

# Dernancourt Catholic Parish



## Church of Saint Pius X

In the Pastoral care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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Parish Priest: Fr John Sebastian OMI ([ppdernancourt@gmail.com](mailto:ppdernancourt@gmail.com))

Assistant Priest: Fr Joshua Nash OMI

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023



### Weekly Reflection

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us. Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus. (Loyola Press)

### NEED FOR A NEW CHURCH ROOF

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I am pleased to share with you a significant decision made by our dedicated Finance Committee. After careful consideration and thorough assessment, it has been determined that our church roof is in a state of disrepair, requiring urgent attention. In light of this, the Finance Committee has taken the thoughtful initiative to replace the roof to ensure the structural integrity of our beloved place of worship. Three competitive quotes were obtained and with pre-approval from the Diocese, we are ready to embark on this essential project.

Your continued support and contributions have always been the backbone of our vibrant community, and we are confident that together we can undertake this essential project. The upcoming roof replacement is not only a practical necessity but also an investment in the long-term well-being of our sacred space. We trust that this endeavour will enhance the safety, comfort, and beauty of our church for generations to come.

In the spirit of unity and shared responsibility, we humbly request your prayers and support as we embark on this endeavour. The Finance Committee will keep you informed of the progress, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact of our collective efforts.

May our church continue to be a beacon of faith, love, and community for years to come.

### Parish Office Hours

Thursday-Friday (9am-2pm)

Secretary (e) [officedernancourt@gmail.com](mailto:officedernancourt@gmail.com) or

Parish Priest (e) [ppdernancourt@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Diary Dates

**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

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28.

### This Week's Saints & Feasts

11<sup>th</sup> St Damasus 1; 12<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Guadalupe; 13<sup>th</sup> St Lucy;

14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross

### Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser

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



### Saint of the Week – St John of the Cross

When St John of the Cross was a boy, his father died and his destitute mother sent him to a school for the poor. After entering the Carmelites in 1563, he joined forces with St Teresa of Avila to carry out a reform of the order. The first reformed house of friars he led was so sparse even St Teresa doubted he could live there. But St John embraced austerities. His mystical theology teaches the renunciation of all creaturely comforts for the sake of union with God. "Feed not your spirit on anything but God. Cast off concern about things and bear peace and recollection in your heart." St John died in 1591 and is hailed as the Mystical Doctor.

### Children's Christmas Mass Preparations

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

### The Southern Cross Christmas Edition

The Christmas edition will be inserted in The Advertiser Saturday 16 December. Free copies will be available in the foyer at Masses on weekend of December 16/17.

### Regional Second Form of the Rite of Reconciliation

#### **(DERNANCOURT-TEA TREE GULLY-MOVBURY-PARA HILLS)**

To celebrate the joy of Christmas, spiritual preparation is also essential. On **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December: Special Thanksgiving Mass

On 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Special Christmas Morning Tea and Draw of Christmas Raffle tickets.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



We, the members of the Dernancourt Conference of St Vincent de Paul, thank our parishioners for their generous support of our Christmas Appeal. Your support enabled us to provide Christmas hampers and toys for 80 families in our local area. Our grateful thanks also go to St Pius X Primary School, Kildare and St Paul's Colleges where students, parents and staff have blessed us and our poor with their energy and generous donations in supporting our Appeal. Great work, schools!

#### **Christmas Cards:**

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas cards will be available at all Masses— packs of 10 for **\$8.00**.

**Our Conference will close now for visitation until 30 January, 2024, with our first meeting in February. With visitation suspended, we ask for donations of food and milk to be held off until further notice. We are in urgent need of new members so please consider being part of this caring group. If you would like further information, please contact Fr John or the Parish Office at the times indicated elsewhere in this Bulletin.**

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Mazenod College (VIC)

Cost: Interstate participants (\$50).

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



### Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal

In the spirit of Christmas, a time when our hearts are full of hope and compassion, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan has granted his blessing to allocate the Leaving Collection from our Christmas Eve/Day Mass for the invaluable work supported by Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities provides much-needed funds to Hutt St Centre, Centacare, Catholic Family Services, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Our Lady of LaVang and St Patrick's special schools. These agencies play a significant role in bringing hope to people in need here in South Australia.

I encourage all of you to participate in the Christmas Mass collections and give what you can. Your contributions, regardless of size, will have a meaningful impact on those who rely on the support of Catholic Charities.

**Anyone requiring a receipt needs to donate online or via the app.**

### Ministry Roster Weekend 16/17 December

#### **Saturday 6.30 Mass**

**Commentator:** Anna Szczepanik

**Readers:** Shani & Sheya Quadras

**Extraordinary Minister:** Dennis Rodrigues & Estelle Curtale

**Music:** James Lloyd

#### **Sunday 9:30am Mass**

**Commentator:** Dorothy Nappa

**Readers:** Michael Carter & Sue Griffith

**Extraordinary Minister:** Joe Colangelo & Jos Hensing

**Music:** Catharine & Grace

#### **Sunday 5:30pm Mass**

**Commentator:** Ana Gulab

**Readers:** Nikitha Jose & Kathy Nicholls

**Extraordinary Minister:** Maria Cid & Sanjay Mohanaraj

**Music:** Sonia Mohanaraj & Group

#### **Altar Linen**

Lucy

#### **Counters**

Hans & Dianne

#### **Church Cleaners**

**Team D:** Fijo Jose; Charith DeSilva; Adrian

# This Week's Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14.

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

## Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight',

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey.

In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'