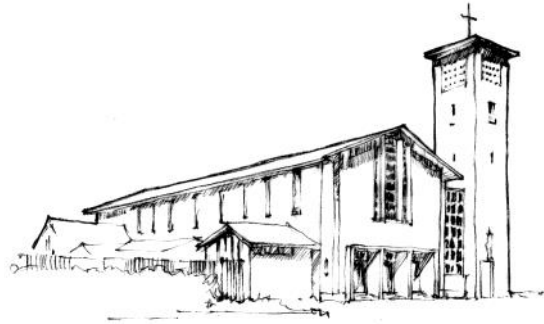


Welcome to

# St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

17 December 2023

**Parish Office:**

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW 2045

**P:** 02 9798 6657

**E:** admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

**W:** www.stjoanofarc.org.au

**Office hours:**

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am - 3pm

**Parish Priest:** Fr Phillip Zadro

**Parish Team:**

**Secretary:**

Antonella Pesci

**Pastoral Associate:**

Maria Condello

Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au

**Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):**

Tony Mediati

0413 481 039

PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

**Eucharist:**

**Weekend:**

**Saturday evening:** 5.00pm

**Sunday:** 9.00am & 6.00pm

*(Check for changes on special Feast Days)*

**Weekdays:**

**Wednesday & Thursday:** 9.00am

**Friday:** 9.15am

*Tuesday evening may be available for memorial Masses.*

**Reconciliation:**

**Saturday:** 4:30pm - 4.50pm

**Schools:**

**SJOA Primary:**

**Principal:** Amanda Gahan

**P:** 9798 9780

**Domremy College:**

**Principal:** Antoinette McGahan

**P:** 9712 2133

## Christmas Mass times and Rosters

### 24th December

5pm - Children's Mass

9pm - Vigil

### 25th December

Midnight Mass

9am

*There will be no evening Mass*

The roster for the Christmas Masses is in the Sacristy, please place your name clearly alongside the ministry for which you are volunteering.

**Please note:** 4th Sunday of Advent falls on December 24th. Therefore, Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent will be December 23rd - 5pm and December 24th - 9am. Evening Masses on 24th December will be Christmas Masses.

## 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

St Mark's Drummoyne - Wednesday 20/12 @7pm

*Farewell morning tea for Fr Phil will be held now be held following the 9am Mass on 14th January. All welcome.*



## ST JOAN OF ARC CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS Sunday 24th December @5pm

If your school aged child would like to partake in either the Nativity re-enactment, be a reader or sing in the choir or play an instrument, please see below for rehearsal dates and times.

### CHRISTMAS EVE REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsal will be held on SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER at St Joan of Arc Church from 9am – 11am *(please note rehearsal will take place on the day before Christmas Eve)*

Please arrive by 8:50am to allow for registration.

We also need parent helpers at the rehearsal, during the mass and after the mass to assist with distributing the cake to all the parishioners.

If your child would like to be part of the choir or is confident in playing an instrument and would like to partake in the Mass, please text/email your child's name (instrument preference)

Lichuen Wong e: mikeandlich@gmail.com m: 0403 130 173

Lillian Tornatore e: Lillian.tornatore@gmail.com m: 0414 820 819

Merry Christmas

## Our Vision as presented in our Strategic Plan

*"...a welcoming and modern Catholic community grounded in faith and spirituality, we want to engage with and build a broader community, particularly among the young and with the families of our local Catholic school as well as providing pastoral outreach to those in need within our Haberfield community and also reach out to deliver broader social justice in our community, our nation and beyond."*



## Changes to Working with Children Checks in Parishes

Ministers of the Word/Readers/Lectors and Parish Collectors (AKA Wardens) are **NO** longer required to have a WWCC

Updated fact sheet as at 6 Dec 2023

In NSW, the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* stipulates who requires a Working with Children Check (WWCC). The WWCC scheme is monitored and audited by the **Office of the Children's Guardian**.

### Who needs a Working With Children Check?

#### Parish roles that **DO** require a WWCC

(if Children form part of the ministry work)

- Priest in Ministry
- Parish Secretaries
- Youth Ministers, Workers or Leaders
- Pastoral Associates
- Sacramental Coordinators
- Sacramental Group Leaders
- Catechists in State Schools
- Children's Liturgy Coordinators
- Children's Choir Ministry Leaders
- Acolytes and Senior Altar Servers
- Eucharistic Ministers

#### Parish roles that **DO NOT** require a WWCC

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cleaner                               | Gardener            |
| Choir members                         | Musicians           |
| Piety Stall                           | Flower Arranger     |
| Offertory                             | Hospitality Workers |
| Finance Committee                     | Counters            |
| Parish Pastoral Council               |                     |
| Ministers of the Word/Readers/Lectors |                     |
| Parish Collectors (AKA Wardens)       |                     |
| Ministers of the Homebound            |                     |
| Audio Visual Coordinators             |                     |
| Welcoming/greeting Ministry           |                     |
| St Vincent de Paul                    |                     |

For more information contact Tony Mediati - [pssso@stjoanofarc.org.au](mailto:pssso@stjoanofarc.org.au)



### Safeguarding Audit

St Joan of Arc has been chosen as one of 33 parishes and 7 church agencies to be audited. The required documentation has been completed. Thank you to Tony Mediati for the enormous work in preparing these documents. Some parishes are reporting needing in excess of 60 hours for two people to complete the assessment documents, so thanks Tony!!

### Nativity set

*The winners of the silent auction will be announced in next weekend's bulletin.*



**Together we can keep the faith alive - Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith?

**Aid to the Church in Need** is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction.



### COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2024

Now for sale in the Piety Store at \$10 each.

As usual, each month has a wonderful piece of artwork related to an event or feast day of that month.



### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards.

Packs of 10 cards are in the Piety Store now. There are 3 different design options to choose from. If you wish you can click on any card from each pack to show as an example.

- Pack A Cards \$8 per pack of 10;**
- Pack B cards \$8 per pack of 10 cards**
- Pack C cards \$6 per pack of 10.**

### Sacraments 2024

Details in relation to the reception of the Sacraments (Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist) are available on the parish website under Sacraments 2024. If you have a child/ren eligible for any of the Sacraments next year please complete the google form by Wednesday 20th December.



By helping the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal, you will assist in two ways. At a local level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level, you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and longer-term support services for people in NSW who require specialised care.

St Vincent de Paul told his followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive, and none so poor that they have nothing to give. Support for this Appeal will benefit recipients, and address poverty and disadvantage in our communities.

Please use the envelopes that will be in the Church on the first weekends in December, or use this QR Code:



## REFLECTION

***“For as the earth sends up its shoots and a garden makes seeds sprout, so the Lord makes saving justice and praise spring up in the sight of all nations.”***

In winter it is difficult to believe that our gardens and fields will ever again enjoy the flowering and fruition of what has been sown in them. The ground is like stone; the earth looks dry and unyielding; and it seems as if everything has died. But keen gardeners and farmers know how to be patient and to stay hopeful that all their hard work will be rewarded come spring and summer. No true gardener or farmer spends wintertime digging down into the soil to see what is going on there. That would be the surest way to ruin a harvest. It's a question of holding on in faith and confidence in the God of life.

The prophet Isaiah uses agricultural images for an audience that lived off its own produce. Most of us nowadays live removed from such direct contact with the earth, but we know how heavily we depend on crops growing well to feed ourselves, and what a threat to the earth's future it poses when the good health of our natural environment is ignored. Environmentalists have taught us to be alert to the signs of the times. Like John the Baptist, they are the prophets of our era, who warn us to keep awake and to prepare for the coming of God in all the calls of our day to conversion and right living.

Today's Gospel reading has clear links with the two readings that precede it. The setting is the prophetic ministry of John the Baptist as the announcer of the Messiah. John makes clear to the religious authorities that his is a preparatory role. Like a gardener or farmer, he makes the ground ready for the seed of faith to be sown to grow well and unhindered. John sees himself as the preparer of the soil where Jesus will sow the seed of God's word and make it become flesh through his own life and ministry. In the verses that follow, we see the impactor this and the way that faith and commitment are spread. John has already prepared Philip and Andrew, who meet Jesus and are captivated by him. Immediately they call their brother and friend respectively, so Peter and Nathanael become disciples. They will in turn go out to spread God's word administer through healing. Faith and commitment can be contagious.

Advent is a time for thinking about our own preparedness to receive God's word and God's call in our hearts. In what way does the soil of our heart need preparing, the paths of our life need making straight? It's also a time for reflecting on how we prepare the ground for the faith of those around us to grow and flourish.

Many of today's Christians worry about the loss of faith within their families and within society. The statistics in the northern hemisphere are not encouraging –the faith and practice of previous generations seem, in some senses, to be disappearing. It requires considerable faith and self-effacement on our part to prepare the ground for the faith journey of others without having any reassurance that this will ultimately prove successful.

For some of our family, friends and neighbours, we ourselves will be the only Gospel that they ever read, the only sermon they will ever hear. It's not so much a question of thinking up clever and convincing arguments as of living our faith genuinely and convincingly. We may not always be able to use

overtly religious language with those who are unable to accept it, but within the widest implications of our living justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly, there lie the seeds of faith, waiting to grow in God's good time and in ways that perhaps only God can see. The Fourth Eucharistic Prayer prays for “all who seek you with a sincere heart [...] and all the dead, whose faith you alone have known”. Faith is found and fostered in many hidden ways. The challenge to us is to have confidence in God's call even when we cannot see the proof.

Every baptised person shares in the threefold ministry of Christ as prophet, priest and king. We are prophetic when our faiths open up paths of faith for others. We are priestly when we affirm the sacredness of life in every human person and in our universe, and we are proclaimers of the kingdom when we do justice in all our social and personal relationships. That is how Advent is lived within the world.

The Living Word

### Saints Days/Coming Events

Nil

### -SACRAMENTS-

For information on BAPTISM, FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF THE SICK - EUCHARIST TO THE HOUSEBOUND please visit the parish website for details.

**Recently Deceased:** Pietro Leto, Giuseppe Annetta, Ken McTaggart Colin A. Kerr, Giustino Tauriello, Fatima Taukitoku, Jose Antonio Probaos, Placido Veneziano, Fr Michael Mullins SM, Sr Joan McBride SM.

**Please note:** Names of recently deceased will remain for a 3 month period before being removed.

**Rest in Peace:** Concetta Lo Surdo, Giustino Tauriello, Antonio Nesci, Beniamino Di Pasquantonio, Antonino Di Girolamo, Giuseppe Colantuono, Michael & Mary Kayrooz and Families, Marco Monaco, Nunzia Ferrara, Angelo Testa, Salvatore Giarratano, Joe Di Marti, Mary Attard, Luciano Frisone, Elisa Procopio, Salvatore Procopio, Monika Fisi'ihoi, Domenico Nicita, Kaliammah Subramaniam, Grazia Scuderi, Saverio Mafodda, Valentina Mannino, Antonio Cardillo, Helen Bedirian, Luigino De Domeneghi, Rofayla Daoud, Michael & Mary Kayrooz & families, Rocco Delfino, Rosa Delfino, Domenico Nicita, Iolanda Caruso, Domenico Catalano, Ilario Furlan, Carmela Catania, Salvatore Catania Concetta Cardillo, Maria Oppedisano, Anna Rosa Angilletta, Cosimo Angilletta, Joe Angilletta, Frank & Immacolata Angilletta, Giuseppe Aversa, Domenico & Olimpia Spadaro, Lawrence Wong, Pietro Banno, Jack McEnally, Domenico Banno, Lucy The, Jim Tuite, Sarina Torrisi, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiacommo, Fr Frank Furfaro & All Souls in Purgatory.

**In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community:** Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoury, Mary Finios, Rose Uthappa, Asela Savieti, Glen Dixon, Venu Uthappa, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco, Jojo Tadic

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657



### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

*Come Let us Adore*

Spend some time with the Lord in quiet reflection this Advent  
 10th and 17th December  
 Mass 6pm  
 Exposition 7pm - 8pm  
 Reconciliation available from 7pm

St Joan of Arc Church  
 97 Dalhousie St  
 Haberfield

### Joy

Joy does not come from positive predictions about the state of the world. It does not depend on the ups and downs of the circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world. Jesus says it loudly and clearly: "In the world you will have troubles, but rejoice, I have overcome the world."

The surprise is not that, unexpectedly, things turn out better than expected. No, the real surprise is that God's light is more real than all the darkness, that God's truth is more powerful than all human lies, that God's love is stronger than death.

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*Thank You!*

To all those who donated prizes for the Christmas raffle at last week's parish Christmas Celebration.

- Clara's Hairdressing
- Nadia's Beauty Room
- IGA Haberfield (Robert)
- Lorena's boutique
- Haberfield Health
- Garnish Café
- Amatos Liquor Mart

We also thank the following parishioners who made donations. Marea Dorman, Pina Furlan, Frank Capra, Josie Cavallaro, Peter Doyle & Nerina Friscone

We wish all those who will be away over the summer break a wonderful and safe holiday.

The Parish Office will be closed from 25th December, reopening on Tuesday 2nd January.

### Baby Change Table

A baby change table has been purchased and will be placed in the disabled toilet (carpark side of church). There will be a packet of wipes there, please ensure you wipe it down after use.

Thank you Rhonda Albani for arranging this.

On behalf of Jesuit Social Services' Ignite Food Store Team we would like to say thank you to the St Joan of Arc parish community. We appreciate your annual food drive the parish has hosted over the last few years. The Parish's thoughtfulness makes such a difference in the lives of local people in Mt Druitt. Your donations will assist the Ignite team to place food stock on shelves leading up to Christmas and in January 2024. We are most grateful.

Claire Thomas

# CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

*a festival evening at St Mary's*

**14-25 DECEMBER**

We invite the community of Sydney to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Festivities begin at 5.30pm with:**  
 Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment

Use the hashtag **#ChristmasAtTheCathedral** on your social posts.

For more information, visit our website [christmasatthecathedral.org.au](http://christmasatthecathedral.org.au)