

Third Sunday of Advent 17th December 2017

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

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah. 61: 1-2, 10-11.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians. 5: 16--24.

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 John 1: 6-8, 19-28.

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
n/a



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th 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 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 Varghese
Assistant Priest:	Rev Nicholas Rynne
Permanent Deacon:	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
Secretary:	Mr David Moore
Parish Office Hours	Mon 10.00am—3.30pm Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.30pm 195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173 PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875
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St Christopher's Catholic School—*Through faith and love we serve*

Principal:	Mr. Tony Boyd
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School Mail:	205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

Third Sunday of Advent Year B **17th December 2017**

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death. As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives. We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.



Fr. Michael Tate

PARISH COLLECTIONS 10/12/17

First: \$966.75 **Second:** \$1,309.90

PARISH NEWS:

ST CHRISTOPHER’S PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Thank you to all who attended the Christmas Carols last Sunday night. It was a great night with lots of beautiful singing from St Cecilia’s Choir, the Samoan Choir, the Syro-Malabar Choir, the 8am Sunday Mass choir led by Faustino and Ray Villarica’s children’s choir. It was good to see so many of the young and old members of our community joining in. Thank you also to the Fete Committee and all who helped with the BBQ, and congratulations to our Raffle winners.

ST. VINCENTS PIETY STALL

Are you in need of Christmas gift ideas? The St. Vincent De Paul’s piety stall has something for everyone and is currently stocking the 2018 Columban Calendar for only \$9.00. Why not make that “something special” a gift that also contributes to a very worthwhile cause.

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.



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



Recently deceased:

Anniversary:

Mass Intentions

Saturday 16th Dec 5.30pm.....Thanksgiving Mass
Sunday 17th Dec 8.00amParish Intention
Sunday 17th Dec 9.30am.....Thanksgiving Mass
Monday 18th Dec 9.15am.....For the souls in purgatory
Tuesday 19th Dec 9.15am.....Pray for the sick
Wednesday 20th Dec 9.15am.....For vocations
Thursday 21st Dec 9.15am.....Special Intentions
Friday 22nd Dec 9.15amAustralian Troops serving overseas
Saturday 23rd 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.**

SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has been an outstanding success. There were more than 20,000 registrations and the young people participated with joy and enthusiasm in the prayers, workshops, plenaries and general activities. The Closing Mass was very well attended by festival participants and by parishioners of Sydney. It was a beautiful celebration with the Archbishop of Sydney, 29 Bishops of Australia, 200 priests and 15,000 in the congregation. The Festival was an extraordinary achievement for our Archdiocese and the support of the priests and parishioners is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who gave up their time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to make it such a special event. Go to www.xt3.com/live and watch “on demand” the major events including the Closing Mass.

Catholiccare’s N.D.I.S. Therapy Team

We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential. We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney. For more information, contact our friendly CCareline team on 13 18 19.