

FIRST READING: (Continued)

say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 84:9-14

RESPONSE: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Response.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

Response.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Response.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter
We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so

that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Is 61: 1-2,10-11;
1 Thess 5: 16-24;
Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28.



Safeguarding our Community.
If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney, please call the appropriate authorities OR The Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812 OR **speak with our Parish Safeguarding Support Officer Helen Vaz OR Parish Priest, both of whom will be able to provide support and guidance.**



PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office

8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone 2114 Tel: 9809 2925

Website: www.sttherese.org.au

Administrator: Fr Simon Apablaza

Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera

Parish Secretary: Gayle White admin@sttherese.org.au

Office hours Tues, Thurs and Fri from 8am-4pm

St Therese's School

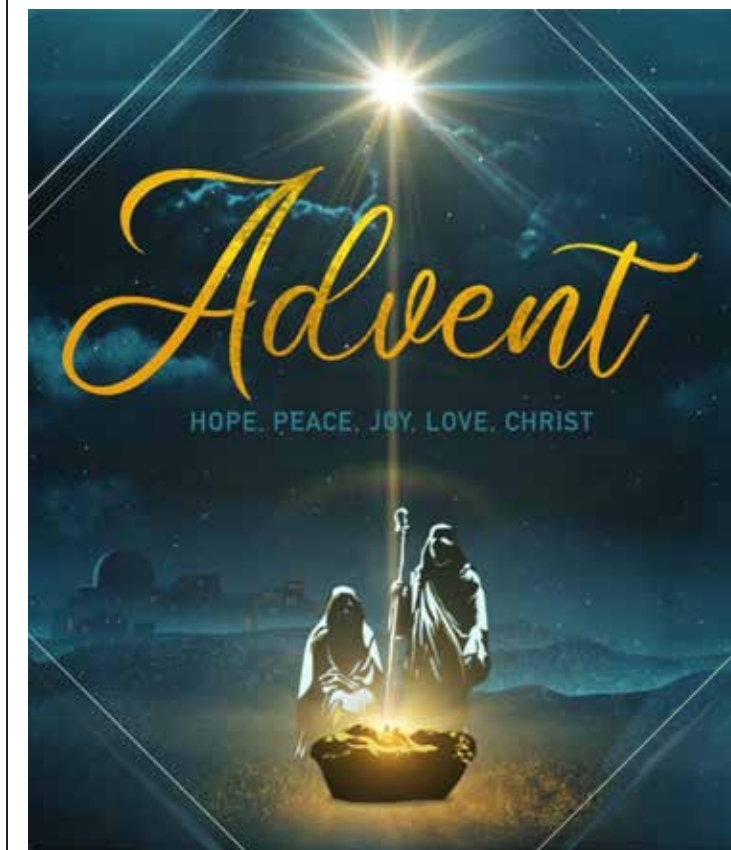
448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)
9th / 10th December 2023



FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,

(continued on back page)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

9 / 10 DECEMBER 2023 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10AM – Family Mass
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	DECEMBER ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG	

16 / 17 DECEMBER 2023 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10AM
ACOLYTE	R MORFUNI	D D'MELLO	A STANTON
READER	LUEN UYMATIAO / BILL KINDER	SHERRY JAYAMMANE	HELEN VAZ / HANNY WIDJAYA
OFFERTORY	DABBAH FAMILY		SCOTT & SONYA DIMICHIEL
PROJECTION	ANNA PLEADIN		BUDY WIDJAYA
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 3: BERNLEITNER FAMILY, NIARA PAREKELEM & FREDERICK LI		GRP 7: WIDJAYA FAMILY, ANNABELLE BOGER, LENNOX HO
WELCOMERS	ALICE CHAN & PENNY ONG		VOLUNTEER NEEDED
COUNTERS	GROUP 4: ROBERT WHITE GAYLE WHITE		
ALTAR FLOWERS:	ANNE-MARIE NAGANATHAN	DECEMBER ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG	

MASSES AT CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY MASS TIMES AS USUAL:
Saturday 23rd 6pm & Sunday 24th 8am & 10am

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



PARISH NOTICES:

Mass intentions Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries especially Greg Clark, Maria Del Refugio and Robert Kee.



Christmas Reconciliation.

Reconciliation will be available within the Parish and our Deanery.

- St Anthony's, Marsfield on Thursday the 14th December at 7.30pm.
- Holy Spirit, North Ryde on Tuesday the 19th December at 6.30pm
- Holy Name of Mary, Hunters Hill on Tuesday the 19th Decembver at 7pm
- St Charles Borromeo, Ryde on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm – 8.30pm
- St Therese, Denistone on Thursday the 21st December at 7.30pm.
- St Kevin's, Eastwood on Friday the 22nd December at 7pm.

Advent prayer and discussion groups.

Everyone is welcome to any of our Advent discussion groups.

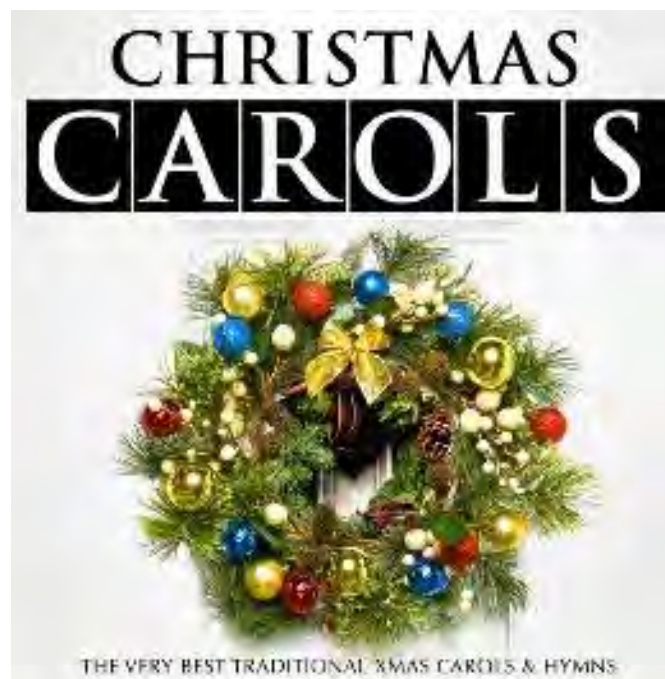
- Group 1 – Tuesday the 12th December at 7.30pm in the School Hall.
- Group 2 – Wednesday the 13th December at 7.30pm in the School Hall with Tania Rimac.
- Group 3 – Thursday the 14^h December at 2pm here in the presbytery with Fr Simon.

Christmas Carols.

Parish Christmas Carols on Friday the 15th December at 7pm.

Our evening of Carols in the church is NEXT FRIDAY. Come and share the joyful spirit of Christmas. Please tell your friends!

After the Carols, Fr Simon will host a light supper of cheese, dips and fruit in the school hall. **THIS IS A BYO DRINKS EVENT.**



Advent-Christmas Giving Tree.

Once again, we are collecting for St Vincent De Paul. All cash collected will be converted into GIFT CARDS and given to SVdePaul.

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



Working Bee.

NEXT Saturday, we will have our usual Christmas working on the 16th 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.**



Farewell Mr Adam Nolan, Principal.

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

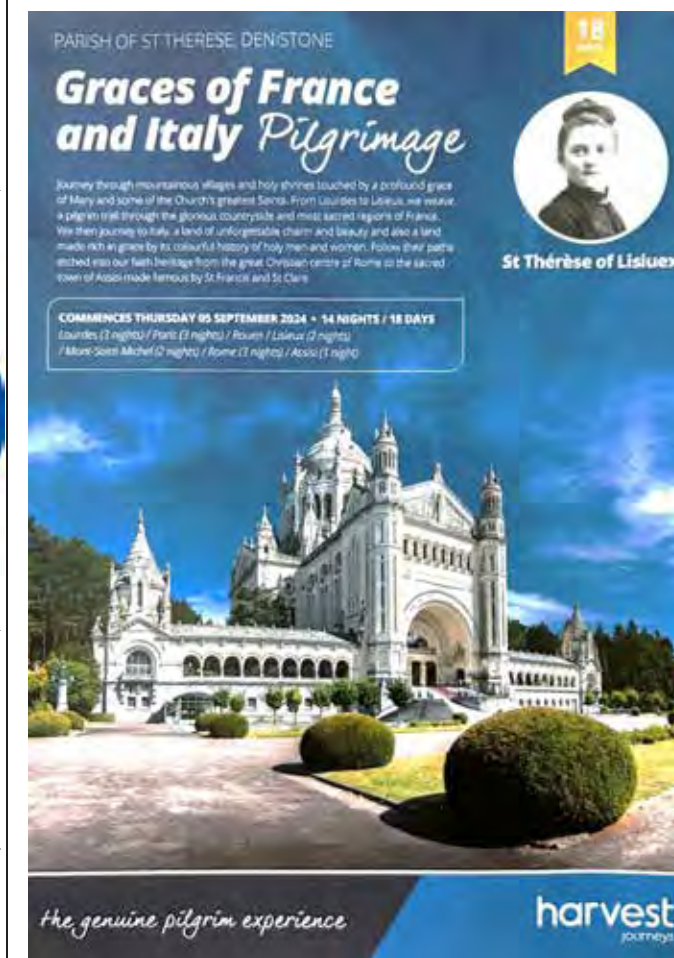
Parish Bulletins during Christmas break and January.

Our last bulletin for 2023 will be on Sunday the weekend of the 23/24 Dec. For the last week of December and all of January, Fr Simon has decided that we will have a weekly A4 sized page with the Sunday Mass readings and the rosters printed out for the congregation. The full bulletins will resume in February.

Parish of St Therese Pilgrimage – Graces of France and Italy.

Don't forget to take a leaflet detailing the pilgrimage Fr Simon is organising with the help of Harverst Journeys.

If you are considering joining the pilgrimage group from the 5th September 2024 for 18 days please register your interest by contacting the parish office either via email or telephone.



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.