



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER LURNEA THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C 12TH & 13TH DECEMBER 2015

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand.  
We walk on a land once occupied by the Darug Clan, the Cabrogal,  
a sub group of the Gandangara tribe who lived in this area for over 30,000 years.  
May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Thu Nguyen  
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Sacramental Co-Ordinator**  
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**Parish Mobile:** 0420 800 194  
**Web Site:**  
www.stfrancisxavierlurnea.org.au

**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday to Friday  
9.30am - 5.30pm  
*Bulletin notices to be in by Thurs. 12pm.  
(Please type/print your message clearly).*

**St Francis Xavier Catholic School**  
School Principal Mrs Fran Bonanno  
School No. 9607-3130  
School Fax. 9608-2650  
Web Site: www.stfxlurnea.catholic.edu.au

**St Catherine of Siena Catholic School**  
School Principal Mr David Parawa  
School No. 9607-3888  
School Fax. 9607-6405  
Web Site: www.stcosprestons.catholic.edu.au

**Weekend Mass Times:**  
Saturday Vigil.....5.00pm  
Sunday.....8.00am, 9.30am &  
.....6.00pm

**Weekday Mass Times:**  
(See bulletin for changes)

**Reconciliation:**  
Saturday.....4.00pm - 4.30pm

**Baptisms:** By Appointment  
1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 11.00am

**Marriages:** By Appointment

**St Vincent De Paul** 9823 1222

**Care Group**  
Anne Hobbs: 9601 - 7061



## REFLECTION

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 Philippians 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 birth pangs.

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.

Diane Bergant

## Weekday Mass Times

**Monday** - No Mass  
**Tuesday** - 9:00am SFX End of Year Whole School Mass  
- 7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas  
**Wednesday** - 9:00am Mass  
**Thursday** - 9:00am Mass  
**Friday** - 9:00am Mass

## Christmas Mass Times

### Reconciliation

**Tuesday 15th December  
7.30pm.**

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation**

### Christmas Vigil

**Thursday 24th December  
at 7.00pm**

### Christmas Day

**Friday 25th December**  
Midnight Mass 12.00am  
Morning Mass 8.00am &  
9.30am - No Evening Mass



**New Years Day Mass**  
9.00am Only

## **Marriage Announcement**

Congratulations to Janice Tran and Albert Young who were married at our Church last Saturday 5th December. May God bless them as they journey as Husband and Wife in married life together.



## **Baptisms**

Welcome to the Faith Community,

**Hayley-Ann Cullen,  
Benjamin Donelan, Mila Christina Gock &  
Richard William Gock**

who were Baptised last Sunday 6th December 2015. Congratulations to their parents, and their extended family. God Bless you all.



## **PARISH CARE GROUP**

Dear Parishioners,  
Thank you to all who joined our Care Group morning tea or activity days, and the Parish Care Group Christmas Luncheon. We have thoroughly enjoyed your company and delighted to entertain you throughout the year.

Thank you to Fr. Thu for allowing us the use of the hall and meeting rooms, and for joining us at times, during your hectic schedule. You are always very supportive and are inspirational, even if you haven't yet mastered the art of the 'hula-hoop'.

Finally, thank you to the CARE GROUP TEAM for the dedication and caring you have shown toward the people of the St. Francis Xavier Parish. These get-togethers have been a great source of fun and Community building for old and new parishioners.

The Care Group isn't just about Friday fun! Some of the Care Group members are retired, they also have families to care for, but devote much of their own valuable time to make visits to others in our Parish community. These extend into homes, hospitals and aged-care facilities, or simply to lend an ear over a cuppa. All you need to do is ask, and they'll be there to lend a hand. THANK YOU to those hardworking and compassionate people in the Parish Care Group.

To All Parishioners, we wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

## **Emergency Parish Contact in January 2016.**

**Fr Thu will be away from the Parish from the 4th  
January until 29th January 2016.**

**Throughout this period, in the case of an  
emergency (hospital call /funeral arrangements)  
please call the office mobile on 0420 800 194.**

*Please leave a clear message and a  
return call will be given.*

The parish office opening hours from the  
4th January to the 29th January:

Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am - 5.30pm.

## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

We welcome

**Brooklyn Cambridge**



into our Catholic Faith Community. She received the Sacraments of Initiation this Saturday 12th December 2015. May you rejoice in the Lord always, receiving these Sacraments. Congratulations to you and your loved ones. May God Bless you.

## **In Full Communion with the Catholic Church**

We welcome

**Nicholas Mougios**

into the Catholic Faith Community. He will be received into the Catholic Church this Sunday 13th December 2015. May God Bless you.



## **Christmas Eve 7.00pm Family Mass**

Calling all Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men. Practice for the Christmas Eve Family Mass will be held in the Church Sunday 13 December and Sunday 20 December immediately after the 9.30 Mass.

## **Christmas Masses Roster**

There is a sign on sheet for Altar Servers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas Masses at the back of the Church. If you would like to be a part of any Mass at Christmas please put your name down.

## **Dressing of the Christmas Tree**

On the **17th December at 6pm** we invite families of the parish to come dress the Christmas tree in the Church. Children will be free to express themselves in decorating our tree. All Welcome.

## **St. Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal**

Envelopes have been placed on the Christmas Tree. Your generosity are very much appreciated.



*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Recently Deceased**

Anna Nguyen  
Siobhan O'Connor  
Maria Bukowski

**Anniversaries**

Eileen Michael  
Guiseppi Iorfino  
Ellen McPhee  
Sylvia & Carol Willett

**Deceased**

Francis & Louisa Alphonso  
Pasquale Pantaleo  
John Lister

**We pray for those who are sick, especially:**

Fr Bill Davis	Saulius David Balsys
Pat Lord	John Bell
Margaret McKenna	Baby Nguyen
Lauren Channon	Kelvin Huitt
Noah Rewa	Bruno Inangeri
Joseph Fakhoury	Vincent Alvaro
Patricia Kearns	Sylvia Baron
Dominic Mullen	Illuminada Ortanez
Mavis Freeburn	Joyce Mifsud
Leonardo Salvador	Fr Stiven Ledinich

**Please note:** Names will be removed after 2 months, unless office is notified.

Updated Rosters can be collected from the Sacristy.

***Third Sunday of Advent - Year C - 12th & 13th December 2015***

	<b>SATURDAY 5pm</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9.30am</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>
<b>Reader Psalm</b>	Domenic Acitelli Christina Acitelli	Paul Johnson	Jacinta Lemalu Charlotte Hon	Frank Agostino
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Katrina Calabrese Vince Calabrese Tony Crescini Aida Crescini Volunteer Minister Volunteer Minister	Jane Colley Antoinette Moussallem Volunteer Minister Volunteer Minister	Alfia Busa Angie Clarkson Bev Strauss Lia Newhouse Melinda Melham Jane Scott	Tracie Richardson Greg Richardson Kristina Williams Volunteer Minister
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Lucas Tran Aidan Andrade Christina Acitelli	Anthony Bui	Heather Scott Fridurik Nickel Ina Nickel Karl Nickel	Jordan Varghese Kirsten Bilog
<b>Acolytes</b>	John Nickel	Joe Mancini	Tony Keir	Annette Flanagan
<b>Altar Society</b>	Souad Dagher & Marlein Abou Fram			
<b>Counters</b>	Stephen & Therese Puskas & Cathy Crick			
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Renee Lauric & April Stewart			

***Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C - 19th & 20th December 2015***

	<b>SATURDAY 5pm</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9.30am</b>	<b>6pm</b>
<b>Reader Psalm</b>	Shannon Pestana Solange Fegatilli	Shirley Heffernan	Kayley Melham Melinda Melham	Kristina Williams
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Margaret Bell Mary Dalli Chris Walker Merwyn Monteiro Olga Sipek Volunteer Minister	Carol Campanella Karen Misquitta Volunteer Minister Volunteer Minister	Rosa Zappia Rosetta Zaccagnini Neta Griffith Eugene Alphonso Yvonne Alphonso Volunteer Minister	Joe Andary Laura Andary Deborah Absalom Volunteer Minister
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Jonathon Giso Julian Giso Kiara Liu Darren Liu	Anthony Bui	Joshua Bui Stephanie Anderson Phillip Roncevic Alyssa Harris	Liam Flanagan
<b>Acolytes</b>	Phil Coleman	Graeme Freeburn	Martin Ryan	Martin Manche
<b>Altar Society</b>	Miranti Vidigal, Rose Fernandez & Charlie Casha			
<b>Counters</b>	Graeme Freeburn & Mathew Koyikalatho			
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Maria Caridi & Michelle Keir			



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

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.

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**RESPONSE: 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians

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.

The word of the Lord.

### 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 Luke

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.



The scripture quotations are taken from the Jerusa-  
lem Bible, 1966, 1967 and 1968, Darton, Longman and Todd and Doubleday  
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tion of the Psalms Responses, Alleluia Verses, Gospel Verses and Lenten  
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