

ST MARY'S PARISH, SALE

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SALE; ST PATRICK'S, STRATFORD;
ST ROSE OF LIMA, ROSEDALE; ST PATRICK'S, BRIAGOLONG;
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LOCH SPORT.

47 Foster Street, PO Box 183, Sale.

Parish Office Tel: 5144 4100 Hours: Tues - Fri 9.15am to 3pm (Closed Mondays)

Parish email: Sale@cdsale.org.au Parish website: <http://www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au/>

Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Gregory Bennet. DD

Dean of the Cathedral: Very Reverend Francis Otopo, Mobile 0448 529 712

Assistant Priest: Fr Jithin Anto Mobile 0490 364 751

Resident Priest: Fr Aneesh George

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Staff: Clare O'Brien, Parish Secretary. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15am - 3pm. Mark Durrant, Finance Manager.

Hours: Wednesday 9am - 3pm. Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sacramental Coordinator Email: Sale.sacraments@cdsale.org.au.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Fr Francis, Fr Jithin, Rose Lee (Chairperson), John Dykun (Deputy Chairperson), Clare O'Brien (Secretary), Doug Waite (Deputy Secretary), Jennifer Fitzgerald, Brenda Burditt, Claire Everard, Tim Morrison, Carmel Kuizenga, Anita Little, Filomena Padula.

Safeguarding Statement: Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Tim Morrison. Ph 5144 4100



Third Sunday of Advent, Year B 16 - 17 December 2023

Who am I?

This third Sunday in Advent is called the Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. One may ask why it is called Gaudete Sunday. It is called so because the birth of Jesus as Man is very near and his coming will bring liberation to many who are held captive in various ways. The good news is that when Jesus comes, all our worries and concerns will be done with, and our hearts will be filled with joy.

In the gospel reading of today taking from John 1:19-28, we see that attention is drawn to the person and mission of John the Baptist. We know that John was the forerunner of Jesus who was preparing the hearts of the people towards the coming of the Messiah, but the people wanted to be sure of his identity, so the Jews sent some Priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he did not deny but declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ,' 'Well then,' they asked 'Are you Elijah?' He replied, 'I am not'. 'Are you the Prophet?' He said, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you?' We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself? John replied, I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice of the one that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight. He was humble enough to tell them that he was not the Christ, he was contented with who he was and would not claim to be who he was not. He went further to say that he was not even fit to untie the strap of his sandals. John did his part in preparing the way for the Lord and it was time for him to give way to the Master of the day. One striking thing about John the Baptist was that he was happy with his position as the forerunner of Jesus. He was a fulfilled man because he was aware of his identity and in touch with himself.

This is an invitation for all to ask this same question, 'Who am I?', 'Who are you?' We all need the humility of John the Baptist to be true to who we truly are and be happy to let go of what we so much cling to, even when it is obvious that we are not what we claim to be. When we are in touch with who we really are, we will be happy and joyful with ourselves and with others.

As we approach the birth of Jesus in a week's time, the prophecy of Isaiah will be fulfilled just as Jesus himself re-read it in the gospel of Luke 4:18-19. "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the Goodnews to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the year of God's favour". We are called by the Church to rejoice because our liberation is near at hand, and we know the one who is coming and what he will bring. He will heal us of our spiritual blindness, of our spiritual poverty and freedom to all who are in captivity of sin. Jesus is close to the broken hearted and those whose Spirit is crushed he will save. What an encouraging word to our world that is filled with sufferings of one kind or the other. This is the message that the coming of Jesus at Christmas will bring to us.

Reflection by Sr Victoria Orinya



PARISH CALENDAR.

Sun 17 Dec after 9.30am Mass: Farewell morning tea for Fr Jithin. Lunch 12pm at Legends.

Sat & Sun 17 & 18 Dec: St Vincent de Paul leaving Collection

Thurs 21 Dec 6.00pm: Parish Reconciliation

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE will be in the assembly area of the cathedral from **1 to 17 December**. Parishioners are invited to take tags from the tree and purchase these goods then return them to the box under the tree to be distributed to families. **There will be a leaving collection at all masses this weekend - 16 & 17 December**. Please take your items and give generously to those who are less fortunate by **Sunday 17 December**.

FAREWELL MORNING TEA we will be having a farewell morning tea for Fr Jithin, this **Sunday 17 December after 9.30am Mass** in the Cathedral. This will be followed by Lunch at Legends for those who signed up in previous weeks.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE is shown on the next page. Please note: as Christmas Eve is a Sunday and Christmas Day is a Monday we will be having our regular Masses at Loch Sport—**Sat 23 Dec at 11am**, Rosedale—**Sat 23 Dec at 5.30pm** and Briagolong—**Sun 24 Dec at 9.30am**. The only Mass that will be replaced is the 5.30pm Sunday Mass which will now be the Christmas Eve family Mass at **6pm on Sunday 24 December**.

CHRISTMAS MASS volunteer rosters are available in the Cathedral. We need volunteers for the **Saturday, Sunday and Monday** Masses. If you can help as a welcomer, reader, commentator, minister of the eucharist, for the offertory procession or in any of our usual volunteers roles in the Cathedral please add your name to the signup sheet. If you know of any available altar servers please notify Fr Jithin.

ROSTERS FOR THE CATHEDRAL a new roster covering **30 & 31 December to 4 March 2024** have been emailed this week or are available for collection in the Cathedral.

PARISH RECONCILIATION will be held at **6.00pm on Thursday 21 December** in the Cathedral.

THE CATHEDRAL TV SCREEN There was another \$200 donated this week. With what we have now we are able to purchase the system which hopefully will be delivered soon. Moreso, there are other pledges which be redeemed in due course. I thank you all for your generosity and support. Once the system is assembled and delivered we will then be able to give you details of the donations/contributions and the expenses. For now all we say is thank you very much for all you do for our parish community. God bless you.

2023 ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE: During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection for the people of Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars was raised to support people in the war-torn nation through the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops agreed to an appeal for the people of Ukraine during Advent. If you would like to donate you can do so online using a normal bank deposit to: Account Name: Trustees of UCC in Au BSB: 704-235 Account: 00007183 There will be no leaving collection for this appeal in our Parish.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS If you would like to donate money for Christmas Flowers please place the money in a clearly marked envelope and place on the collection plate. If you would prefer to give electronically please call the Parish Office on 5144 4100 for banking details.

THANK YOU to all our parishioners who donated to Fr Jithin, who is touched by your generosity. Please come along to morning tea **after 9.30am Mass on Sunday** if you can and bring a plate to share. **The lunch bookings closed last Sunday**—thanks to all those who booked in to celebrate with Fr Jithin.

LISTEN TO THE WORD is a free online Advent Resource 2023 from the Sydney Archdiocese <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/>

PARISH OFFICE will be closed from **Monday 25 December 2023 till Tuesday 16 January 2024**.

PARISH PRAYER.

*God our loving Father,
we give you thanks and praise
for our Cathedral Parish of Sale,
for your people and your Creation.*

*Nourish us by your daily
Word and Eucharist.
Enrich us in our faith, hope and love.*

*Strengthen us with the spirit
of your mercy and grace.*

*Make us grateful for your gifts as we
journey through our lives together.*

*May we be a welcoming
and serving community,
always discerning and
doing your will for one another.*

*We make this prayer through
Christ Our Lord. Amen*

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT. Third Candle is introduced

Celebrant: O ROOT OF JESSE, that stands for an ensign of the people, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication:

Response: COME, to deliver us, and do not delay.

Celebrant: O KEY OF DAVID, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens:

Response: COME, and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death. Amen.

3 Candles lit.

The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" or Come Lord Jesus



31 CLUB REMINDER 18—24 December. Please pray for vocations.

SINCERE SYMPATHY to Amy Goldsmith (St Mary's Primary School) and family who lost their Mother/Grandmother, Patricia Hayes, this week. May the good Lord grant her eternal rest.

BAPTISMS: By arrangement through the Parish Office phone 5144 4100.

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday before Mass 10.00am — 11.00am
At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am — 10.30am

RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday 10.30-11am before Mass.

At Other times: Available on request

Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening: Available on request.

MARRIAGES: Not less than six months notice please.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving:	\$1,424.00
Presbytery:	\$878.55
Credit Cards	\$0.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$643.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$160.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.

K.J.ALLMAN LL.B

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**Mass Timetable this week
Third Sunday of Advent, Year B
16 - 17 December 2023**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 16 December	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 17 December <i>Fr Jithin's Morning Tea & Lunch</i>	9.30am	Stratford
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
WEEKDAYS		
Monday 18 December	NO	MASS
Tuesday 19 December	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 20 December	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 21 December <i>Parish Reconciliation</i>	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 22 December - Mass <i>Exposition & Reconciliation</i>	6.00pm	Cathedral
	11.00am	Cathedral
	10.00am	Cathedral
WEEKEND		
Saturday 23 December	9.30am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Loch Sport
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
	9.30am	Briagolong
Sunday 24 December	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Cathedral
	6.00pm	Cathedral
	9.00pm	Cathedral
<i>CHRISTMAS EVE MASS</i>		
<i>CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS</i>		



Activity tubs & books: available in the Youth Corner for all children attending mass.

Youth Mass: The next youth mass will be held on the 3rd Saturday in **February 2024**.

Children's Liturgy: Running every Sunday on school term during **9:30am Mass** (If you would like to volunteer please contact Parish Office, A WWCC & Parish Code of Conduct required)

Family Fun & Faith Day:
Has been rescheduled and will now be held on **Saturday 10 February 2024**. Please put this date in your diary. Please contact Shari on 0430 932 220 if you would like more information.

Date & Time	Sat 16 Dec	Sun 17 Dec	Sun 17 Dec
	5.30pm	9.30am	5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Marie & Nick Centra	Claire Everard
Commentator	Emma Morrison	Christine Lyon	Sophia Kartobi
Reader	Faye Flint	Amanda & Maya V	Veronica Stewart
Eucharist	Frank Fidge	Dalia Ellison	Len Althaus
Counters	Sue Harvey & Mary Cooper		

Date & Time	Sat 23 Dec	Sun 24 Dec	Sun 24 Dec
	5.30pm	9.30am	6.00pm
Welcomer	VOLUNTEER		
Commentator	ROSTER		
Reader	ALL MASSES		
Counters	Len & Lyn Althaus (Tuesday 26/12)		

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 16 Dec 5.30pm: Richard Klimas (A); **Sun 17 Dec 9.30am:** William & Eileen Lyons (A's); **Sun 17 Dec 9.30am, Stratford:** Len Watson;

Sat 23 Dec 9.30am: Claudiliya Fernando

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who have died **Wally Grant, Joseph O'Connor, Patricia Hayes**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Len Watson, Richard Klimas, William & Eileen Lyons, Fr Patrick Kavanagh, Fr John Gowen, Mgr Thomas Lynch, Fr James Duffy**. We pray for those who are sick **Jim Durrant, Emma O'Hare, Moira Petrie, Hurbert Somasiri, Andrew Lyon, Jim Clottin, Nimal & Vajira, Dushyanthi, Helen O'Kane, Michael McGrath, Troy Barney, Bill Harkin and Maureen O'Kane**. **We pray in thanks for all who care for the sick.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE
St Mary's Cathedral Parish**

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER: SUNDAY MASS

11.00am Loch Sport
5.30pm Cathedral
5.30pm Rosedale

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE

9.30am **Sunday Mass** — Cathedral
9.30am **Sunday Mass** — Briagolong
6.00pm **Christmas Vigil Mass** — Ashleigh House (residents only)
6.00pm **Christmas Vigil Family Mass** — Cathedral
St Mary's Cathedral Parish invite all families to attend the Christmas Mass. Children are welcome to dress up as a character from the Nativity.

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS NIGHT

9.00pm St Mary's Cathedral — Sale

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am St Mary's Cathedral — Sale
9.30am St Patrick's — Stratford
11.00am Seaspray Community Hall — Seaspray



NEW TO THE PARISH? CHANGED ADDRESS IN THE LAST YEAR? NEED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES OR TO UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?
Please let us know we'd like to meet you!

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

Please tick: If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program
If you would like to join a Family Group
Please place on the plate at Mass or drop into the Parish Office

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of nations.'

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R.)**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Cathedral

Every Friday 10 - 11am

RECONCILIATION: Cathedral

Friday 10.30 - 11am

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

1st Reading: **2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16**

2nd Reading: **Romans 16:25-27**

Gospel: **Luke 1:26-38**

WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday: Loch Sport - 11.00am (2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month)

Saturday: Cathedral - 5.30pm

Saturday: Rosedale - 5.30pm

Sunday: Cathedral - 9:30am and 5.30pm

Sunday: Stratford - 9.30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the Month)

Sunday: Briagolong - 9.30am (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month)

Please check the bulletin each week for weekday Mass times.