

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19

**RESPONSE:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

**Response.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see,  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

**Response.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **Response.**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Ps 84:8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Lord, show us your mercy and love,**  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** Mark 13:33-37

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**  
**Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And

what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Is 40: 1-5, 9-11;**

**2 Pet 3: 8-14;**

**Mk 1: 1-8.**



**Themes throughout Advent.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: The Lord's Coming at the end of time

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: The preaching of John the Baptist.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: The Ministry of John the Baptist.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: The events that prepared for the Lord's birth, the Annunciation & Visitation.

**Why light candles during Advent?**

The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that:

- Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope.
- We are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6).

The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lit over the four week period, it also symbolizes the darkness of fear and hopelessness receding and the shadows of sin falling away as more and more light is shed into the world. The flame of each new candle reminds the worshippers that something is happening, and that more is yet to come. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lit at Christmas, and worshippers rejoice over the fact that the promise of long ago has been realized.

**The first candle is called the Prophet's candle:** The lighting of this candle draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of Messiah, the Anointed One. His coming is woven like a golden thread all the way through Old Testament history.

Advent challenges us to wait, to hold off on celebrating Christmas until we've prepared ourselves. If we don't plan for Advent our lives will be shaped by the frenzy of the holiday season. Won't you take the time this season to prepare your heart for Christmas.

**Do Not Miss the Reason for the Season!**



**PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE**

Presbytery and Office

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**MASS TIMES:**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| SATURDAY VIGIL:              | 6:00 pm.  |
| SUNDAY:                      | 8:00 am and 10.00 am.   |
| MONDAY:                      | 9.30am Communion Service.   |
| TUESDAY through to SATURDAY: | 9.00 am Mass.   |
| FRIDAY:                      | 9.00 am Mass.   |
|                              | Exposition & Benediction from 9.40am – 10.15am every Friday after Mass. |
| RECONCILIATION:              | Friday during Exposition and Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.   |
| Baptism:                     | Every Sunday at 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.                  |
| Marriage:                    | By appointment.   |
| Anointing of the sick:       | Please give names to Father Simon Apablaza.                             |

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

**To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**  
**Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard, no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*(continued on back page)*

**2 / 3 DECEMBER 2023 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

	<b>SATURDAY 6.00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 8.00AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10AM – Family Mass</b>
ACOLYTE	R MORFUNI	M MORELLI	J RAPER
READER	VIDURA PERERA / HARINI JAYAMANNE	ELIZABETH WHEELER	REBECCA DEARING / FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
OFFERTORY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY		FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
PROJECTION	AMJAD SHEEKA		PAUL TREACY
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 1: JAMES D’MELLO & AIDEN SHEEKA		GRP 5: JAMES DEARING & ADAM CALLAGHAN
WELCOMERS	TINA CHAMISA		FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
COUNTERS	GROUP 2: T DABBAH C DABBAH		
ALTAR FLOWERS	KAYSHINEE PERERA / TINA CHAMISA	<b>DECEMBER ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG</b>	

**9 / 10 DECEMBER 2023 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

	<b>SATURDAY 6.00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 8.00AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10AM</b>
ACOLYTE	T DABBAH	D ELLIS	G MOODLEY
READER	BARBARA CLARK	PAUL TREACY	CELINE LAYOUN / MONALISA CORONA
OFFERTORY	DABBAH FAMILY		VOLUNTEER FAMILY NEEDED
PROJECTION	TONI MORFUNI		
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 2: ZAC O’DONOGHUE, CHRISTIAN HILL & EL-AZZI FAMILY		GRP 6: SIENNA BUIST, OLIVIA JOMA, ANNA MIRABILE, GENEVIEVE MCPHIE
WELCOMERS	ALICE CHAN & PENNY ONG		VOLUNTEER NEEDED
COUNTERS	GROUP 3: D JAYAMANNE E CONTERNO		
ALTAR FLOWERS:	NONIE HAHN	<b>DECEMBER ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG</b>	

**MASSES AT CHRISTMAS**

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES AS USUAL:  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 6pm & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 8am & 10am**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:  
Christmas Eve - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Vigil:  
5pm & 7pm  
Christmas Day – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:  
8am & 10am.**



**Christmas Carols.**

**Parish Christmas Carols on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.**

Add this date to your diaries, come and share the joyful spirit of Christmas.

Please tell your friends!

After the Carols, we will host a light supper of cheese, dips and fruit in the school hall.

**This is a BYO drinks event.**



**Christmas Reconciliation.**

Reconciliation will be available within the Parish and our Deanery.

- St Charles Borromeo, Ryde on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm – 8.30pm
- St Therese, Denistone on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm.
- St Kevin’s, Eastwood on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm

**Family Mass and “Cuppa” THIS weekend.**

St Therese School families will be supporting the rostered volunteers with some of the Mass ministries at the 10am Mass THIS WEEKEND.

Following this Mass, we will host our usual “CUPPA”.

This is our last Family Mass and Cuppa for 2023!

**PARISH “CUPPAS” WILL RETURN NEXT YEAR IN FEBRUARY.**



**Advent-Christmas Giving Tree.**

Our Giving Tree will be a little different this year as St Vincent De Paul would prefer GIFT CARDS instead of actual gifts.

To accommodate this preference, we will collect money for St Vincent de Paul and then convert all collected cash into gift cards and give them to SVdePaul.

**OUR FIRST COLLECTION WILL BE THIS WEEKEND.**

**Please make your donation at the door as you leave the church after Mass.**



**Advent prayer and discussion groups.**

Don’t forget to come to ONE of the Advent discussion groups to help you to prepare for the coming of Christ our Saviour.

Group 1 – Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the School Hall.

Group 2 – Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the School Hall with Tania Rimac.

Group 3 – Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm here in the presbytery with Fr Simon.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY GROUP.

**Christmas cards on sale now in the foyer.**

To help support the St Vincent de Paul Society please buy your Christmas cards from the front foyer.

**Each pack is being sold for \$15.**

**Working Bee.**

Our next working bee will be held on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. This will help us to prepare the Church and grounds for Christmas. Morning tea will be provided.

**Christmas Rosters.**

Volunteers are needed for all our ministries at our Christmas Masses. Please take the time to add your name to the list in the front foyer of the Church. **Your participation would be greatly appreciated.**



**Altar Servers Christmas Party.**

We are holding the Altar Servers Christmas party on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Strike Bowling Macquarie Centre from 10.15am to 12noon.**

We do kindly ask that each child contribute \$10 and the parish will cover the rest of the cost. This money can be given to Thomas in a marked envelope on the day. **Please RSVP by 25<sup>th</sup> November and we need to be made aware of any allergies.**

**Farewell Mr Adam Nolan, Principal.**

The school and parish will farewell Adam on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> December with a Mass at 9am followed by a morning tea in the St Therese School Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend.

**Parish Council Meeting.**

Our last meeting for 2023 will be held on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> December. Councillors please come to the presbytery at 6.30pm for dinner at 7pm. Just bring yourselves and maybe a bottle of wine or soft drink to share with others.

**Parish Council**

**Occasion of Common Lamentation & Prayer.**

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting all parishioners to an Occasion of Common Lamentation and Prayer for Peace at St Mary’s Cathedral next Wednesday 6 December at 6:30pm. This follows a call from Pope Francis to all people who have at heart the cause of peace in the Holy Land and around the world to gather together in prayer in these troubled times.

**Fr Martin Maunsell.**

This weekend Fr Martin will concelebrate with Fr Simon at all Masses and after each Mass, copies of his books will be on sale for \$25 each.



Former parish priest of St Kevin’s at Eastwood, Fr Martin has now published two volumes of his weekly messages, *Cuppa Time Reflections* and *More Cuppa Time Reflections*.

His musings on everyday life and wisdom from a wide variety of writers, punctuated with a message from scripture, are meant to “engage, enlighten and empower” not only Catholics but anyone open to being challenged to live a better and more meaningful life. ....

Each reflection is a succinct 250 words and takes him less than an hour to write each week.....

Proceeds from his book sales support a Catholic pre-and primary school in a remote mountainous region of Rwenzori in Uganda. The partnership between St Kevin’s parish and the Pere Achte Primary School in Rwenzori grew after the schools’ founder, Fr Fabius Kisembo Bainakanaama, spent some time serving the Catholic community in Eastwood four years ago.