



For all things give thanks.
1 THESS 5:18

Reconnect this Christmas

An Invitation from Bishop Brian Mascord

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Peace be with you. As you continue to prepare this Advent for the joy of Christmas, I pray that you and your family are well. May Jesus be present in your conversations, your homes, and your lives.

It has been my earnest desire and prayer that this year would see us come back together. Indeed, I saw this year as being an important time of reconnection and so it has been heartening to see many of us able to return in person to the sacraments and parish community life.

During the pandemic, we were physically separated from one another. For many of us, the effects of that separation still linger. Perhaps we are a little slower to embrace a friend or more reluctant to share a meal together. We have seen echoes of this in broader society as well. Our towns and suburbs sometimes feel more like a collection of strangers than friends or neighbours. **We are apart together. But we don't have to be.**

The radical message of Christmas has always been the mystery of Emmanuel - God with us (cf. Matthew 1:23). It is not God with us in a palace or five-star hotel or a world where all is well. No, rather it is God with us where we are - in a humble stable, the mess of our lives. It is through Jesus that we are no longer strangers but become members of the household of God - his family - joined together and growing into a holy temple in the Lord (cf. Ephesians 2:19-21). He is our unity. He is the one who truly draws us together to be a people of peace.

So, when we gather at the table of the Lord this weekend, and every weekend, it is not who is present that should be our only focus, but also who is missing. Perhaps it's part of our family that is missing - our sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, mother or father, husband or wife. Perhaps it's a neighbour, colleague, or friend - maybe they never knew there was a seat for them in the first place.

When the prophet Isaiah was called to serve the Lord, he heard God say, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (cf. Isaiah 6:8) And so I say to you, whom shall God send to your family? To your neighbours, friends, and work colleagues? Someone else? Each of us has at least one person in our life who is disconnected from faith. **Will you invite them to be with you, with us, this Christmas?** With Isaiah, I ask you to respond to my call, by saying, "Here I am. Send me."

May this Christmas be a blessed time of reconnection and new connection. May we have the courage to invite and share our story of faith with those not at the table. And may God give you and your family all the grace you need to live out your mission to be faithful disciples who love God and your neighbours.

Yours in Christ

Brian Mascord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

6 December 2022

MOST REV BRIAN G MASCORD DD
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Holy Family Catholic Parish

INGLEBURN & MINTO

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Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

Holy Family Church
136 Oxford Rd
Ingleburn

Holy Trinity Church
57 Guernsey Ave
Minto

11 December 2022

SUNDAY REFLECTION

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. We hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

READINGS THIS WEEKEND

First reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. cf Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

Second reading: Jas 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Is 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: Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

READERS	10 & 11 December 3rd Sunday of Advent		17 & 18 December 4th Sunday of Advent	
Vigil	Chrisanne Marisol	Reginald Rego	Nancy Mathias	Adriaan Mathias
Sunday 9am	Eleanor Mannel	Lynne McDougal	Lomana Teofilo	Alex Teofilo
Sunday 5pm	Thivya Reanson	Elvina Pandit	Angeles Palad	Julianne Duka

SERVICE TIMES

Holy Family	Mass	Wed - Fri	9am
		Tue	7pm followed by Holy Hour
		Sat	5pm Vigil
		Sun	9am and 5pm
	<i>Benediction</i>	First Friday of each month	9.30am
	<i>Reconciliation</i>	Sat	9am - 10am

Holy Trinity	Mass	Wed	6pm
	Mass	Sun	8am

What's On

- 10 Dec Altar Server Candidates Meeting- 11am
- 14 Dec Legion of Mary Annual Reunion - 8.30am
- 16 Dec Whole School End of Year Mass/Farewell to Year 6 Students - 11.30am
- 17 Dec Church Cleaning - "Team B"
- 19 Dec Last day of Term 4
- 7 Jan Church cleaning - Team "A"



We pray ... For those who are affected by the floods, earthquakes and those affected by war: that God will grant peace, justice and healing to all involved during these times.

For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

For the sick and homebound: Noal Bornstein, Phil Clarke, Dawn O'Donoghue, Ann Marie Praud.

May the saving power of the risen Lord bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies and send strength to their carers.

For our recently dearly departed: Josephine Ooi, Marian D'Cruz, Jennifer Malone, Lorraine Morrison, Margaret Rose, Michael Brezinski, Joyce O'Keefe, Giuseppe Occhiuto, Gerald Barbara, Jeanette Morand, Angelita Z Molano.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Edgee LeClerc, Fr Peter Caruana, Giuseppe Lanzafame, Mee St Guillaume, Sr Patricia Murphy OLN.

Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.

Visiting the Sick and Homebound: Please contact the parish office if you or a family member would like to be visited or receive Holy Communion.

Readers Rosters

A Christmas mass readers roster is being prepared, please put your name down on the signup sheet in the Church foyer if you are interested in reading at one of our Christmas masses.

A new weekend readers roster is being prepared. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please write your name and preferred mass reading time on the signup sheet in the Church foyer.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

Holy Family

Tuesday, 20 December: 7.30pm - 9pm

Friday, 23 December: 6pm - 8pm

Saturday, 24 December: 8am - 10am

Holy Trinity

Wednesday, 21 December:

6.30pm - 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - 24 December

Holy Family - 5pm

Holy Trinity - 7pm

Holy Family - 10pm

Christmas Day - 25 December

Holy Family - 9am

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal: 26/27 November 2022

The Ingleburn St Vincent de Paul Members invite you to help local struggling families again this Christmas.

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/holy-family-parish-ingleburn-st-vincent-de-paul-fundraising-page>



Any monies donated through this link get allocated directly to the Ingleburn St Vincent de Paul Conference.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and your receipt will be automatically processed and sent via email.

Thanking you so much for your support,
Holy Family Parish, Ingleburn
St Vincent de Paul Members



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



LEGION OF MARY

ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION

Wednesday 14th December 2022
at

Holy Family Catholic Church
Ingleburn

8:30am Legion Opening Prayers and Rosary

9:00am Holy Mass, Concluding Prayers

Refreshments and Social after Mass
All Welcome

Advent Appeal For Ukraine

At a recent meeting with the country's bishops and Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, the bishops gave strong support to a special appeal to be held during Advent to "support refugees and people in Ukraine during this winter, which will be the most challenging for our country for decades of independence". The **Advent Appeal For Ukraine** will take place across parishes and churches in our diocese this weekend 10/11 December.

All donations raised will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons.

A special leaving collection will be held in our parish. To find out more information or to donate online please visit <https://bit.ly/ukraineappeal2022>

Your support of this appeal is greatly appreciated.