

## Second Sunday of Advent—Year A

4th Dec 2016

**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.

**First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 11: 1-10**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15: 4-9**

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

**GOSPEL: According to Matthew 3: 1-12**

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

### *Saints of the Week*

St Nicholas (Tues 6/12) St Ambrose (Wed 7/12)

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Thurs 8/12)

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (Fri 9/12)



## Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec  
6.00pm Children's Mass

Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Syro-Malabar Mass 8.30pm

Christmas Eve Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – 11.30pm Christmas Hymns  
followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec  
9.00am Mass only

## 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

**All correspondence to:**

PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875

**Website:**

[www.stchristophers.org.au](http://www.stchristophers.org.au)

**Email:**

[stchris@tpg.com.au](mailto:stchris@tpg.com.au)

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(02) 9825 1679

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

**Principal:**

Mr. Tony Boyd

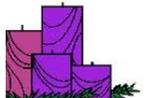
**School Tel:**

(02) 9825 3251

**School Mail:**

195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

## Second Sunday of Advent 4th December 2016



John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

*Fr. Michael Tate ©*

**Parish Collections 27/11/2016**  
**First: \$619.85 Second: \$713.95**

Fr. Thomas Alukka Vargahese on behalf of the **Syro-Malabar Community** wishes to advise the people of Holsworthy Parish of the following Liturgies: Commenced 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**

**Thursdays Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will immediately follow the evening Mass and will be in English.**



The **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** will be conducted this weekend **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December.** Donation envelopes will be available and can be given to the St. Vinnies volunteers who will be in the church foyer after Mass.

**CAROLS by candlelight** will be celebrated in our parish next **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. 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. A group will dramatise the Gospel story. All the other Shepherds & Angels will be invited to come at an appropriate time during the Mass. There is a clipboard in the church foyer to leave your details.

**DECEMBER 03-04 – 'PARISH 2020' LAUNCH WEEKEND.** This weekend marks the launch of 'Parish 2020', the new pastoral project, commissioned by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, which aims to renew and strengthen parishes and communities of the Archdiocese. To launch the project, the Archbishop has written a Pastoral Message, and in place of today's homily, a DVD containing the Archbishop's Pastoral Message will be screened for you, with printed resources available at the back of the church for you to take home. The Archbishop wishes to receive reflections and comments from everyone across the Archdiocese regarding mission priorities and ways of renewing and strengthening Parishes for our future. The first phase of this consultation will take place for three months between January – March 2017, and you will hear more about this shortly. **Information Contact: Parish 2020 Working Group – parish2020@sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5233.**

**Mass intentions**

Saturday 3rd Dec 5.30pm.....Lilian Spicer (RIP)  
 Sunday 4th Dec 8.00am .....Norma Mezentsef (RIP)  
 Sunday 4th Dec 9.30am.....Parish Intentions  
 Monday 5th Dec 9.15am.....For the Sick  
 Tuesday 6th Dec 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory  
 Wednesday 7th Dec 9.15am .....Mark Cavallaro (RIP)  
 Thursday 8th Dec 9.15am .....Vocations  
 Friday 9th Dec 9.15am.....Australian troupes serving overseas  
 Saturday 10th 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:** *Will be next 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](http://www.lightsofchristmas.com.au).

**We Pray For The Sick:** Cyril Ferriere, Joseph Francis, Sue Morris, Kerry Stark & Peter Sidgreaves.

Recently deceased:

