

## **Second Sunday of Advent 10th December 2017**

**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. 40: -5, 9-11.**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Second Reading from the second letter of St Peter 3: 8--14.**

**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 Mark 1: 1-8.

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

*Saints of the Week*  
St Damascus I (Mon 11/12)  
Our Lady of Guadalupe (Tues 12/12)



### **Christmas Mass Times**

**Christmas Eve Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**6.00 pm Children's Mass**

**Syro-Malabar Mass**

**8.30pm in the School Hall**

**11.30 pm Christmas Hymns followed  
by Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Varghese  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev Nicholas Rynne  
**Permanent Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Al Salu  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Anne Bennell  
**Parish Office Hours** Mon 10.00am—3.30pm  
Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.30pm  
**Address:** 195 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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**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

## **Second Sunday of Advent Year B 10th December 2017**

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.



*Fr Greg Sunter*

## Parish Collections

03/12/2017 **First:** \$1,085.25 **Second:** \$1,328.20

## PARISH NEWS:

**Thank You** Grateful thanks to Anthony Barrett who provided a truck and excavator to clear the area near the presbytery fence and remove the left over rubbish from the fete with four trips to the recycling tip and to all who contributed to the “**WORKING B**” on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The yard has now been cleared and hopefully the critters have moved. It was a lot of hard work.

The area cleared still needs to be levelled out and hopefully this will happen in the next couple of weeks. Many thanks,

The Fete Committee

**Farewell:** Thank you for the past 14 years as your parish secretary at St Christopher's and now the time has come for me to retire. Together we have welcomed our new priests and farewelled 2 parish priests. We continue to welcome new parishioners to St Christopher's and are a caring community. We have shared in the Baptisms of family members, Marriages and sadly the passing of loved ones and fellow parishioners.

Your new parish secretary is Mr David Moore whom some of you may know from Moorebank parish. Please introduce yourself to him when next you pass by the parish office.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and travel safely in 2018. *Anne Bennell*

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



The Christmas Carols will be held this Sunday commencing at **5:00pm.**

Seating will be provided but is limited, for your own comfort, feel free to bring fold up chairs and picnic blankets.

We would like to thank you for your generosity at last weeks appeal. In total, **\$1,529** was donated The money raised will help many needy people. If you can spare an hour or two next week, we will be needing assistance in the packing and delivery of the Christmas hampers.



Packing will commence at **6:00pm on Friday 15th Dec** in the hall at St Joseph's Moorebank, with deliveries beginning at **8:00am** the following morning (16th)

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2018** are now available in the Piety Stall for \$9.00 You might like to give them to people for a gift this Christmas.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday	9th Dec 5.30pm.....	Thanksgiving Mass
Sunday	10th Dec 8.00am .....	Parish Intention
Sunday	10th Dec 9.30am.....	Sr. Helen Gilroy <i>rscj</i> (RIP)
Monday	11th Dec 9.15am.....	For the sick
Tuesday	12th Dec 9.15am.....	Pray for the sick
Wednesday	13th Dec 9.15am.....	Vocations
Thursday	14th Dec 9.15am.....	Special Intentions
Friday	15th Dec 9.15am .....	Australian Troops serving overseas
Saturday	16th Dec <b>11.00am</b> .....	<b>Latin Mass</b>

**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.**

## SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:

### 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](http://www.achristmascelebration.com.au)

### CLOSING SOON: ENCORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

The Archdiocese of Sydney's Encore Rome Pilgrimages is offering a competitive land tour package to Rome at \$500 off the normal price. Starting from Rome on 18th January, the 7-night Encore Rome Pilgrimage which will be led by Father Tom Carroll, has been designed for people who may have been to Rome before and offers inclusions such as the Mamertine Prison, St Peter in Chains Church, Borghese Gardens, Scavi tour, Vatican Gardens, Castel Gandolfo and much more.

Price starts from \$1,790 per person.

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

Recently deceased: Sr Helen Gilroy *rscj*

Anniversary:



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