

# 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)

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

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023



### Weekly Reflection

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness. Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. (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.

### Parish Office Closure Over Christmas/New Year Period

Please note the parish office will be closed from 22 December 2023 until 3 January 2024.

### Diary Dates

**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

### 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.



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

Will be drawn this Sunday after 9.30am Mass. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets

### 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 this weekend.

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

Virginia Lampe, Garnet Gamet, 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:**

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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B

2 sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### This Week's Saints & Feasts

21<sup>st</sup> St Peter Canisius; 23<sup>rd</sup> St John of Kanty

### Saint of the Week – St Peter Canisius

In 1565, shortly after the Council of Trent, the pope wanted to get the decrees of the Council to all the European bishops. It was a dangerous assignment. St Peter Canisius was chosen because he was a well-known Jesuit who had founded colleges and was respected by the Protestants. Born in Holland in 1521, St Peter had edited and written several volumes on Church history and theology, been a delegate to the Council of Trent, and reformed the German universities from heresy. Called to Vienna to reform their university, he won their hearts by ministering to the sick and dying during a plague. The people, the king and the pope all wanted to make St Peter bishop of Vienna but St Peter declined and administered to the diocese for a year. His Catechism was released in 1555. It approached Christian doctrine in two parts: wisdom - including faith, hope and charity - and justice - avoiding evil and doing good, linked by a section on sacraments, and was an immediate success. St Peter died 21 December 1597. He is known as the Second Apostle of Germany and was named a Doctor of the Church.

### SAVE THE DATE - Caritas Australia will turn 60 in 2024

All Caritas supporters are invited to join the Archbishop at 11am Sunday 25 February 2024 for a Eucharistic celebration at St Francis Xavier Cathedral to commemorate 60 years of Caritas in Australia, with its foundations proudly in Adelaide!

### Music at the Cathedral in December

Tuesday 19 December 1pm

End of Year Organ Student Concert

Wednesday 20 December 7pm

Christmas Carols – James Lloyd

*Congregational participation encouraged.*

Sunday 24 December 11pm

Christmas Carols with the choir

*Congregational participation encouraged.*

### 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, along with that of Kildare and St Paul's College's and Pius X Primary School, enabled us to provide Christmas hampers and toys for 80 families in our local area. We are most grateful also for the help given by our parishioners and many volunteers from a business to help pack and distribute these items.

#### **Christmas Cards:**

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

**Our Conference has closed 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 were delighted to have two prospective members come along at our December meeting but we still remain 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 (but 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 23/24 December

#### **Saturday 6.30 Mass**

**Commentator:** Hughette Riganese

**Readers:** Martyn Pearce & Beverley D'Sa

**Extraordinary Minister:** Marie Smith & Roman Szczepanik

**Music:** James Lloyd

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

**Commentator:** Anna Maria Jins

**Readers:** Grace Ryappu & Rebecca Wood

**Extraordinary Minister:** Malcolm Davies & Charlie Baldacchino

**Music:** Michael & Tim Carter

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

**There will be no 5.30pm Mass**

**\* see Rosters in Church foyer for Christmas Eve Masses \***

**Altar Linen**

Dot

**Counters**

Keith & Cathy

**Church Cleaners**

**Team E:** Jasmin Family; Sue Griffith; Jude Cooray; Perera

# This Week's Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.) 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

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

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 reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.