

First Sunday of Advent 3rd December 2017

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. 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 3--9.

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

GOSPEL: According to Mark 13: 33-37.

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

Saints of the Week

St Nicholas (**Wed 6/12**) St Ambrose (**Thurs 7/12**)
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (**Fri 8/12**)

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 Varghese
Assistant Priest:	Rev Nicholas Rynne
Permanent Deacon:	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
Secretary:	Mrs. Anne Bennell
Parish Office Hours	Mon 10.00am—3.30pm Thurs, Fri 10.00am—3.30pm
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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:	205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:

Come Celebrate Australia's largest Mass since World Youth Day 2008! - Saturday 9 December

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to attend Mass in the Domain on Saturday 9 December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This will be a joyous occasion! The Mass at 6.30pm will follow an afternoon of concerts and festivities beginning at 4pm and featuring Australian and international musicians and performers, including Matt Maher. The Archbishop also invites the people of Sydney to pray for the success of this important event.

For more information go to the ACYF website: www.acyf.org.au

A special App is available with information about the Festival. Please download it for FREE here: www.xt3.com/acyf2017/apps/

Tell your MPs: Hands off our freedoms! Take action to defend religious freedom and parental rights over the education their children receive. Contact your local federal MP today to demand your freedoms are protected in any legislation for same-sex marriage. For more information and to contact your MP go to: www.marriagealliance.com.au

A Christmas Celebration 2017 – Friday 15 December 2017

Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes Including congregational carols and music to lift your spirits in the joy of the season! For tickets and more information please visit www.achristmascelebration.com.au

First Sunday of Advent Year B 3rd December 2017

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.



Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

Fr. Greg Sunter

Parish Collections

26/11/2017 **First:** \$1,231.15 **Second:** \$1,276.45

PARISH NEWS: Parishioners you would have noticed that we now have Air-Conditioning in our church. The funds raised from the recent Parish Fete and various funds raisers over the years has contributed to the installation of these units.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS — SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER.

The Christmas Carols will commence at **5.00pm** and the **BBQ at 7pm.**

A sausage on a roll with onions and sauce and a drink will be available for \$2. We will need to know approximate numbers attending for catering purposes, by Tuesday 5th December.

There is a form in the church foyer to leave your details (Number of adults and children). This night is a great opportunity for parishioners to come together and share in the Joy of Christmas. A raffle is organised with 1st prize being a food hamper plus gift vouchers for 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes. Cost will be 3 tickets for \$2.



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

There are envelopes available in the church pews today for Donations to our **Christmas Appeal.**

Could you please give them to the St Vincent de Paul Society members at the back of the church when you leave Mass today.

If you have taken a gold or silver gift-card, all Christmas Gifts or Food Donations should be placed under the Christmas tree by Tuesday, 12th December. As in previous years, we will be needing assistance in the packing of Christmas hampers at St Joseph's church hall, Moorebank, on Friday 15th December at 6:00pm and their delivery from 8 AM on Saturday morning, 16th December.



OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

The next monthly Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help will be on this **TUESDAY** 5th December at **7:00pm**

CHILDRENS LITURGY Parents of children between the ages of 5-10 we need you to consider this important Ministry and become a volunteer. The Children's Liturgy with your support will return in the new year when school resumes and is held at the Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm during school term. Ongoing support is given and you can try before you commit, by being a helper with a Group Leader. Please contact the parish office 9825 1679 or speak with Fr. after Mass.

Mass Intentions

Saturday	2nd Dec	5.30pm	.....	Thanksgiving Mass
Sunday	3rd Dec	8.00am	.....	Parish Intention
Sunday	3rd Dec	9.30am	.....	Thanksgiving Mass
Monday	4th Dec	9.15am	.....	For the sick
Tuesday	5th Dec	9.15am	.....	Francis Xavier Jayaraj (RIP)
Wednesday	6th Dec	9.15am	.....	Vocations
Thursday	7th Dec	9.15am	.....	Special Intentions
Friday	8th Dec	9.15am	.....	Australian Troops serving overseas
Saturday	9th Dec	11.00am	.....	Latin Mass.....

Reconciliation Saturdays: 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM

Syro-Malabar Liturgies:

Wednesday Mass at 7.00pm

Thursday Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)

Friday Mass at 7.00pm **except on the First Friday of the Month**

Saturday Mass at 9.30am

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

The Samoan Community celebrates Mass in the Church on the **3rd Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.**

"Women in Leadership: A gift for the World"

DATE: April 13-15, 2018

VENUE: Benedictine Abbey

695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo

TIME: Arrive afternoon of Thursday 12 April, leaving after lunch on the Sunday

COST: Cost of program is \$200. Accommodation fees depend upon type of room selected.

BOOKINGS: 0242360533

cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

It is not far from the shores of silence to the boundaries of speech.

The path is not long, but the way is deep.

You must not only walk there, you must be prepared to leap!

-Hildegard of Bingen

We Pray For The Sick : Anna Varghese, Peter Wanchalerm Srirattana, Brian Cooney, Cyril Ferriere & Arthur Aguilar

Recently deceased:

Anniversary: Francis Xavier Jayaraj



Accounting of the sick.

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