

# BULLETIN

St Pius X Church

3rd Sunday of Advent- Year B

17<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Christ our Anchor

## Manning Parish

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

23 Paterson Street, Manning WA 6152

Parish Telephone: 9313 3251

Parish Email: manning@perthcatholic.org.au

Parish Website: manningparish.org.au

Scripture Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSA



## He has sent me to bring good news to the poor

Mary, the last ones list some of the past blessings enjoyed by Israel. Mary's hymn suggests that the marvels accomplished in her are a final example of God's mercy. The salvation of the people has finally come.

Paul urges the Christians to be unceasing in rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving. He does not overlook the realities of suffering in life, nor does he advocate a false sense of happiness that simply refuses to let in anything that is painful. The joy that he urges is the joy that comes from knowing that in Christ's resurrection, even death itself has been overcome. Paul suggests the presence of charismatic or spirit-filled activity. He encourages the Thessalonians to give full rein to the gifts of the spirit, while discerning what is genuinely of God and what is not. He prays for their holiness and then assures them of God's faithfulness to the promises of salvation made to them.

'Who are you?' is the hinge question in the gospel reading. This is not a simple enquiry about name or occupation; it is a very concrete question. 'Who are you in relation to the Messiah?' The Baptist himself testifies to his relationship to the Messiah. He is the divinely chosen witness to the light, not the light itself. Messianic expectations were anything but uniform at this time. After he denies being any messianic figure, John identifies himself as 'a voice in the wilderness' (Isa 40:3). His role is preparatory; he explains this when the officials question his reasons for baptising. John is content to be first the witness, the herald, and nothing more.

The individual announcing this prophetic oracle has been anointed by the Lord and is thus endowed with the spirit. The anointing may be a figure of speech, but the duties that accompany it are very real and explicitly social. The afflicted referred to were probably victims of some social system. The good news promises that they will be the beneficiaries of the year of release, while the oppressive system will suffer the vengeance of God. The reading begins with a promise of salvation and ends with a prayer of thanksgiving for salvation granted. It contains several prophetic themes: God cares for the afflicted, saves through the agency of human beings, and fulfills promises; all things are accomplished through God's grace.

The psalm has strong parallels with the victory hymns of other women, Miriam (Exod 15:1-18), Hannah (1 Sam 2:1-10), and Judith (Jdt 16:1-17). In it, Mary praises God for the wonders that are being accomplished within her. Her own lowliness is evidence that the poor and downtrodden have been visited with salvation. The humility that acknowledged her lowliness does not deny the greatness of the things that will be accomplished through her. While the first verses describe the great things that God did to

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Parish Priest

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**Vinita Rai**

Parish Secretary

Office Telephone: 9313 3251

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**Office Hours**

Tuesday to Friday 9am to 12 noon

## SCHEDULES

**Confession**

Saturday 5.00 to 5.30pm

Or anytime by appointment

**Normal Weekend Masses**

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 7.30am, 9.00am Mass

& 11.00am Chinese Mass

**Normal Weekday Masses**

Monday 8.00am Communion Service

Tuesday to Saturday 8.00am Mass  
(Check Parish Calendar for Variations)

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Saturdays at 10.30am

**No Baptism during Lent**

**Other Time**

Negotiable with Father Patrick

**Sacrament of Marriage**

By appointment with Fr Patrick

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## SPX Safeguarding Officers

*The role of Safeguarding Officers is to ensure the safety of children, young people and the vulnerable in the Catholic Church*

6pm Vigil Mass - Harry Rai

7:30am Mass - Marie Chaperon- 9313 4585

9am Mass - Tina Fernandes 0411 821 065

11am Chinese Mass

Gregory Lo 0435 383 417, Andrew Tai 0435 950 532 ,

Juliana Tseng 0438 864 689

Email: [safeguarding@manningparish.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@manningparish.org.au)



**St Pius X Primary School**

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Web: <https://stpiousx.wa.edu.au/>

**Melissa Vranjes**

Principal

**Our Motto**

At St Pius X Catholic Primary School, the values lived by Jesus Christ are the foundation for everything we do

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**Harsha Kandemulla**  
Chartered Accountant and Tax Advisor

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Email: harsha.k@hkdilan.com.au  
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ROSTER		Weekend of 16/17 Dec	Weekend of 23/24 Dec
Special Ministers	Sat 6.00pm	Krystyna Henderson	Krystyna Henderson
	Sun 7.30am	Marilyn Lamplugh	Marilyn Lamplugh
	Sun 9.00am	Mary Webster	Mary Webster
Readers	Sat 6.00pm	Barbara Thompson	Christine Carvalho
	Sun 7.30am	Pauline Joseph	Les Price
	Sun 9.00am	Shirley Whitfield	Vincent Whyte
Counters		Kas Luczak, G Shankar	Janine Stanley, Nancy Permadi


Parish Calendar		
Dec Tue 19	8.00am	Mass (3rd week of Advent weekday Cycle 2) Church
Wed 20	8.00am	Mass (3rd week of Advent weekday Cycle 2) Church
Thu 21	8.00am	Mass (3rd week of Advent weekday Cycle 2) Church
Fri 22	8.00am	Mass (3rd week of Advent weekday Cycle 2) Church
Sat 23	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (3rd Sunday of Advent Year B) Church
Sun 24	7.30am	Sunday Mass (4th Sunday of Advent Year B) Church
	9.00am	Sunday Mass (4th Sunday of Advent Year B) Church
	11.00am	Sunday Mass (4th Sunday of Advent Year B) Church

**VOLUNTEERS 2024 COUNTING ROSTER**

Counters are urgently required to assist with the weekly collections. Please place your name and contact details on the form located in the church foyer.

Alternatively you can contact Terry Scanlan on 0439972583 or tscanlan1240@gmail.com for further details.

Parishioners can also assist by making donations via direct payment EFT to the 1st and 2nd collection bank accounts.



**Line Dancing Classes**

Mondays and Wednesdays  
10am - 12noon \$6 per session  
All proceeds go to the Parish

This is a community building initiative to keep you fit and active with the help of Francis and Hellen Tay  
All are welcome; no age limits

**Important Notice**

We would like to inform parishioners that our Monday Communion Service is suspended for December and January and Saturday 8.00am Mass is cancelled until further notice

**New Year's Masses**

**Sunday, 31 December 2023**  
New Year's Eve Mass - 7.00 pm

**Monday, 1 January 2024**  
New Year's Day Mass - 9.00 am



**Tai Chi Group**

Mondays in Parish Hall except holidays  
Starts 7:30pm and finishes at 8:30pm  
All parishioners are most welcome  
For more information, please contact or text Maurice on 0408 782 224 or Stephen on 0403 167 838



**2023 Christmas Masses**

**24 December 2023**  
7.00pm Family Mass  
9.00pm Vigil Mass

**25 December 2023**  
9.00am Morning Mass

**Visitation of our Lady's Statue**

We would like to commence the visitation of our Lady's Statue in Parishioners' homes. If you would like to have the statue in your home, please call Mignonne Goes on 0409 688 594.



**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy prayers, Rosary and Benediction every 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Please join us this Sunday at 3.00pm.

**Gardening & General Maintenance of garden**

Two of the church volunteers have reached retirement age and we are looking for volunteers to take over maintenance of the grounds and gardens.

It has been suggested that two mini working bees be conducted each month. One on the first and one on the third Saturday. If any parishioner is available on either of these two days each month, please place your name on the list in the foyer. Ideally, we would wish to see five or six volunteers on each of the two Saturdays.



Tasks include but not limited to-

- Maintaining gardens, removing all weeds and dead material - dead heading plants
- Spraying weeds in all paved areas, car park, footpath and kerbing with glyosphate or something similar.
- Treating areas of ant infestation in all paved areas, car park, footpath and kerbing with Antex or something similar.
- Collecting and disposing of any rubbish, leaves etc on grounds
- Sweeping all paved areas and car park perimeter
- Watering pot plants in church and columbarium

It is realized that many of our parishioners have busy lives and a number of commitments, but we are asking for only a few hours of your time each year to maintain the grounds of your church.

## First Reading

*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 the nations.'

## Responsorial Psalm

*Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10*

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. 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.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

## Second Reading

*1 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.

## 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

*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.

## Reflection for Young People

By Lisa Marie Calderone-Stewart

You have probably heard of political prisoners being captured and released. In your local newspapers, you have probably seen pictures of men and women getting married. You have probably seen gardens all over your town. This sounds like the year of favour that Isaiah was talking about.

Do you think it is? Why or why not?

Are there plenty of things to be thankful for and to rejoice about? Name some.

When Jesus came, he fulfilled these Scriptures of Isaiah. Jesus comes for us again and again every year at Christmas time. During Advent we do our best to prepare for Jesus in our hearts – to get ourselves ready to help Jesus make this year a year of favour.

How can you help make this a year of favour in your school? in your neighbourhood? in your family?

## Next Sunday Readings

**23/24 December 2023**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B**

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

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

# CHILDREN'S CORNER



**The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday; the Sunday of Joy! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?**