



— OUR LADY —  
QUEEN OF PEACE

# The Peaceful Voice

22nd December 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

## This week's reflection.

Mary, a young peasant woman, journeyed on foot over rugged territory for days to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The encounter of these two mothers-to-be – Mary and Elizabeth – is one of much love and joy.

What makes this so powerful is that Mary and Elizabeth choose to be joyful, despite the chaos around them. It is a story of hope and a lesson for us that we must be people of hope for others. Hope enables us to see over our present problems to future possibilities.

Pope Francis said: 'Hope is what Mary, mother of God sheltered in her heart during the darkest time in her life, Good Friday afternoon to Easter Sunday morning. That is hope : Mary had it and that hope has renewed everything.'

Every year we have Advent to remember and delight in, that the Incarnation is the reality that God has become one of us in the person of Jesus. God's love for us is given freely and without condition. We are treasured beyond measure.

Jesus' presence is felt in the kindness, love, forgiveness and compassion of the people we encounter every day. The goodness of other people and our own goodness, reflect the goodness of Jesus.

This Advent/Christmas season, may we become agents of peace and justice, of encouragement, forgiveness, hope and light for all those we encounter.

How do we recognise the presence of God?

How do we make Jesus present?

**The Life and Faith Team**



Statue of Mary & Elizabeth, Holy Lands - Photo by C. Van Arsdale

## Thank YOU

As we approach Christmas, we thank the Priests of our parish: Fr Paul, Fr Jobi and Fr Jack for their generous service, joy, grace and integrity in supporting us in life and faith this year.

May the blessings of love and peace be theirs this Christmas and always!

**(Lisa and Anne on behalf of the parish)**

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve (24th December)

6pm

8.30pm

Midnight

Carols from 11.15pm

### Christmas Day (25th December)

7.30am

9.30am

NOTE: Regular morning weekday Masses will continue with the exception of Christmas Day.



# Faith B4U...

## Parish Office Closure over Christmas

The Parish office will be **closing at 1pm Tuesday 24th December and reopening on Wednesday 15th January 2025.**

Please note, priests to remain on duty. If there is an emergency please call: 0447 509 207

The Parish staff would like to wish you a Christmas filled with love, peace and joy.

## Calling for new Flower Team Members

Whether you have a flair for flowers or not, please consider joining our flower teams who meet once a month on a roster basis for about an hour and keep our church looking beautiful. No experience necessary, all help is appreciated.

For more information please contact the parish office.

## Optional Emergency Contact

The parish office is in the process of collecting emergency contact details for parishioners.

If you would like us to keep on file the person(s) you wish us to contact in case of an emergency, such as an injury or when an ambulance is called, please complete the Emergency Contact Forms found at each door.

Once completed you can return it to the parish office or place in an envelope and drop it into the collection plate. All information will be stored securely and referred to only when & if required.

Please note, this is optional and open to all parishioners.

**For more information please contact the parish office.**

## Hosts suitable for gluten intolerant

If you require a low gluten host, please let an Acolyte or senior server know before Mass starts.

They will organise for one to be placed aside for you.

## Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels more deeply. Fridays at 10am in the Youth room.

**Gatherings will resume 17 January 2025**

## Let us pray...

**FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.**

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, George Attard, John Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Joe Farrugia, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Grace Widjaya, Jasper Wilhite, Maureen Zarb

**FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.**

Joseph D'Souza, Joseph Falzon, Paul Xuereb

**FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.** *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

George Attard - 23 Dec @ 1pm, Joseph Farrugia - 8 Jan @ 10.30am, Jessie Sherry - 23 Dec @ 11am

## Interview with Anne

**Q: Anne, you are finishing up as a staff member of OLQP parish where you have worked for the past 4 years on the Life and Faith team. What have been some of the highlights of your time with the parish team?**

There are so many highlights over my time. A few that have really inspired me...

- Meeting families in sacramental preparation and being part of such special moments in their faith journey
- The 'movie club' during COVID which has transformed into 'coffee and cake mornings' post COVID
- Lent and Advent small group meetings which enable the sharing of life stories
- Wednesday morning prayer reflections where stories of tremendous faith are shared
- Meeting and accompanying young people actively choosing to become Catholic.

These experiences have encouraged me and extended my own faith commitment.

**Q: Even though you won't be working at the parish office, you are and will still be involved in ministry in the parish. Thinking back over the past year, can you share a moment in your ministry where you have seen a "Christ encounter?"**

There are so many moments where I have experienced Christ through the humility, kindness, compassion and generosity of the people in our parish. I can't name them here, but I cherish each and every moment. I look forward to continuing in the Greeting Ministry at Masses.

**Q: What are your hopes for Life and Faith and the community at OLQP parish for 2025?**

That our beautiful parish continues to flourish and 'grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.'



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# Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

## Safeguarding is a priority at OLOP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

**ONLINE:** To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

**IN PERSON TRAINING:** To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### UPCOMING Face-to-face Training

Saturday 29 January at St Andrew the Apostle Parish Marayong - Module 1

Register for this session at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training> or contact Lisa in the parish office on 9631 8135.

## Epiphany Pilgrimage & Fiesta

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrimage. Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way.

For more information and to register for all or part of the journey visit [www.epipanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epipanypilgrimage.org)

## Parish improvements

You may have noticed that there has been changes when entering and exiting the parish office. This improvement allows staff, priests and volunteers to work safely and securely at all times of the day.

**TO ENTER** the parish office during office hours:

1. **PRESS** the silver button that says 'press here' located to the LEFT of the screen door.
2. **This will alert a staff member you are at the door. When you hear a voice telling you that 'The door is open'**
3. **TURN** the screen door handle to enter.

**When LEAVING** the parish office:

1. **PRESS** the blue button located to the LEFT of the door.
2. **This will release the screen door.**
3. **TURN** the screen door handle to exit.

## FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

- 25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday **The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)**  
26<sup>th</sup> Thursday **St Stephen**, the first martyr  
27<sup>th</sup> Friday **St John**, apostle, evangelist  
28<sup>th</sup> Saturday **The Holy Innocents**, martyrs

### This Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Micah

5:1-4

#### 2nd Reading

Hebrews

10:5-10

#### Gospel

Luke

1:39-44

### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

1 Samuel

1:20-22, 24-28

#### 2nd Reading

1 John

3:1-2, 21-24

#### Gospel

Luke

2:41-52

## Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

**Memorial Mass** - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

**Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick** - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

### **Reconciliation:**

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, [olqp.org.au](http://olqp.org.au), every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

**Rosary in the church:** Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

**\*NOTE: No Friday Rosary from 27 Dec to 24 Jan**

P: 9631 8135 | E: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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