

First Sunday of Advent—Year A

27th Nov 2016

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 from the prophet Isaiah 2: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: According to Matthew 24: 37-44

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Saints of the Week

St Andrew (Wed 30/11)

St Francis Xavier (Sat 3/12)



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th Dec
6.00pm Children's Mass

Christmas Eve 24th Dec
Syro-Malabar Mass 8.30pm

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th Dec – 11.30pm Christmas Hymns
followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Sunday 25th Dec
9.00am Mass only

There is No evening Mass on Christmas Day

St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

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

Administrator:

Rev. Andrew James

Assistant Priest:

Rev Thomas Alukka Vargahese

Permanent Deacon:

Rev. Mr. Al Salu

Pastoral Support

Sr. Helen Madden *rsj*

Secretary:

Mrs. Anne Bennell

Parish Office Hours

Mon 10.00am—3.00pm

Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm

Address:

205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

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

Principal:

Mr. Tony Boyd

School Tel:

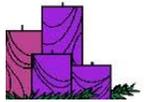
(02) 9825 3251

School Mail:

195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

First Sunday of Advent

27th November 2016



Our Lord loved to unfurl the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah in his local synagogue. The poetic image of swords being hammered into ploughshares reverberated into his renouncing violence against the Roman occupying army in his own time. When will this picture come true for all human beings for all time?

Only *God* knows! *We* don't know any more than we know when a burglar might target our home. But our ignorance of God's timetable is no excuse for being fatalistic and sleepy. We have our own span of life providing the timetable for our own contribution to the hammering of swords into ploughshares.

Recent Popes, especially St John Paul II, have taken up this theme for our times, teaching more restrictive criteria for using armed force, even dropping the term 'just war' to very small print in the Catechism.

We could pause for a moment to pray to be awake to our opportunities to shape society in the light of the vision of Isaiah and the practice of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

Fr. Michael Tate ©

Parish Collections 20/11/2016
First: \$ 595.10 Second: \$666.30

Fr. Thomas Alukka Vargahese on behalf of the **Syro-Malabar Community** wishes to advise the people of Holsworthy Parish of the following Liturgies:
 Commencing next Wednesday 30th November 2016.

Wednesday to Friday 7.00pm Mass & Adoration **except on First Fridays.**

Every Saturday Mass at 9.30am

Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

The Samoan Community celebrates a Sunday Mass in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am**

Thursday's Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will immediately follow the evening Mass and will be in English.

MASS & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Friday of the month 2nd December at 7.00pm

PARISH RAFFLE this weekend is your last chance to buy tickets in our Christmas Raffle. If you have not done so please try to support the Parish in buying some tickets.

CAROLS by candlelight will be celebrated in our parish on **Sunday 11th December commencing at 5.30pm with a Sausage Sizzle followed by Carols at 6.30pm** outside the church. For catering purposes please leave your details on the sheet in the church foyer if you will be attending.

Children of the parish are invited to join in a special children's item for the evening. Rehearsals have begun and are after the Saturday Vigil Mass for 30 minutes, only 2 rehearsals to go 26th November & 3rd Dec.

Please come along and support the new Administration of St Christopher's Parish and have an enjoyable evening with your fellow parishioners.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS 24th Dec at 6.00pm children are invited to come to this Mass dressed as Angels or Shepherds to be part of the Gospel presentation. There is a clipboard in the church foyer to leave your details. They are asked to assemble in the hall no later 5.45pm.

The **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** will be conducted next weekend of the **3rd and 4th December**. Donation envelopes will be available and can be given to the St. Vinnies volunteers who will be at the rear of the church after Mass that weekend. There are still some gift cards available in the church foyer if anyone would like to take one home & buy a gift.

'PARISH 2020' LAUNCH NEXT WEEKEND. Next weekend Parishes, Chaplaincies and communities across the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney will be presented with a Pastoral Letter and DVD from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, announcing the launch of a new pastoral project for the Archdiocese called 'Parish 2020'. The launch of this project marks the commencement of an exciting new chapter as we plan for the future of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Mass intentions

Saturday 26th Nov 5.30pm.....	November Mass Intentions
Sunday 27th Nov 8.00am	November Mass Intentions
Sunday 27th Nov 9.30am	November Mass Intentions
Monday 28th Nov 9.15am.....	November Mass Intentions
Tuesday 29th Nov 9.15am.....	November Mass Intentions
Wednesday 30th Nov 9.15am	November Mass Intentions
Thursday 1st Dec 9.15am	Vocations
Friday 2nd Dec 9.15am.....	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday 3rd Dec	Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM

The Parish and Pastoral Council encourages and welcomes you to be a volunteer in any of the Parish Ministries and Social groups.

Currently the Parish is in need of volunteers to help clean the church. This involves dusting, vacuuming and some general cleaning and takes two people on average about 1 hour. If you can spare a little time, please contact Luz Maravillas on 9825 6281.

Benefits of Volunteering: *To be a volunteer can bring meaning and purpose to your life. It increases self-esteem and wellbeing, relieves stress, help symptoms of depression, all whilst helping the community.*

Volunteering can:

- 1: enhance a sense of achievement and purpose,*
- 2: helps feeling a part of a community,*
- 3: helps share your skills, learn new skills and create a better work-life balance,*
- 4: helps combat loneliness, social isolation*
- 5: helps to meet new people, helping you feel connected and valued.*



Working Bee: *The next working bee is scheduled for **SATURDAY 10 December from 1pm until 4pm**, to help ready the grounds for Carols by Candlelight. If you can spare just an hour or two to help the small group of dedicated parishioners who help maintain the Church ground, it would be much appreciated. **There is a clip board in the Church Foyer where you can leave your details.***

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 8 Dec-25 Dec. Once again, **St Mary's Cathedral** will light up this Christmas with inspiring and reflective projections of the Christmas season. **FREE EVENT!** St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt 8-25 Dec each night from 7.30pm-12.00am www.lightsofchristmas.com.au.

We Pray For The Sick : Cyril Ferriere, Joseph Francis, Fr. George Memana (India), Sue Morris, Kerry Stark, Jack Hamilton & Peter Sidgreaves

Recently deceased: Monica Kessey



Assisting of the sick.