

SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

In today's gospel, the figure of John the Baptist bursts onto the scene in Mathew's narrative as the herald of the coming "kingdom of the heaven" (Matt 3:2). He is described as a desert-dwelling preacher, a ferocious religious reformer, with an odd choice of clothing and a curious taste for insects and honey.

This image appears incongruous with the season of Advent and the coming feast of Christmas; and is perhaps more suited to Lent or even Easter, where the desert setting and the themes of repentance and the coming kingdom figure more prominently in the liturgy.

In popular culture, Christmas is wholeheartedly embraced by the wider community outside the Christian communion. It is a time of family barbecues, present-giving, cricket on the beach, and cold beers. Easter, which is a far more significant and liturgically rich feast, does not receive the same press or support. Often it is seen as little more than an opportunity for an extended weekend away.

We might wonder why there is not even the slightest nod to Easter's religious significance. Is it because we are more comfortable with the image of a new-born Jesus in a warm stable with cows and sheep than with the image of crucified and naked Jesus dying alone on a stark hillside? Or is it that Christmas more easily lends itself to a celebration of that great new secular cult: consumerism?

Christmas is as much a time for extravagance and credit card debt as it is for family get-togethers. So often amidst our rejoicing and songs commemorating the "choirs of angels" we forget the enormity of the occasion, when God became incarnate to offer us redemption from sin and death.

Christmas is part and parcel of the Easter message. The birth of Jesus only derives real significance from his ultimate death and resurrection. For it was only in the light of that experience that Jesus' first followers eventually came to see that Jesus was God incarnate. His birth in obscurity was conceived anew as the centre-point of history. Hence, the story in Matthew does not shirk from hinting at the end that awaits this babe and that of those who fail to heed his message.

The wise men offer gifts that include myrrh, an aloe used for anointed dead bodies (Matt 2:11); a jealous secular King orders the massacre of innocents to try prematurely to destroy the "newborn king" (Matt 2:16-18); and, a fiery prophet warns of the coming wrath of God against the wealthy, the powerful and self-satisfied who refuse to repent (Matt 3:7-13).

This Christmas, as we come to kneel before the crib in our churches, let us remember that the shadow of the cross looms large over the little stable by the altar. And amid the strains of jaunty carols and festive well-wishes, may we also hear the words of John the Baptist calling us to "produce good fruit as evidence of repentance" (Matt 3:8).



Ian J Elmer
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Gosnells Catholic Parish

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church
Archdiocese of Perth
Western Australia



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Website: www.gosnellsparish.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am - 1.30pm

Entry by: 1 Isdell Place, Gosnells

Parish Secretary:

Naomi Newman: 9398 2331
Email: secretary@gosnellsparish.org.au

Catechist Coordinator

Barbara Ingram : 9398 2864

Safeguarding Officers

safeguarding@gosnellsparish.org.au
0432 398 973

SVDP Local Contact

Genevieve De Souza : 9398 5375

8th December, 2019

**Second Sunday of Advent
Year A**

Today's Readings

Isiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

15th December, 2019

**Third Sunday of Advent
Year A**

Next Sunday's Readings

Isiah 35:1-6
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

St Munchin's Catholic Primary School



Principal: Mr Robert Romeo
1 Isdell Place, Gosnells
PO Box 172, Gosnells WA 6990
9234 7555
admin@stmunchins.wa.edu.au

Follow Truth

Sunday Bulletin

Parish Liturgies

Weekend Mass	Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass, Sunday 7.30am, Sunday 9.30am
Weekday Mass	Monday 8.00am Communion Service (Mass on Solemnity only) Tuesday 6.00pm Mass - 1st Tuesday Mass of Anointing Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 8.00am Mass Friday 9.00am Mass
Reconciliation	Saturday 5.00-5.45pm or anytime by appointment
Buckley Caring Centre	10.00am Mass - Second Thursday of the Month
Juniper Aged Care	11.00am Mass - Third Friday of the Month
Rosary	After weekday Masses
Exposition	Tuesday 5.00-6.00pm with Benediction, Sunday 6.00 - 7.00pm
Charismatic Prayer	Thursday 7.30pm - 9.30pm.
Baptism	Sunday at 11.00am, or by arrangement
Marriage	By appointment - Minimum SIX MONTHS notice for preparation etc

2020 Columban Calendar

Support your Vinnies by purchasing a 2020 Columban Calendar at only \$8 each. Calendars are available in the Church foyer. Place your contribution in the envelope provided and drop it into the SVDP Poor Box at the back of the church.



The Way
Advent and Christmas
Daily Reflections
2019
(70-page pocket size booklet)
Now available in the foyer.

Praying For You

Deceased

Dulcie Beins, Leonard Lyra,
Bernadette D'Amico

Death Anniversary

Daniele Dimartino, Domenico Dimartino

Our Sick

Gerry & Annette Greenway,
Wendy Price, Fran Wiffen,
Ding Madrigal, Zee Pereira,
John Warui, Metilde Warui,
Con Farano, Natasha Curran,
Hirute Selassie, Peter Cox,
Mary Hazel Calupig, Bill Tucker,
Margaret Evans, Rene Priest,
Erika Magness, Ian Ballantyne,
Mavis Hall, Rose Thomas

Feast Days this Week

Dec 9	Mon	The Feast of the Immaculate Conception
10	Tue	St Melchiades, St John Roberts, St Edmund Gennings, St Eustace White, St Polydore Plasden, St Swithin Wells
11	Wed	Pope St Damasus I, St Maria Maravillas of Jesus
12	Thu	Our Lady of Guadalupe, St Finian of Clonard
13	Fri	St Lucy
14	Sat	St John of the Cross

Rosters for 7/8 December, 2019

Mass	Greeters	Reader	Commentator	Acolyte	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday 6.00pm	Rosa Ford Bette Lyra	Aya Van Ingen	Lynette Lieveaux	Aruna Ratnasekera	Christy Ravanez, Bridget Soh Vivian Loh, Sandra Wren Remi Biju, Pam Davies	Elsa Rehart, Ashton Rica-Franca Joshua Rozario, Aya Van Ingen Dashiell Van Ingen, Angel Villian
Sunday 7.30am	Wendie Almen Jackie Hall	Jeanette Pedulla	Deb Wild	Clint Barnes	Ann Ralston, Peter Mack Volunteer, Volunteer	Michael Almen, Tom Antu Justin Kyaw-Tun, Naomi Kyaw-Tun
Sunday 9.30am	Anne Brink Elaine Curran	Cecilia Jacob	Ciara Jacob	Dan Hewitt	Servite Sister, Carolina Hayward Kerry Keys, Geraldine Pereira Helen Magness, Angela Bushby	Seren Adams, Able Biju Aron Biju, Thomos Armoogum J C Bonlongan, Khryzia Casas
Tellers this week: Jim & Anne Brink, Kerry Keys				Tellers next week: Loretta Watson, Rosa Pedulla, Kath Ryan		

Rosters for 14/15 December, 2019

Mass	Greeters	Reader	Commentator	Acolyte	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday 6.00pm	Theresa Spicer Sandra Wren	Mary Ann Bombita	Faye Mitchell	Stewart Bazzica	Lloyd Davies, Bridget Soh Cigi Dcruz, Ludette Van Der Spil Faye Mitchell, Christy Ravanez	Emmanuel Armoogum, Bella Bresland Diobett Bangayan, Tristan Bettridge Athena Calupig, Matthew Costantino
Sunday 7.30am	Yvonne Padua Ann Ralston	Alaster Croning	Kath Ryan	Larry Cavallo	Rod McAtee, Ann Ralston Volunteer, Volunteer	Andrea Martin, Aldric Ratnasekera Ayden Ratnasekera, Joel Thomas
Sunday 9.30am	Jane Fernandez Ciara Jacob	Helen Magness	Hedwig Kanari	Nigel Hayward	Servite Sister, Peta Phillips Silvana Sciorilli, Elsie T-Boundy Evelyn Yozzi, Joe Yozzi	Emily Crestani, Larissa Farr Linleigh Frasco, Angel Garavillas Paige Jacob, Sanjay Jojo

WE CARE

SVDP Emergency Relief Phone 1300 794 054

Marycare Contact Maureen 9398 7375 Anne 9490 3377





Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday, 19th Dec at 7.00pm. The Second Rite of Reconciliation will take place with several priests present. Let us prepare for the Season of Peace by reconciling ourselves with God and with one another.

The Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated in these parishes at 7.00pm:

Good Shepherd Kelmscott Wednesday 11th December

St Joseph's Queens Park Thursday 12th December

Sacred Heart Thornlie Tuesday 17th December

Our Christmas Celebrations

Tuesday, 24th December

5.15pm Carols followed by 6.00pm Family Vigil Mass

11.15pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Wednesday, 25th December

8.30am Christmas Morning Mass



Let's invite our family, friends and neighbours to our Christmas celebration and share our joy with them.

Fr Hieu's Farewell

Fr Hieu will be leaving our parish on 26th December. We will be having a farewell gathering for him next Sunday, 15th December after the 9.30am Mass in the parish centre. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. Please also sign the farewell card for him.

Mass Times Next Week

There will be Mass on Monday at 9.00am to celebrate the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

There will no 6.00pm Mass on Tuesday, 10th December but you are invited to go to the Closing Mass of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival at Trinity College in Perth at 6.30pm. Information about the Mass is available in the foyer.

St Munchins' Year 6 Graduation Mass will be celebrated at 9.00am, Tuesday 10th December and the whole school will celebrate their end of year Mass on Friday, 13th December at 9am. All are welcome.

Christmas Family Mass Acting out the Nativity Story



We invite all children in primary school to participate in acting out the story of the birth of Jesus at the Family Christmas Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December. Please register in the foyer. Rehearsals will be held in the church on Fridays 13th and 20th December at 4.30pm.

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating our Christmas trees to the events leading to the birth of Jesus. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.



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Parish Safeguarding Officers

The Perth Catholic Archdiocese is committed to the safety and security of all children and young people. If you have any safety concerns about a person in the parish or about a child protection or child safety issue, you can discuss it with the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Phone 0432 398 973 or email safeguarding@gosnellsparish.org.au

Golden Age Club

Christmas lunch this Tuesday, 10th December starting at 10am for booked members. Lunch will be served at 12.30pm. Club days will resume 7th January 2020.



New Rosters

The roster for Extraordinary Ministers and Acolytes for the next four months is available in the foyer. Please ensure that you collect a copy for your reference at home. Once again thank you for your service to our community.

All Singers and Musicians

Come along and meet the fabulous and friendly choir members and let's make Christmas extra special. Practice is every Monday night from 7pm to 8.30pm, in the church. Please use the Corfield St entrance. New parishioners are especially encouraged to join us for fun and friendship while serving the needs of the parish with music. Enquiries: Suzanne 0423 771 796 or Brenda 0414 098 705.



Christmas Children's Choir

The Children's Choir will sing for the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Practice has begun, but not too late to join us Mondays from 3pm (with 3.30pm start) to 4.30pm in the Church. Parents are welcome to stay. Carols will be sung for the half hour prior to Mass on Christmas eve. All enquiries to Suzanne Bazzica 0423 771 796.



Christmas Hamper Raffle

Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Winners will be drawn after 9.30am Mass, 22nd December. All proceeds to aid parish funds.



Flowers for Christmas

We once again are asking parishioners to help with the purchase of flowers for our Christmas decorations. There is a container in the foyer to take your donation. May God continue to bless and keep you and your family as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.



A Voice For Her – Christmas Reflection In Word and Music

Catholic Mission presents a beautiful and inspiring evening of readings and sacred music with Jennifer Barrington (soprano), Paul O'Neill (tenor), Adrian Biemmi (violin), Hugh Lydon (conductor), Dominic Perissinotto (pipe organ), The Giovanni Consort and Scola Choir (from Aquinas College). Reflection by Nick and Leigh Marvin. All are welcome. Thursday, 12 December from 7pm – 8.30pm, St Patrick's Basilica, 47 Adelaide St, Fremantle. Tickets: Adults \$30; Conc \$20; Under 12 yrs Free.

Visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BGRGF>. For further information contact Lydia on Istanley@catholicmission.org.au or 9422 7933.

Marycare Volunteers

Insurance Forms are required to be completed by all of our Volunteers. Please collect a form from the glass cabinet in the church foyer if you have not completed one previously. Place the completed form in the Parish Office In Box in the foyer or return to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Enquiries to Marycare Co-ordinators or the parish office.

Vinnies Clothing Drive

Your Vinnies say a big THANK YOU for the overwhelming support of our clothing drive. If you missed bringing back your filled bags last week, there are our blue St Vincent de Paul clothing bins located in the Isdell Place and Corfield Street car parks. God Bless.

Buckets For Jesus Christmas Dinner Fundraiser

In support of earthquake victims in the Philippines. Saturday, 14th December, 6.30pm FACPI Clubhouse 1 Catherine Street, Bedford. Book online @ [trybooking.com/BHAYL](https://www.trybooking.com/BHAYL) See bulletin board for more information and other fundraising events.

WA Young Salesian Summer Camp

Summer Camp 6-10 Jan 2020

Are you between 12-15 yrs or starting Year 7 in 2020? Come and join us for this 5 day fun filled camp at Nanga Bush Camp, Dwellingup. Only \$200 (\$40 a day). Contact Fr Philip, visit the website or contact Graham on 0418 979 600 for more info or to pick up a form. Places are filling fast!

Register now at: www.wayoungsalesians.com



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