

secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29

RESPONSE: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

RESPONSE.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

RESPONSE.

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'

I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

RESPONSE.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named

Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the



Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS:

Is 9: 1-7; Titus 2: 11-14;
Lk 2: 1-14

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Gen 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3;
Heb 11: 8,11-12,17-19;
Lk 2: 22-40.



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

23rd / 24th December 2023



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'


But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty

(continued on back page)

23 / 24 DECEMBER 2023 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10AM – Family Mass
ACOLYTE	T DABBAH	M MORELLI	G MOODLEY
READER	JOY PERERA	YVONNE LEUNG	PAUL MCLACHLAN / SCOTT DIMICHIEL
OFFERTORY	WONG FAMILY		VOLUNTEER NEEDED
PROJECTION	VIDURA PERERA		
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 4: WONG FAMILY		GRP 8: ELIE & ALYSSIA BARAZ, DOMINIC MCLACHLAN
WELCOMERS	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		VOLUNTEER NEEDED
COUNTERS	GROUP 5: PATRICIA HO FRANCESCA HO ANTHONY STANTON		
ALTAR FLOWERS	JAN KEYSER	DECEMBER ALTAR LINEN: PENNY ONG	

 CHRISTMAS MASSES 24 / 25 DEC	CHRISTMAS EVE 5PM	CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM	CHRISTMAS DAY 8AM	CHRISTMAS DAY 10AM
Acolyte	THOMAS DABBAH GEORGE MOODLEY	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Reader	SHERRY JAYAMANNE	JOY PERERA PAUL MCLACHLAN	YVONNE LEUNG	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Wardens	PAUL BURGE	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Offertory	MORENA & ROBERT BERNLEITNER	STEVE & DIANNE D'MELLO	CALLAGHAN FAMILY	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Altar Servers	SOPHIA BERNLEITNER & OSCAR BERNLEITNER	JAMES D'MELLO	ADAM CALLAGHAN	FREDERICK LI
Counters	SPECIAL TEAM ESPECIALLY FOR CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS			

30 / 31 DECEMBER 2023 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10AM
ACOLYTE	R MORFUNI	M MORELLI	A STANTON
READER	BARBARA CLARK	PAUL TREACY	CELINE LAYOUN / MONALISA CORONA
OFFERTORY	DABBAH FAMILY		VOLUNTEER FAMILY NEEDED
PROJECTION	JENNY MCLEOD		
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 2: ZAC O'DONOGHUE, CHRISTIAN HILL & EL-AZZI FAMILY		GRP 6: SIENNA BUIST, OLIVIA JOMA, ANNA MIRABILE, GENEVIEVE MCPHIE
WELCOMERS	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
COUNTERS	GROUP 6: STEPHEN RATH PATRICIA BRODERICK ROBERT LEUNG		
ALTAR FLOWERS:	NONIE HAHN	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 Janice White and Winnie Pearce.



Christmas Rosters.

WE HAVE MANY VACANT POSITIONS ON OUR ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Cuppa farewell.

Christine Plokstys has retired from organising and serving our monthly "Cuppas".



Christine has been doing this for around 20 years! Truly amazing! A very sincere thank you to Christine for carrying out this ministry with so much love for our parish and helping to keep our community connected through lovely conversations whilst having a coffee. Christine has left the "Cuppa" ministry in the caring hands of a team of people – Esther Ng, Kerrie Callaghan and Fransiska Kurniawan.

Catechist Teachers urgently needed.

Are you able to help? Please contact the presbytery and find out more information. Only half an hour during school terms is needed and training is provided.



Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2024.

Find out more about the work catechists do here at <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/> or call the presbytery next week.

CATECHIST TEACHERS AND HELPERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.

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

Leaflets detailing the pilgrimage are available from the front foyer.

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.



St Therese now has Facebook @denistonecatholic.



Fr Simon has created a Facebook page that you can all follow and keep updated with what's happening.

Catholic Mission Thanks our Parish.

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal.

Total amount raised at Denistone was \$1374.00

Attention all Counters.

We have organised a meeting for all COUNTERS to be held on Thursday the 18th January at 3pm in the presbytery. This is an important meeting as we find ourselves having to restructure the counting groups due counters needing to retire from this important ministry.



Thank you.

After many years of counting Barbara Clark is retiring from this ministry. We sincerely thank her for their diligence and commitment over these past years and pray that she continues to receive God's blessings in her life.



Volunteer Counters Needed.

We are looking for more parishioners who would like to help as COUNTERS. As some of our rostered people have retired from this ministry, we need to bring new people into this special workforce of God. If you are interested, please attend our meeting on Thursday the 18th January.



Parish Bulletins during Christmas break and January.

THIS is our last bulletin for 2023. For the last week of December and all of January, 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.

THE Catholic Weekly

IS ON SALE NOW FROM THE FRONT FOYER.

- Christmas 2023. 800 Years of the Nativity scene (p13-16)
- Big hearts, big tree: Christmas with the Abdallahs (p5)
- Archbishop Fisher: Jesus brings light to world in conflict (p3)
 - New deacons a gift to Sydney church (p2)
 - Christmas at the Cathedral dazzles (p9)
 - Celebrating our HSC superstars (p12)