministers of Communion Needed at Keperra Sanctuary

As you are aware, there is an extension of being an Extraordinary Minister of Communion whereby ministers take communion to those too ill or disabled to attend Mass. We have a marvellous group who take communion to these people on Sundays or other days as suits. They visit people in their homes, nursing homes and retirement villages.

The hostel at Keperra Sanctuary is one of the places where communion is taken to the sick and infirm. This is done on a rostered basis and due to a number of circumstances, some communion ministers are unable to continue with this ministry at Keperra Sanctuary

If you are interested in being a Minister of Communion for Keperra Sanctuary, please contact the Parish Office on 3355 266