

Dernancourt Catholic Parish



Church of Saint Pius X

In the Pastoral care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
1 Avoca Street, Dernancourt
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Parish Priest: Fr John Sebastian OMI (ppdernancourt@gmail.com)

Assistant Priest: Fr Joshua Nash OMI

Secretary: Tanya Batty (Thursday-Friday 9am-2pm)

1st Sunday of Advent Year B

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Weekly Reflection

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. (Loyola Press)

Diary Dates

Friday Dec 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception 6.30pm Mass followed by shared supper in hall. *(No morning Mass.)*

Thursday Dec 14: 7pm Regional Second Form of the Rite of Reconciliation at Dernancourt.

Friday Dec 15: 7pm Parish Mass of Thanksgiving at Dernancourt. *(No morning Mass.)*

Saturday Dec 23-Sunday 24: Fourth Sunday in Advent. Masses 6.30pm and 9.30am

Sunday Dec 24: Christmas Eve Masses 6pm Children's Mass
8pm Carols & 8.30pm Vigil Mass

Monday Dec 25: 9.30am Christmas Day Mass

Saturday Dec 30-Sunday 31: Feast of the Holy Family. Masses 6.30pm Saturday, 9.30am & 5.30pm Sunday

Catholic Schools in our Parish

Saint Pius X Primary School Principal: Mr Ashley Keane APRIM: Ms Rita Campbell 8 Windsor Grove, Windsor Gardens Phone: 8266 9400	Saint Paul's College Principal: Mr Paul Belton A/APRIM: Mrs Maria Girolamo-Corbo 792 Grand Junction Road, Gilles Plains Phone: 8266 0622	Kildare College Principal: Mrs Tina Neate Liturgy Coordinator: Ms Bianca Bruno 96 Valiant Road, Holden Hill Phone: 8369 9999
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Parish Office Hours

Thursday-Friday (9am-2pm)

Secretary (e) officedernancourt@gmail.com or

Parish Priest (e) ppdernancourt@gmail.com

Bulletin Submissions

The **cut-off time** for current weekly Bulletin submissions is **9.30am Thursday**. All requests received after this time will go into the following week's Bulletin.

Parish Memorial Book

The memorial book on the stand next to the votive candles is available for all parishioners to record the anniversaries of loved one's deaths so that we can all pray for their souls.

Please email Tanya (officedernancourt@gmail.com) if you would like your loved ones' names added to the book.

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception

On Friday 8th December, there will be a concelebrated Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at Dernancourt Parish at 6.30pm followed by light supper in the Church Hall.

It is an important feast for the Oblates, so kindly join the Oblates from both Parishes and pray for their good health and for more vocations to the Oblate congregation. Please bring a plate to share with others.
(PLEASE NOTE: there will be NO morning mass that day)

Regional Second Form of the Rite of Reconciliation

(DERNANCOURT-TEA TREE GULLY-MODBURY-PARA HILLS)

To celebrate the joy of Christmas, spiritual preparation is also essential. On **Thursday 14th December at 7pm**, there will be the Second Form of the Rite of Reconciliation at Dernancourt Parish. Please save this date in your diary and make use of this spiritual opportunity to prepare yourselves well and to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Friday 15th December: Special Thanksgiving Mass

On 15th December at 7pm there will be a special Mass of Thanksgiving for our Parish Community. It will be a great opportunity to gather as a Parish Community to thank the Lord for all that the Lord has been to us throughout this year. Please come along to Worship the Lord in this Special Thanksgiving Mass.

(PLEASE NOTE: there will be NO morning mass that day)

We Pray...that the sick will be strengthened by Christ

Ken Porter, May Green, Louise Rhodes, Viv and John, Anna Cicharello, Barbara Stirling, Kay Morrison, Alison Hellams, Tom Trainor, John, Wendy Lloyd, Barry Whitford, Brenton Powell, Jill O'Reilley, Tracy Mifsud, Michael, Catherine Walsh, Cynthia Edwards, Peter Comas, Helen, George Marshall, Jim Corkill, Claire Hokin, Lisa Johnstone, Margaret Musolino, John Jordan, Colleen Wallace, Matt Basedow, Helen Starr, Darryl Ferguson.

RIP: John King

Please ring the parish office and let us know whose names you would like listed for prayers.



Dernancourt Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 6.30pm

Sunday, 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Rosary 8.55am

Reconciliation

Saturday 11:30am-12 noon

Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings

Please call Parish Office to arrange

Adoration

Fridays 9.45am-11am (during school terms)

Next Week's Readings 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

This Week's Saints & Feasts

4th St John Damascene; 6th St Nicholas; 7th St Ambrose; 8th Immaculate Conception of the BVM; 9th St Juan Diego

Saint of the Week – Immaculate Conception

Through her Immaculate Conception, God preserved Mary from the stain of original sin, making her all-pure and all-holy – preparing her to be the mother of the Saviour. But this feast also reveals what God makes possible or all of us by grace: a healed humanity, "holy and spotless". We look to Immaculate Mary, awed by her singular privilege, confident that she intercedes for us so that we can share in her holiness, destined "for his greater glory".



Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser

There will be a sausage sizzle after the 5.30pm Sunday Mass on Dec 17 to raise money to support our young peoples' attendance at the National Oblate Youth Encounter in Jan 2024.

Public Rosary – Praying the Rosary for Peace

1st Saturday of every month. You are invited to join Our Lady (Saturday 2nd December) praying the Rosary outdoors, together united, to pray for peace. Mary MacKillop Plaza (adj St Francis Xavier's Cathedral) at 8.40am. Information contact: Patrick Greenrod, Legion of Mary (m) 0414 769 635.



Special Christmas Morning Tea and Draw of Christmas Raffle tickets.

On Sunday 17th December there will be a special Christmas Morning Tea after 9.30am Mass where the parish Christmas raffle will be drawn.

Tickets are \$1 each and on sale now.

This year we have few cash prizes and some other amazing raffle prizes. All proceeds from the sale of the Christmas raffle tickets will go towards the parish. So kindly buy as many tickets as possible and support our parish generously.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



Our Dernancourt Vinnies Christmas Appeal for families in the district has commenced. The Christmas Giving Tree will be in the Church foyer until the weekend of 9-10 December so parishioners can donate special Christmas grocery items for Christmas hampers and toys/gifts for their children (unwrapped). Wrapping paper can also be donated, that way parents can wrap individual gifts.

The Dernancourt St Vincent De Paul Society will provide hampers and gifts for their children to approximately 75 families this year. Sadly, the number of families experiencing hardship has increased. By taking a tag from the tree and making a donation of the marked item, you will be making a difference to a family's Christmas. Of course, you are most welcome to take several tags! Some suggestions for grocery items are: Biscuits (sweet or savoury), long life milk, long life custard (1 litre), sweets, jellies, small vegemite, small coffee, cordial, beetroot, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit. Special Christmas items would be most acceptable.

Christmas cards are on sale in the Church foyer for the coming weekends; **\$8** per a pack of ten.

Our next meeting is on Monday 4 December in the hall.

National Oblate Youth Encounter

The National Oblate Youth Encounter will be back in January 2024! National Oblate Youth Encounter is an event that brings together young people from around Australia who wish to share their Catholic faith in tandem with the charism of St Eugene De Mazenod. It will be a great chance to grow in faith and reflect, as well as sharing plenty of fun with other young people. NOYE provides a balance of prayer, workshops, open-forums, liturgy and community time.

This year's camp theme will be "You Are the Light of the World". Young people (Year 12-30 years old) are invited to come and explore this theme while sharing the charism of the Oblates.

Thurs 4th–Sun 7th January 2024. Mazenod College (VIC)

Cost: Interstate participants (\$50).

Registration: <https://bit.ly/NOYE24> Contact Emma Rice (e) erice@oblates.com.au (ph) 0422705230

Advent Reflection

Advent is the journey towards an understanding of the mystery of the Christmas miracle. This year, once again the Charism Team from the Australian province has put together a programme for us to prepare well for the celebration of Christmas.

You can either download the programme and follow it in your own personal space or you can join the discussion group through Zoom. For more information please visit <https://demazenodfamily.com.au/programs/adore/>

Parish Prayer Network

All you need to do is call one of the following:
Marie S 0427 601 068 or **Marie T** 8266 2223

Children's Christmas Mass Preparations


All children are invited to be part of the Children's Christmas Liturgy on 24th December at 6.00p.m. We will require children for the Gospel enactment, Readings and to be part of the Children's Choir.

Practices commence on the first Sunday of Advent at 4.45 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Parents are encouraged to put the names of their children with a contact number of a parent on the clipboard at the back of the church. Thank you for your participation.

MAMI CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD

Give someone a gift of hope this Christmas.

An ideal meaningful gift for someone special this Christmas is a MAMI gift card: a gift that keeps on giving for the entire year and beyond. You can get the gift cards online. For more information, please refer to the Notice Board.



Ministry Roster Weekend 9/10 December

Saturday 6.30 Mass

Commentator: Jean Canil

Readers: Rod Hern & Audrine Vaz

Extraordinary Minister: Roman Szczepanik & Jose Paje

Music: James Lloyd

Sunday 9:30am Mass

Commentator: Martyn Pearce

Readers: Olivia Jins & Chris Clift

Extraordinary Minister: Malcolm Davies & Joe Colangelo

Music: Peter Roberts

Sunday 5:30pm Mass

Commentator: Alex Kaminski

Readers: Diya Mathew

Extraordinary Minister: Stuart Feirclough & Tony Gagliardi

Music: Michael & Tim Carter

Altar Linen

Jacky

Counters

Joe & Brigitte

Church Cleaners

Team C: Jijo; Jude Cooray

This Week's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.

So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'