



# St Peter Julian's Newsletter

Blessed Sacrament Congregation

December 2018

Volume 11 Issue 12

## Wishing you the joyous courage to hold firm!

### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

### Sunday:

9.30, 11.00am (Chinese),

12.30, 3.30, 5.00pm

(Korean)

### 1st Sunday:

1.30pm (Filipino)

### 1st & 3rd Saturday:

2.15pm (Indonesian)

### Monday to Friday:

7.30am, 12.10, 5.30pm

### Saturday:

12.10pm & Vigil at 5.30pm

### Public Holidays:

12.10pm



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[www.stpeterjuliansydney.com](http://www.stpeterjuliansydney.com).  
Back copies also available.

How delightful is the eager expectancy of children awaiting a promised treat like a birthday party or, of course, Christmas!

Expectancy, however, can suddenly turn into disappointment. Living in time means having no sure control of the future, never ever knowing what is coming. If waking each morning to a new day is for some an experience of eager anticipation, for others it is heavy with dread or dulled into a quiet and listless apathy... This can be collective too – whether it be of family, of ethnic or religious community or nation.

To face whatever might be “adventing” calls for a certain hope, however rudimentary. On what is such hope founded? Most times we probably never think about it – that’s just life, we say!

When our future promises to be painful, however, whether a new variant on familiar pain or, worse, tinged with looming terror, hope is threatened in its very foundations.

That is why we treasure the experience of those who were able to find in the deepest regions of the spirit the energy of endurance to face what was to come.

The Advent readings weave a tapestry of many strands here, inviting us to contemplate Israel’s capacity to survive in her faith in the turmoil of oppression, persecution and exile and culminating in the arrival of a Messiah as disconcerting in his message and life trajectory as he had been longed for with the ardour of embattled hope.

Our liturgy revisits the past in order to reinforce our present hope. The first Sunday of Advent prolongs the message about the end of all things heard already in the last two Sundays of Ordinary Time. The next two introduce us to John the Baptist urging us to “prepare the way of the Lord.” The unifying thread in it all is that of “the days that are coming...” Again and again, we are shown

what seemed to be the end being transformed into a new beginning.

Our attention is constantly being drawn from the future to the past and then back again to the future. The message, however, is essentially for *now* – seeking to open us to the resources of courage and strength needed to live the present moment with trust, confidence and joy, no matter what its challenges. Our own “days that are coming” are to be illuminated by and englobed in the “day of the Son of Man” – a day prepared in the manger of Bethlehem, seemingly negated on Calvary and yet made glorious in the dazzling dawn of Easter.



Our final Advent Sunday invites us to share Elizabeth’s exultant joy as, thrilled by the “visitation” of her Lord, she welcomes her pregnant cousin, Mary. The sun is now ready to rise and Advent is opening to Christmas – all beautifully expressed in a Byzantine Prayer:

The Creator, the wisdom of God,  
draws near,  
the mist of the prophets’ promise is dispersed.  
Joy clears the skies  
Truth is resplendent  
The dark shadows are dispelled  
The gates of Eden are opened  
Adam dances in exultation:  
Our Creator and God wills to fashion us anew.

**- Fr Tony McSweeney SSS**

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**Websites:** [www.stpeterjuliansydney.com](http://www.stpeterjuliansydney.com)  
[www.blessedsacrament.com.au](http://www.blessedsacrament.com.au)

**THE WHAT AND WHY OF LITURGY**  
**Was Jesus Born on the 25th of December?**  
 - Br Luke Thorp SSS

The answer in short, is no. The 25th of December is the day we *commemorate* the birth of Jesus but if we know anything of history, we know that he wasn't born on that exact date. In fact, some Eastern Christians, such as the Ukrainian rite, celebrate Christmas on 7 January and in England, it used to be celebrated on 6 January. Christmas as a liturgical feast was not even commemorated in Christianity until the fourth century. So why celebrate Christmas on the 25 December?



The genius of Christianity is its ability to adopt and adapt from existing cultures to try and better proclaim the Gospel. In the northern hemisphere, the 25th of December was the date of the winter sol-

stice. The days began to grow longer. Christians saw some symbolic sense in celebrating the birth of Christ on that day; with the coming of Jesus, comes light. Unfortunately, in the southern hemisphere, that idea doesn't necessarily work. Currently a priest in New Zealand is writing a doctoral thesis on how we can better understand and celebrate Christmas in the southern hemisphere. It's called "Defrosting Christmas."

It doesn't really matter what day Jesus was born on. We commemorate saints' days generally on the day they died. There is a close link then with the Paschal Mystery and death and resurrection. St. Teresa of Avila died on 5 October but we celebrate her feast day on 15 October. Why? Because in 1582, the Church realised there had been a miscalculation with the calendar. So Pope Gregory XIII decided that everybody would go to bed on 4 October and wake up on the 15 October, erasing ten days from the calendar; hence the end of the Julian calendar and the beginning of the Gregorian calendar.

So the actual date of Christ's birth is not that important. What is important is that he was born and that we live by his teachings and try and bring light into an often dark world. Merry Christmas.

### Plenary Council 2020

The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future.

How you can be involved:

- Talk with your parish priest about becoming a parish ambassador or to know more contact 9390 5100 or [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)
- Look out for a listening and dialogue session near you or for more details contact 9390 5100, or [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)
- Make an individual and direct response to the national Plenary Council, via: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>
- Share your response with the Archdiocese of Sydney, via: [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)
- Want to know more? Watch the videos at: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/watch/>

### **SINGERS—SOLOISTS—SOPRANOS**

*Available for Weddings, Special Occasions, Funerals, Memorial Services.*

*For details, please contact our Receptionist.*



## NOTICES

### A CHORAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT

On **Friday 14 December**, St Mary's Cathedral will celebrate with carols and an overwhelming feeling of Christmas joy for the annual, and much anticipated *A Choral Christmas Celebration* concert.

There will be two performances at 11am & 7pm with tickets starting from \$20. Visit [www.cathedralchoir.sydney/accc](http://www.cathedralchoir.sydney/accc) for more information.

### POSITIONS VACANT FOR 2019 - FAMILY EDUCATORS

Applications are invited for the position of Family Educator based in a number of Catholic primary schools in the Sydney Archdiocese.

To see locations please go to [sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/category/positions-vacant](http://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/category/positions-vacant) to see the application pack.

Applications close November 22, 2018. For further information contact [meredith.lemos@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:meredith.lemos@syd.catholic.edu.au)

### CATHOLIC CARE HOME CARE PACKAGES

CatholicCare provides services in your home to help you remain living independently. From occasional or short-term services to round-the-clock options, CatholicCare can help you decide on the services to meet your individual needs. For more information please contact *CCareline on 13 18 19*.



The LITE group had its last meeting for the year in November. The group meets on the 4th Saturday of the month in the hall at St Peter Julian's Church at 1.30pm.

Regular meetings will resume on **23 February 2019**.



### MONTHLY MASSES & EVENTS

**Catholic Indonesian Community Mass**, 1st & 3rd Saturdays (**1 & 15 December**) at 2.15pm  
Harry Liong 0425 918 925.

**Chinese Community Mass (Cantonese) Mass** every Sunday at 11.00am. Simon Liu 0411 377 618.

**Korean Community Mass** every Sunday at 5.00pm.  
Lucian Jin Young Noh 0451 465 857.

**Filipino Community Mass**, 1st Sunday (**2 December**) at 1.30pm. Juliet Byrne 0437 045 945.

**Holy Trinity Community (Adoration)**. Eucharistic Adoration **2nd & 4th Saturdays (8 & 22 December)** at 3.00pm. Surya Sutanto 0415 177 732.

**Mass of Anointing** every 1st Saturday (Feb-Dec) (**1 December**) at 12.10pm.

**Associates of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation**, 2nd Saturday (Feb-Dec) at 12.10pm  
Mass followed by meeting. Fr Marcellus Glynn SSS (02) 9270 6900. (**Next meeting 8 December**).

**Life in the Eucharist (LITE)** every 4th Saturday (**Next meeting 23 February 2019**) in the Hall at 1.30pm.

### St Peter Julian's Altar Auxiliary.

The **12.10pm Thursday Eucharist** is offered for members of the St Peter Julian's Altar Auxiliary. (For information on becoming a member please speak to the Receptionist).



Do you know any seniors in your community who could use a little help at home?

Our home care services help seniors to enjoy living independently in their own home with comfort and confidence.

Call **CCareline on 13 18 19** to find out more.



☎ **13 18 19**

✉ [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

Visit us on the web at [catholiccare.org](http://catholiccare.org)

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 Palms Australia

## Make an Encounter in 2019

Palms Encounters are rich immersions that challenge perceptions of our neighbours, guided by Palms mission volunteers with cultural experience of Timor Leste, Myanmar and Samoa.

**Timor Leste- April & Sept**  
**Samoa - June**  
**Myanmar- November**

[www.palms.org.au/encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/encounters)





## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR TIMETABLE 2018/2019



<b>Christmas Vigil</b> <b>Monday, 24 December</b>	Christmas Carols: 6.30pm. Christmas Vigil Eucharist at 7.00pm Christmas Carols: 11.30pm. 12.00 Midnight Eucharist
<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Tuesday, 25 December</b>	9.30am (English) 11.00am (Chinese) 12.30pm (English) 3.30pm (English) 5.00pm (Korean)
<b>Wednesday, 26 December</b>	Eucharist 12.10pm <b>Only</b>
<b>The Holy Family</b> <b>Sunday, 30 December</b>	Saturday Vigil Mass: 5.30pm (English) 9.30am (English) 11.00am (Chinese) 12.30pm (English) 3.30pm (English) 5.00pm (Korean)
<b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Tuesday, 1 January</b> <b>Mary Mother of God</b>	Eucharist: 12.10pm <b>Only</b>
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION</b> <b>From Tuesday 18 December to Saturday</b> <b>22 December and Monday 24 December</b>	11.00am to 12.00 noon, and 4.00pm to 5.00pm.
<b>Saturday 5 January 2019</b>	<b>NO ANOINTING MASS</b>

**No Reconciliation during the Christmas Octave . Ministry resumes on Wednesday 2 January.**

***During the period of Christmas (25 December 2018 to 2 January 2019) the Bookshop and Church Office will be closed and will reopen on Wednesday, 2 January 2019.***



**We the BLESSED SACRAMENT  
COMMUNITY  
AT ST PETER JULIAN'S**

*wish you, our friends and  
benefactors, a Blessed and  
Peaceful Christmas.*

*We express our thanks for your  
continued support throughout the  
past year.*