



—OUR LADY—
QUEEN OF PEACE

The Peaceful Voice

7th December 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

“Preparing the Way: Welcoming Christ into Our Hearts This Advent”

As we journey through the Second Sunday of Advent, our attention turns to John the Baptist, the courageous herald of Christ. His life challenges us to prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord—not only at Christmas, but every day of our lives.

John’s life was marked by **simplicity**, **courage**, and **spiritual clarity**. He lived in the wilderness, far from comforts and distractions, wearing simple clothing, eating sparingly, and devoting his days to prayer and reflection. This disciplined life allowed him to hear God’s voice clearly and align himself fully with God’s call. John also spoke the truth boldly, calling people to repentance and integrity. He did not seek human approval or comfort yet faced opposition with unwavering trust in God. In our busy, noisy lives, John reminds us that spiritual preparation requires detachment from distractions, honesty in our actions, and courage to follow God’s will.

God takes our sinning seriously. John Steinbeck’s story, *The Wayward Bus*, tells of a dilapidated bus stranded in the mud. Its passengers take refuge in a cave, and over the entrance is the word **REPENT!** scrawled in paint. Yet none of the passengers pays attention. Steinbeck shows how easy it is to ignore God’s call to repentance. All too often, this is our story as well. John the Baptist calls us to take sin seriously because God does. Advent is a time to reflect, examine our lives honestly, and turn away from sin so Christ can be reborn in our hearts.

Reconciliation is another key part of preparation. When Leonardo da Vinci painted *The Last Supper*, he initially used the face of an enemy for Judas Iscariot. While this may have seemed satisfying, da Vinci could not complete the face of Jesus until he reconciled with his rival. Likewise, Advent calls us to let go of anger, resentment, and division so that Christ can dwell fully within us.

Waiting is an essential aspect of Advent. Life requires patience: we wait in lines, in order to purchase groceries; to be served at popular restaurants; to be assisted in a bank; at stop signs and traffic signals; at amusement parks; to see a play or film. Statisticians estimate that in a 70-year life, we spend over three years waiting! Advent invites us to wait with repentant and expectant hearts, allowing God to work within us, shaping our lives, and preparing us for Christ’s daily presence and His final coming.

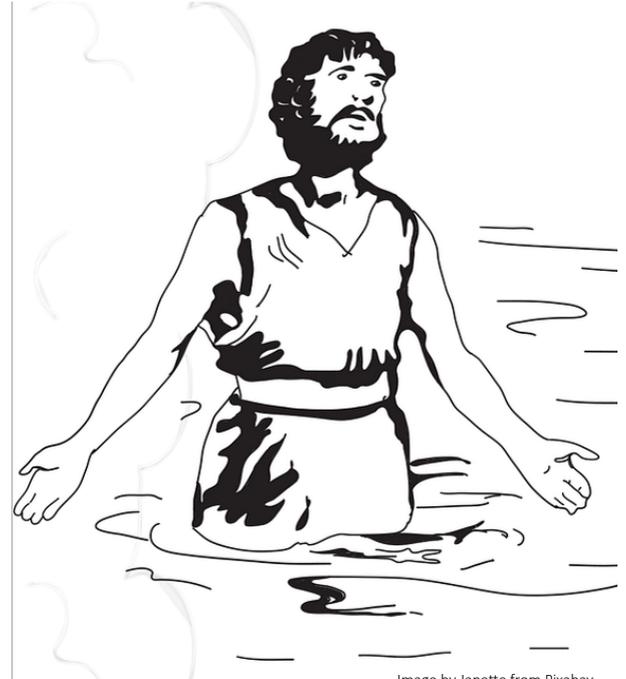


Image by Janette from Pixabay

Finally, Advent is a call to concrete **life change**. As the German mystic Angelus Silesius reminds us: “Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain unless He is born in me.” John the Baptist challenges us to correct our relationships, act justly, serve others selflessly, and live with integrity. As St. Thérèse of Lisieux and Mother Teresa advise, we are called to “do small things but with great love.” Advent is a journey of **repentance**, **renewal**, and **humble service**.

May this Advent, inspired by John the Baptist, lead us to simplicity, courage, reconciliation, patient waiting, sincere repentance, and selfless love. Let us prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, not only in the Christmas celebrations, but each day, allowing Him to transform our lives and radiate His love through all that we do. John the Baptist prepared the way—may we do the same.

Fr Sebastian

Did you know?

"Social exclusion... and new forms of social aggression" are among a number of factors affecting social cohesion. "There are signs that the growth of the past two centuries has not always led to an... improvement in the quality of life." (LS 46).

Consider, How can I be a witness of God's kindness and care in my interaction with others?

On sale in the Parish Office

Christmas Cards (supporting Vinnies) \$8.00 pack of 10

Faith B4U...

Advent Chat ...

Spend time with others reflecting on the hope of Advent. Join us for **MORNING TEA** after 9.15am Mass followed by an Advent Chat around the following Sunday Gospel.

Tuesdays straight after 9.15am Mass
25 Nov, 2, 9 Dec
in the Youth Room next to the Church

And then join us for an Advent Retreat on
Tuesday 16th December at 10am
in the Church

Reflection Books Available
for purchase \$5
Contact the Parish Office
if you have any questions.

All Welcome!



Men's Group Gathering

Saturday 13 December - All men over 18+ welcome.

Please join us for our final OLQP Men's Group gathering for 2025.

Topic: Advent Journey: Preparing a Man's Heart for Christ

Time: BBQ Breakfast from 7.45am, Discussion starts 8:15am

For more information contact **Nicky on 0403 124 345**

Thank you & Farewell

After 26 years of commitment to the parish community, we deeply thank and farewell Narelle Bolton for the integral role she played in nurturing and growing the minds of our little ones at OLQP Preschool (now known as Ambrose Early Learning).

Please join us **Sunday 14th December** to personally thank and farewell Narelle **after the 10.30am Mass** for morning tea.

We invite you to write a message of thanks in the card and on the special sheets provided at each church door.

Getting ready for Christmas?

What are you excited about? What are you stressed about?

Spend a little time with fellow parishioners sharing the spirituality of the **Advent Season** over a cuppa after Mass on **Wednesday 10th December from 10am - 12.30pm in the St George Preca Centre.**

Get into the spirit of the season and find out about the Jesse Tree and take one home to share with your family.

Our morning will be led by Marilyn Hancock from the Parramatta Diocesan - Mission Engagement Team.

To RSVP pick up a flyer in the church to complete or contact the parish office.

Reconciliation Before Christmas

If you'd like to receive this precious Sacrament before Christmas, kindly plan a time from the following extra opportunities. Doing so you're helping yourself and others not to be disappointed to miss out in a Christmas rush:

Saturday afternoon, 13th December 3pm to 4.45pm

Tuesday evening, 16th December 7pm to 8pm (with Adoration)

Saturday afternoon, 20th December 3pm to 4.45pm

Tuesday evening, 23rd December 7pm to 8pm (with Adoration)

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, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Bob Nowfel, Brendon Onorato, Benjie Santiago, Michael Scanlon, Connie Shembri, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, 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.

Isabelle Barakat, Maria Douglass, Minty Fogarty, Claude Madeleine, Anna Portelli

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.

Phillippe D'Argent - 8 Dec @ 1.30pm, William Doherty

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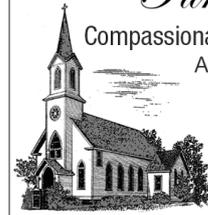
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Safeguarding is a priority at OLQP

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

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us. For many in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, that promise is needed right now. Many individuals and families are carrying grief, stress and uncertainty – wrestling with the rising cost-of-living, unstable work and the heartbreak of losing a loved one. Your generosity is the way to open the doors of hope for the broken-hearted ensuring that no one in our community grieves alone.

Please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code or pick up an envelope located at all pews. Thank you.



Exciting News

Thanks to the Community Building Partners Program of the NSW Government, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, received funding to create a shaded outdoor community area just in front of the Youth Room.

The morning of Saturday 6th December, poles will be placed. This needs 28 days to set. During which time, we ask if you can please be careful to not touch the poles to ensure they set correctly.

A bordering garden will be installed this week. And early January, the sail shades will be installed and tables placed around.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Dr Hugh McDermott, our State Member for Prospect, who has worked with us to receive this grant.

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

8th Monday **The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

13th Saturday **St Lucy**, virgin, martyr

Positions Vacant

Catholic Chaplain: Catholic Care Western Sydney & the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah
11:1-10

2nd Reading

Romans
15:4-9

Gospel
Matthew
3:1-12

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah
35:1-6, 10

2nd Reading

James
5:7-10

Gospel
Matthew
11:2-11

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, 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

P: 9631 8135 | E: 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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