

## Third Sunday of Advent

13th December 2015

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First Reading from the prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL: According to Luke 3:10-18**

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

*Saints of the Week*  
St John of the Cross (Mon 14/12)

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:** Sat Vigil 5.30pm, Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am & 5.30pm

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:** Monday— Friday 9.15am

**ADDITIONAL MASSES:** 1st Friday 7.00pm/ Parish.  
Hammondville Nursing Home 1st Tuesday of the Month at 11.00am

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays 4.30pm—5.15pm

**MASS INTENTIONS:** There are Mass Intention envelopes in the church foyer for people to write their respective Intentions. These need to be returned to the parish office no later than one week prior to the said date. Please do not place them in the 'suggestion box'.

**ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Thursday 7.00pm -8.00pm except Thursday before 1st Friday of the Month.

**BAPTISMS:** Please contact the Parish office 9825 1679

**WEDDINGS:** 6 months notice is required

### CONTACTS:

CATECHISTS: Louise Hartin 9822 5040

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: Fr. Thanh 9825 1679

READERS & COMMENTATORS: Lorraine de Lapp 9825 1870

CHOIRS: Fr Thanh 9825 1679 & Dianne Pawsey 9771 1738

RCIA PROGRAM: Fr. Thanh 9825 1679 & Sr. Helen 9825 1679

ALTAR SERVERS: Rev. Mr. Al Salu 0416 842 669

ROSARY MAKERS GUILD: Cyril Ferriere 9825 2008

## St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

*We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality, love and commitment*

**Parish Priest:**  
**Permanent Deacon:**  
**Pastoral Support**  
**Secretary:**  
**Parish Office Hours**

Rev. Thanh Quang Nguyen  
Rev. Mr. Al Salu  
Sr. Helen Madden *rsj*  
Mrs. Anne Bennell  
Mon 10.00am—3.00pm  
Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm  
195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy  
PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875  
[www.stchristophers.org.au](http://www.stchristophers.org.au)  
[stchris@tpg.com.au](mailto:stchris@tpg.com.au)  
(02) 9825 1679  
(02) 9825 1488



**St Christopher's Catholic School**—*Through faith and love we serve*

**Principal:** Mr. Tony Boyd  
**School Tel:** (02) 9825 3251  
**School Mail:** PO Box 568 Moorebank 1875

## Third Sunday of Advent

13th December 2015

Is it any wonder that there was a growing sense among the people that John might be the Christ? His teaching in the first part of this week's gospel might just as easily have come from the mouth of Jesus. It demonstrates for us just how much John was preparing the way for Jesus: even his teaching was in line with what Jesus would later say. In this instance, the people gathered around John (presumably having been baptised by him) are asking how they should live out their new-found conversion of heart. John's response to the three groups is about the need for generosity and justice. It is about not taking more than your share when someone else does not have sufficient. To the crowd of people, he instructs them to give away a second tunic to someone who doesn't have one at all and to share their food with those who are hungry. To the tax collectors, he cautioned them to collect no more than what they were supposed to. Tax collectors made their profit by overcharging taxpayers. Together with the fact that they worked for the Roman occupiers, this made tax collectors one of the most despised groups in society. John's caution to them is to be just in their dealings. He also cautions the soldiers against intimidation and extorting money from the people to supplement their pay. The themes of justice and hospitality that will echo throughout the gospel of Luke are clearly evident in this episode with John. When the people start to talk about him being the Christ, John is quick to point them to the one who is still to come; the one who will share with them more fully the love of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit.



© Fr Greg Sunter

### Parish Collections last weekend

**First:** \$703.95

**Second:** \$883.50

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS** children are invited to come to this Mass dressed as Angels or Shepherds to be part of the Gospel presentation. They are asked to assemble in the hall no later 5.45pm.

**PARENTS:** This is a subject that needs to be addressed, and we are asking for your cooperation. There has been an ever increasing number of children exiting to use the toilets during Mass at the most inappropriate times.

From the Offertory through to the Priest's Communion this is the most sacred part of the Mass. Our attention should be fully on what is happening at this point of the consecration. We need your assistance in reminding your children the importance of the Mass; and we would be most grateful if you could attend to this matter.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal Thanking You** for your generous donations last weekend, just over \$1,500.00 was raised.

As in previous years, we will be needing assistance in the packing of the Christmas hampers at St Joseph's church hall on Friday evening, 6PM, 18<sup>th</sup> December and their delivery on Saturday morning, 19<sup>th</sup> December. If you can help please call: Wal 9772 3318 or Mob 0431 535 721.

### Understanding Parish Collections:

**First Collection**—Money collected from the collection support the needs of priests of the parish which includes, the priests' monthly salary, Upkeep of the presbytery, e.g. food, utilities, cleaner etc. A small percentage to cover the expenses of the Archbishop especially in caring for elderly priests.

**Second Collection**—Money from this collection supports the maintenance of the parish buildings and pastoral programs. The parish must work within its own budget and is unable to draw funds for expenses from any source other than its own parish income. Loans for church works are permitted as long as they can be service. Some of the expenses covered are: Parish running costs, e.g. administration, insurance, utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property. Parish staff salary including superannuation. Priests' car expenses, Charitable Works Fund shortfall. The collection combines income from planned giving envelopes & cash on plates. Further information is supplied in the brochure which is in the church foyer, please take one home.

If any parishioner wishes to contribute to the Planned Giving envelopes there are forms in the church foyer. Please complete & place on any of the collections plates and the Parish Office will contact you.



**CHURCH CLEANERS** Parishioners we are in need of more volunteers to clean the church on a quarterly roster. Please contact Luz Maravillas for further details on 0422119916.

Saturday 12th Dec 5.30pm.....Mgs Philip Thuong (RIP)  
Sunday 13th Dec 8.00am ..... Sr Clemence Phu Nguyen (RIP)  
Sunday 13th Dec 9.30am.....Parish Intentions  
Sunday 13th Dec 5.30pm.....Rev Peter Hien (RIP)  
Monday 14th Dec 9.15am .....Mary Gilchrist (RIP)  
Tuesday 15th Dec 9.15am .....For the Sick  
Wednesday 16th Dec 9.15am.....Kevin Wade (RIP)  
Thursday 17th Dec 9.15am .....Vocations  
Friday 18th Dec 9.15am ... Australian troupes serving overseas  
Saturday 19th Dec .....No morning Mass

**A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!** Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra including congregational carols and music. **Friday, 18 December at 7.30pm** St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Tickets available online at [www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/st-marys-cathedral](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/st-marys-cathedral) or 02 8256 2222.



**Sr. Helen Madden** on behalf of Mary MacKillop International wishes to thank everyone for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. During 2015 approximately \$34,500.00 was raised. This has surpassed our 2014 effort, thank you to one and all. From 2001 till now our total is almost \$125,000.00!

It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



**Thursday Christmas Eve 24th Dec 2015**

**6.00pm Children's Mass**

**Thursday Christmas Eve 24th Dec 2015**

**11.30pm Christmas Carols**

**followed by Midnight Mass**

**Friday Christmas Day 25th Dec 2015 9.00am Mass only**

**There is no evening Mass**

**We Pray For The Sick**

Valentine, Kathleen Zamudio & Bishop Geoff Robinson.

**Recently Deceased**

***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them  
May they rest in peace. Amen.***

