

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

New rules for the place of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with children

In responding to the recommendations of the Royal Commission, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has instructed that new rules should be observed in the Archdiocese in order to protect children from abuse while receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Major points are;

* The confessions of children should preferably be held in an open place where a child or young person and the priest are visible to others. In this case, however the privacy of children must still be respected; that means we must ensure that no one else can hear their confession and that they remain anonymous to the priest.

* When children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional, the door must have a glass window or, if not, then it must be kept open so that children are visible to others outside.

* Either in an open space or in a confessional, a screen must be fixed between the penitent child and the priest so that physical contact is not possible.

We are in the process of modifying our confessional and applying these new rules as instructed. Copies of the entire letter from the Archbishop are available for you to take home in the Church foyer.

Christmas Schedule

Monday 24 December - Christmas Vigil & Midnight Mass

Christmas Vigil Mass - 6.00pm, Polish Mass - 10.00pm, Christmas Carols & Mass - 11.30pm.
All children are invited to dress as Shepherds and Angels for the Vigil Mass



Tuesday 25 December - Christmas Day

Masses 8.00am & 10.00am, Polish Mass - 12.00pm.

Wednesday 26 December - St Stephen

Mass - 8.00am. Polish Mass - 12.00pm



Season's Greetings

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on phone 9390 5812.

Catechist & Friendship Group: Bev Lamaro 0409 710 703; **Choir:** Line Collet 0410 568 103;
Youth: Alison De Sousa 0421 660 187; **Pastoral Council:** John Sarkis 0400 606 297;
St Vincent de Paul: John Ashe 9796 1055; **Bankstown Josephite Associates:** Robyn Molloy 9707 1292;
Children's Liturgy: Marie El-Chaar 9709 3451; **Cemetery Committee:** Maureen Vincent 9790 4217;
Sacramental co-ordinator: Gloria Booby 0413 294 224; **Safeguarding Officer:** Anthony Chadrawy 9790 1933;
Polish Priests: 8783 0533; **De La Salle Brothers:** 9708 2692;
St. Felix Primary School: 9796 7875 Frances Bonanno - Principal;
LaSalle Catholic College: 9793 5600 Mr Michael Egan - Principal;
Archdiocesan Website: www.sydney.catholic.org.au



St Felix deValois Parish

550 Chapel Road, Bankstown, NSW 2200, Australia

Fr Van Nguyen, Parish Priest

Deacon Ronnie Maree

Marie Caldereri, Secretary (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

Phone: 9790 1933 Fax: 9796 3962

Email: admin@stfelixparish.org.au Website: www.stfelixparish.org.au

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil),
Sunday: 8am,
10am (Children's Liturgy),
6pm, 12noon (Polish).

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Tuesday - 8.00am
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 9.00am
Friday - 8.00am
Saturday - 8.00am

Nursing Home Masses

Tuesday - 10.30am Bupa Yagoona
Wednesday - 10am Uniting
Wednesday - 1pm Bupa Greenacre

Vietnamese Mass

7 pm - 1st Thurs of each month.

DEVOTIONS

Benediction: Saturday 7.00am.

Rosary: Saturday 8.25am.

Divine Mercy Prayer:

6.30pm - 1st Wed of each month.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30 pm
Or by appointment.

Marriages: By arrangement with
at least 6 months notice.

Care for the Sick: Any time.
Please call the Presbytery.

Baptisms: Preparation classes are
held in the Presbytery on the
1st Sunday of each month



Responsorial Psalm

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord now upon me;
has sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Comm Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

This weeks readings - Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Gospel Luke 3:10-18

Next Weekend: 4th Sun of Advent - Year C. **Readings:**
Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Gospel Luke 1:39-44

Third Sunday of Advent - Yr C - 16 December 2018

Parish Diary -

Tuesday **18 December** - 7pm - Parish Christmas Carols night.
 Wednesday **19 December** - 7pm - Choir Midnight Mass rehearsal.
 Tuesday **1 January** - 9am Mass followed by Breakfast BBQ

Parish Christmas Carols

The Parish is having their Carols night on Tuesday 18 December commencing at 7pm in the Church. In addition the Phillipino, Samoan & Vietnamese choirs will also be singing carols in their own languages. All are welcome.

Choir Rehearsal

Choir rehearsal for Midnight Mass Christmas Eve will be on Wednesday 19th Dec at 7pm in the church. All interested singers are welcome.

Christmas Volunteers Roster

A blank roster is available in the Sacristy for Christmas Masses. We need readers, Ministers, Acolytes & Altar Servers. If you would like to help please place your name according to the Mass you will be attending.

Mass Intentions: **Recently Deceased:** Jerry Andre; Guise Pham Van Long

Anniversary: Matthew Chu Van Tuynh; Ernesto Dunasco; Giuseppe (Pompeo) Sergi; Joseph Chien Nguyen

Deceased: Louise Rhea Descombes; Georgette Buttie; Paul Minh Truc Le; Sister Mary.

Sick: Jason Timbs & Bart Hennely, Dau (Xuan); Gerard Go; Fatima Fernandes; Rukmani Krishnan; Catherine & Lourdes Raspanti; baby Alan Dien Quan Nguyen; Monina Rodriguez Pineda; Tenshi Asriel Magdaleno Arcenas; Rose Nuner; Maria Carta; Dinh Thi An; Teresita Martinez; Georgina Omeros; Maria Kovatsun; Frannie; Debbie Randall (nee Goodwin); Teresita Tenorio; Madelyn Nicole; Andrew Nguyen; Jun Ibarra; Adelle Tulay; Emlyn Beale.

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society: 23/12/18 Group 4: Phyllis Vujkovic, Margaret Eastburn, Giovanna LaBarbera, Denise Ashe, Chris Kreltszheim, Eric Valencia, Denice Severi, Bach Lam (*Florist*)

St Vincent de Paul: 23/12/18 John Ashe **30/12/18** A Nguyen

Church Cleaners: 21/12/18: Vinh Nguyen **Children's Liturgy:** 23rd Dec – HOLIDAYS

Weekend Choirs: 23/12 Saturday 6pm - Samoan Divine Mercy Group.
Sunday 8am - Singing Servants of God **10am** - St Faustina's Choir. **6pm** - St Mary Mackillop Choir.

Readers & Ministers

	Sat 6pm	16 DECEMBER	8am	10am	6pm
C	Gabrielle Nguyen	Kiara Asuzu	Jessica Vujevic	Kathleen Mezentsef	
R	Patrick Abourizk	Maxwell Asuzu	Thu Ha Kim	Lucia Mezentsef	
A	Joseph Bui (A)	An Dang (A)	Anthony Joseph (A)	Thanh Vu (A)	
M	Gloria Booby	Mesake Mar	Tu Nguyen	Paul Ngoc	
M	Emmanuel Icard	Robyn Molloy	Helen Vujevic	Phu Nguyen	

23 DECEMBER

C	Gabrielle Nguyen	Imelda Dela Cruz	Jennifer Nguyen	Anthony Eltarraf
R	Gloria Booby	Joseph Dang	Emmanuela Viner	Kenneth Gan
A	Tuyen Tran (A)	An Dang (A)	Thong Tran (A)	Thanh Vu (A)
M	Cindy Hoang	Thao Nguyen	Bev Lamaro	Jacinta Eltarraf
M	Emmanuel Icard	Melanie Campisi	Ala Pesamino	Loreto Eduardo

Reflection

Prepare

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation. As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.

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Fight poverty with your used stamps!

We are currently helping Mary MacKillop International collect used postage stamps to help with poverty overseas. If you have some mail with used stamps on them please cut off the stamp, leaving a generous margin of the envelope all around the stamp and bring them in to the Parish Office. We will be collecting until the end of January.

Lost/Found

A ladies ring was found in the grotto area this week. If you think you may have lost one please contact the Parish Office or see Fr Van or Deacon Ronnie.

An Advent App for Christmas! – Meet Me in the Silence.

Walk the journey to Advent on your mobile device. Each day delivers a new video, podcast or written feature to assist you prepare for Christmas and meet Jesus in the silence, despite the busyness of the Christmas season.

The Advent Calendar App is free and available on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent

Volunteering with CatholicCare

Interested in volunteering to help seniors? Based at our Liverpool office, we need callers to phone people waiting for government funded home care to check on their wellbeing. Interested in volunteering to help children? Based at our Lewisham office, we need people to help at playgroups for young, vulnerable mothers and their babies. Call Careline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-1

This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer/tablet/ phone, offers the Gospel for every day of the coming Liturgical Year C-1 beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (Dec 2, 2018). Each daily Gospel has with it a reflection of some 750 words. The e-book may be passed on for downloading to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher given when he was Bishop of Parramatta. Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-1 may be accessed at the following: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/