

Welcome

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 DECEMBER 2024 YEAR C

Parish Office:

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW
2045

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Office hours:

Tues - Fri, 9am - 3pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary:

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediati
0413 481 039
PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil): 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm
(Check for changes on special
Feast Days)

Weekdays:

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30pm - 4.50pm

Schools:

SJOA Primary:

Principal: Amanda Gahan
P: 9798 9780

Domremy College:

Principal: Antoinette McGahan
P: 9712 2133

From the Pastor

Living Santas

No Christmas party is complete without a Santa Claus (of some form). Kids are told the story Santa coming from the North Pole on a sledge pulled by reindeers. Then there is the story becomes more interesting. One of the reindeers, Rudolf, had a red nose which made him a misfit and a subject of bullying. But Santa recognises the glowing red nose as guiding light through foggy paths he had to travel. These tales can easily raise the curiosity of the children. In any case, these tales celebrate the joy and happiness. And that is good. But there is another story pointing to the origins of Santa Claus.



The origin of the Santa story is rooted in the life of St. Nicholas of Myra, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his generosity and kindness, especially toward the poor and children. St. Nicholas lived in what is now modern-day Turkey and was known for his secret gift-giving.

One famous story tells of how he saved three impoverished sisters from being sold into servitude by secretly providing them with dowries. Legend says he tossed bags of gold coins through their window at night, which landed in their stockings or shoes. This act of charity became the foundation for the tradition of gift-giving associated with St. Nicholas. Over centuries, the story of St. Nicholas was adapted and spread through different cultures. It then evolved into Santa Claus.

There are Santa Clauses living in Haberfield. They bear Christmas gifts' but do not come from North Pole. Neither do they dress in red costume and funny hat. Your generosity in responding to SVDP Christmas appeal was coming of Santa for many. Heaps of Toys and other gifts collected by Mary MacKillop Outreach Giving Tree in the foyer of the Church was another manifestation of Santa. Number of local businesses sponsored the gifts that flooded the Parish Christmas Party and heightened the Christmas mood of joy. That means you have been the living Santa. In this Christmas season, don't be shy to share with children how you have been Santa Claus.

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 5813 or 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.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you
is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his
name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it
with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of

God, which is so much greater than we can
understand, will guard your hearts and your
thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we
do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he
must share with the man who has none, and the
one with something to eat must do the same.'

There were tax collectors too who came for
baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must
we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your
rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What
about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No
intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your
pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the
people, who were beginning to think that John
might be the Christ, so John declared before them
all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is
coming, someone who is more powerful than I am,
and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he
will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His
winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-
floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the
chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As
well as this, there were many other things he said
to exhort the people and to announce the Good
News to them.

Christmas Confession

**7-8 pm on Wednesday 18 Dec,
and 9-10 am on Saturday 21 Dec.**

Children's Christmas Pageant

Register your name today antc84@hotmail.com or
write your name on the sheet at the Church door.

Rehearsal @ 2pm next Sunday.

Please take a copy of the Parish Bulletin
especially to non active parishioners.

Prima Lettura

[Sof 3,14-18](#)

Il Signore esulterà per te con grida di gioia.

Dal libro del profeta Sofonia
Rallègrati, figlia di Sion,
grida di gioia, Israele,
esulta e acclama con tutto il cuore,
figlia di Gerusalemme!
Il Signore ha revocato la tua condanna,
ha disperso il tuo nemico.
Re d'Israele è il Signore in mezzo a te,
tu non temerai più alcuna sventura.
In quel giorno si dirà a Gerusalemme:
«Non temere, Sion, non lasciarti cadere le
braccia!
Il Signore, tuo Dio, in mezzo a te
è un salvatore potente.
Gioirà per te,
ti rinnoverà con il suo amore,
esulterà per te con grida di gioia».

Parola di Dio

Salmo Responsoriale

Is 12

R. Canta ed esulta, perché grande in mezzo a te è il Santo d'Israele. .

Ecco, Dio è la mia salvezza;
io avrò fiducia, non avrò timore,
perché mia forza e mio canto è il Signore;
egli è stato la mia salvezza.

Attingerete acqua con gioia
alle sorgenti della salvezza.
Rendete grazie al Signore e invocate il suo nome,
proclamate fra i popoli le sue opere,
fate ricordare che il suo nome è sublime.

Cantate inni al Signore, perché ha fatto cose
eccelse,
le conosca tutta la terra.
Canta ed esulta, tu che abiti in Sion,
perché grande in mezzo a te è il Santo d'Israele.

Seconda Lettura

[Fil 4,4-7](#)

Il Signore è vicino!

Dalla lettera di san Paolo apostolo ai Filippési

Fratelli, siate sempre lieti nel Signore, ve lo ripeto: siate lieti. La vostra amabilità sia nota a tutti. Il Signore è vicino!
Non angustiatevi per nulla, ma in ogni circostanza fate presenti a Dio le vostre richieste con preghiere, suppliche e ringraziamenti. E la pace di Dio, che supera ogni intelligenza, custodirà i vostri cuori e le vostre menti in Cristo Gesù.

Parola di Dio

Acclamazione al Vangelo

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lo Spirito del Signore è sopra di me,
mi ha mandato a portare ai poveri il lieto annuncio

Alleluia.

Vangelo

[Lc 3,10-18](#)

E noi che cosa dobbiamo fare?

Dal Vangelo secondo Luca
In quel tempo, le folle interrogavano Giovanni, dicendo: «Che cosa dobbiamo fare?». Rispondeva loro: «Chi ha due tuniche, ne dia a chi non ne ha, e chi ha da mangiare, faccia altrettanto». Vennero anche dei pubblicani a farsi battezzare e gli chiesero: «Maestro, che cosa dobbiamo fare?». Ed egli disse loro: «Non esigete nulla di più di quanto vi è stato fissato». Lo interrogavano anche alcuni soldati: «E noi, che cosa dobbiamo fare?». Rispose loro: «Non maltrattate e non estorcete niente a nessuno; accontentatevi delle vostre paghe». Poiché il popolo era in attesa e tutti, riguardo a Giovanni, si domandavano in cuor loro se non fosse lui il Cristo, Giovanni rispose a tutti dicendo: «Io vi battezzo con acqua; ma viene colui che è più forte di me, a cui non sono degno di slegare i lacci dei sandali. Egli vi battezzerà in Spirito Santo e fuoco. Tiene in mano la pala per pulire la sua aia e per raccogliere il frumento nel suo granaio; ma brucerà la paglia con un fuoco inestinguibile». Con molte altre esortazioni Giovanni evangelizzava il popolo.

Parola del Signore

Writings by the Fathers of the Church

The Twofold Coming Christ— *by St Cyril of Jerusalem*

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Saviour will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgement he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

His first coming was to fulfil his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple: that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: The grace of God the Saviour has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

Reflection on Gospel Luke 3:10-18

Have you thought? – A change of heart

The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

Living the Gospel – Generosity of spirit

John's words to the crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers are about adopting a spirit of generosity and a generosity of spirit. A generosity of spirit can be expressed simply in the attitude with which we approach other people: a positive, hope-filled and generous attitude will often turn around a potentially negative situation. As we approach the Christmas season, there is a need for practical actions of generosity as well. Those in need can approach Christmas with dread rather than joyful expectation. It can be the hardest time of year for struggling families. Acts of generosity can make all the difference.

Gospel Focus – Baptised with the Holy Spirit

John makes clear to his audience the difference between himself and the Messiah who is still to come. His ritual of baptism will pale in comparison with the baptism with the Holy Spirit that the Christ will offer. Compared to a symbolic action of baptism, Jesus will offer the people a tangible experience of life in the Holy Spirit. He will give them not only a glimpse of the reign of God, but an invitation to enter fully into it. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a lived experience, not just a ritual action.

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philipians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst

(Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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Children's Liturgy has now finished for this year. Thank you to all those who helped out and attended. In 2025 **we are looking for new leaders to assist with this very rewarding ministry.** If you can help and join the roster please contact Antonia on email as soon as you can: antc84@hotmail.com We need more help to keep this ministry going strong. Thank you.

Christmas 2024

@ 5pm 24 Dec Children's Mass

Vigil Mass @ 9 pm 24 Dec.

Midnight Mass @ 12 am 25 Dec

25 Dec. @ 9 am Christmas Day Mass



Carols singing 30 minutes before 9pm (vigil) and midnight Masses.
Volunteers needed for Children's Christmas Mass, and to sing carols.

Recently Deceased: Franca Campagna, Salvatore Caliutti, Vicki MacDonald, Noemia Fong Wai Cheng,

Please note: Names of **Recently Deceased** will remain for **1 month** period before being removed.

Anniversary: Lawrence Wong, Antonino Di Girolamo, Lucia Puggioni, Edwin John, K.V Joseph. Pietro Vella,

Rest in Peace: Sebastiano & Valentia Mannino, Calagero & Maria Culuzzo, Catena & Basilio Lembo Lusari, Vincenzo Aiello, Maria Thedesco, Colantuono Family, Marino Family, Schneider Family.

Please note: Names of **Anniversary and Rest in Peace** will remain for **2 weeks** period before being removed.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community:

Silvana Cocilova, Vittoria Colantuono, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoury, Mary Finios, Glen Dixon, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco.

Weekly Diary Dec 15—22

Date	Time	To note
Tuesday,		
Wednesday,	9:00 am	Mass
	7.00 pm—8.00pm	Confessions (Christmas)
Thursday,	9:00 am	Mass
	11am—3pm	Fr Thomas at Deanery
Friday,	9:15am	Mass
	3.00 pm	Mass at the Villa
Saturday,	9.00 am—10 am	Confession (Christmas)
	4:30 pm-4:50 pm	Reconciliation
	5:00 pm	Mass
Sunday,	9:00 am	Mass
	2 pm—3 pm	Christmas rehearsal for Children
	6:00 pm	Mass

Sacramental Program 2025

Registration

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be open during the month of March 2025. It is important to register early. There will not be any Reconciliation Program in 2025. In 2026 children in year 3 or over will be invited to register for First Reconciliation Program. Age appropriation for the Sacrament is raised from now on.

First Holy Communion

FHC Parents meet with Fr Thomas on Wed. 27 Aug @ 7 pm.

Commitment to the preparation program will be on Sat 29 Aug @ 5PM/ Sun 30 Aug @ 9 AM.

FHC children's weekly Journalling of Church (Mass) experience starts on 14/15 September (weekend).

Weekly Catechesis starts on Wednesdays starting on 15 October.

First Holy Communion will be @ 3pm on Saturday 22 & @11 am on Sunday 23 November.

Should any child be seeking first communion next year and has not made their First Reconciliation must seek advice from Fr Thomas in February 2025.

Confirmation

Parents meeting with Fr Thomas at 7 pm on Wednesday 30 April.

Commitment to the Program @ Mass Sat 3 May, 5PM & Sun 4 May 9 AM

weekly Catechesis on Wednesdays 7-28 May @7PM

Confirmation Retreat May 31/ June 1 weekend

Bishop Danny Meagher will do the confirmation on Sunday 29 June @ 11 AM

Note the change of Dates



Mary McKillop Outreach (MMO)



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

**JOB VACANCIES -
DIOCESAN OUTREACH
ASSISTANTS - AID TO THE
CHURCH IN**

NEED (ACN)



Could you share the stories of suffering Christians? Are you looking for flexible part time work? Aid to the Church in Need is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across Sydney, Broken Bay, Perth and Maitland-Newcastle.

For more information and to view the full job ad go to www.aidtochurch.org/work Or scan

The Haberfield Conference of St Vincent de Paul would like to thank parishioners who donated gifts to the MMO Giving Tree. It was a magnificent response over a two-week period. The MMO Christmas Party was held on 11 December and the clients were very happy with their presents. The wonderful MMO staff also extend their thanks to the parish.

Carols in the Uniting Church (St David) Yard

Sunday 15 Dec, BBQ @ 5.30 Pm

Followed by Carols

All Welcome

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

December

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

January

For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Altar Servers for Christmas Masses

A request of all Altar Servers—we need you for the Christmas Masses. Please talk to your families and decide which Mass you will be attending. There is a sheet in the sacristy—add your name please as we would like as many of you as possible to be present over the four Masses. Thank you and have a happy Christmas

On Sale in the Piety Stall

As they are so popular we've ordered extra Columban Art Calendars which you can purchase in the Piety Stall. At a cost of only \$10.00 these beautiful calendars are the perfect Christmas gift.

2024 SJA Parish Christmas Party

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parish Christmas Party on 7 December. Despite the wet weather earlier in the day it turned out to be a wonderful night. We had over 160 people in attendance who enjoyed an evening of good food, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa, fellowship and the annual SJA raffle. Our raffle raised \$605 for the parish project which is a scholarship for an indigenous student at John Berne School.

I would like to thank the following local businesses who provided prizes for our raffle: Amato's Liquor Mart; Clara's Hairdressing Salon; Garnish Fine Foods; Haberfield Health; Haberfield Newsagency; IGA Supermarket; Lorena's Boutique; and Nadia's Beauty Room

A number of parishioners also donated raffle prizes including Rhonda Albani, Frank Capra, Pina Furlan and Carmel McKeough. Additionally Rainbow Fashions who host the annual SJA Fashion Parade donated several prizes.

My thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the evening a success including the Welcome and Events Committee and other parishioners, friends and family members who helped with setting up, serving food and cleaning up afterwards.

Thanks also to Ellen O'Connor and Raymond Dorahy, our musicians and the children who sang Christmas carols so beautifully. Lastly, my thanks to Oskar and Mini our sound system experts who also sang a couple of Malayalam (Indian) songs.

Fr Thomas



Children's Christmas Mass & Pageant

Children are invited to dress up as Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men (Magi), and Sheep. All dressed up children will be invited to part of the Christmas Pageant. If you are dressing up please email the names to Antonia Aversa antc84@hotmail.com or write your names on the sheet at the entrance (foyer) of the Church. There will be a rehearsal for the pageant @2pm on Sunday 22 December (Next Sunday) in the Church. We are also looking for more volunteers to help.

Christmas Gifts from Palms!

*Palms has the shop for you!
Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here!*

Just scan the QR or go to palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop



Can you help?

To help decorate the church for Christmas, we would love some Christmas bush. If anyone has access to some, there will be buckets near St. Joseph's altar on Sat. 21st and Sun. 22nd December for donations. This will be used for the side altars in the church. Thank you in anticipation.