

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER
22 December 2019
4th Sunday of Advent
Year A

★★ ✝ ★★
St Monica's

Readers

6.30pm— C. Galea A. Copland
7.30am— A. Edwards J. Robinson
9.30am— K. Petersen M. Mizzi
5.30pm— C. Salkeld P. Buckley
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6.30pm— J. McCarter J. Muscat
7.30am— A. Burnett H. Robinson
9.30am— L. Ryan L. Vella
5.30pm— D. D'Mello J. Morley

Acolytes / Senior Server

6.30pm— W. Bennett
7.30am— A. Moloney
9.30am— D. Ryan
5.30pm— D. Murphy

Junior Ministers

6.30pm— C. Galea I. Galea
7.30am—
9.30am— G. Attard A. Portelli
5.30pm— P. Murphy A. Kuriakose

Data Projector

6.30pm— M. Breden
7.30am— M. McMahon
9.30am— M. Saliba
5.30pm— T. Tomasella

Children's Liturgy

6.30pm— L. Ducksbury
9.30am— C. Saliba

Choir

6.30pm— J. Lewis M. Lewis
9.30am— M. Quirk L. Ryan Choir
5.30pm—

Altar Preparation S Murphy C. Murphy

Cleaners K. Murphy

Counters

15 Dec— F. Crew T. Misdom M. Want
22 Dec— M. Ryan D. Bowles M. Hoffman

WEEKDAY ROSTER

Monday 16 December 2019

Reader— F. Crew

EMoHC—

Wednesday 18 December 2019

Reader— A. Moloney

EMoHC— M. McMahon

Friday 20 December 2019

Reader— D. Bowles

EMoHC— M. Ryan

★★ ✝ ★★

St Gregory's

Saturday 21 December 2019

Reader— Peter

EMoHC— Frank

Sunday 22 December 2019

Readers

8.00am— M. Ryan A. Drew S. O'Rourke

Altar Server Jackie

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

8.00am— A. Drew

Altar Preparation

Cleaners K. Hodgson

Community Sponsored Directory

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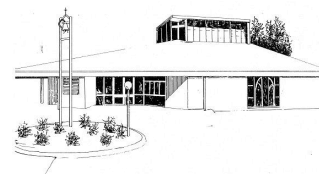
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Gareth 0407 068 038

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The Parish of Richmond

<https://parishofrichmond.org.au/>

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ST MONICA'S CHURCH
Cnr Windsor & Bourke Sts
RICHMOND NSW
ST GREGORY'S CHURCH
5 Old Bells Line of Rd
KURRAJONG NSW

ST JOHN OF GOD CHAPEL
177 Grose Vale Road
NORTH RICHMOND NSW
ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
PO Box 274, RICHMOND NSW
Ph: 4570 3700

PARISH OFFICE
1A Bourke Street RICHMOND NSW
Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday
9.30am - 4pm
Ph: 4578 1410 Fax: 4588 6094



Third Sunday of Advent — Year A 15 December 2019

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-6, 10
God himself will come and save us.

RESPONSORIAL PS: PSALM 145:6-10
Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10
You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11
Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Presider On this Sunday of Advent, we light the rose coloured candle, the candle of rejoicing, on our advent wreath. Let us pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ...pause...In the words of the acclamations, we pray...pause...
Presider: Let the wilderness and the dry lands exult.
All: Let the wasteland rejoice and bloom!
Presider: Let it bring forth abundant flowers.
All: Let it rejoice and sing for joy!
Presider: Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees.
All: For God is coming, our God is coming to save us!



Reflection - Not losing faith...

All three readings of today's Mass have comforting words. In the first reading Isaiah says: 'Courage, do not be afraid.' in the second reading St James says: 'Be patient! Do not lose heart.' And in the Gospel we have the lovely words of Jesus to his cousin, John: 'Happy the person who does not lose faith in me.' We might be going along nicely but then a storm suddenly hits us: unemployment, a serious illness, a suicide in the family ... These kinds of things shatter our faith in the right order of things and even in God. At times like these may we hear the words of Isaiah: 'Courage! Do not be afraid.' John the Baptist was a holy, God fearing man, yet he ended up in a dungeon under sentence of death. We can do our best, but things may still go wrong. We feel let down by God. We doubt his love for us and perhaps even his existence. At times like these may we hear the words of Jesus: 'Blessed is the person who does not lose faith in me.' Modern life is becoming increasingly stressful. Christmas brings added work and more stress. Some people can feel overwhelmed, and wonder if they will be able to cope. In times like these may we hear the words of Isaiah: 'Courage! Do not be afraid.' Death constitutes the severest test of all for our faith. We live our lives in the shadow of death. That all of us, but especially those who have recently lost a loved one, and who stand in darkness and in the shadow of death, may hear the words of Jesus:

'Blessed is the person who does not lose faith in me.'

We all want a lasting peace in the world. Some people are working to bring that peace about. These have every reason to grow weary and give up, because of the apparent lack of progress. May the peacemakers hear the words of St James:
'Be patient! Do not lose heart.'

By Fr Flor McCarthy, SDB

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Clifford D'souza
frclifford@parishofrichmond.org.au

Fr Jessie Balorio

frbalorio@parishofrichmond.org.au

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK
CO-ORDINATOR**

Mary McGuinness
mary.mcguinness@parishofrichmond.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Teshana Laferla & Kara Hargrave
admin@parishofrichmond.org.au

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR

Mary Pirovic
sacraments@parishofrichmond.org.au

PRINCIPAL—ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

Cameron Lievore
StMonRic@parra.catholic.edu.au

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES...

- St Monica's:** Tuesday December 24
6pm Vigil (Children's Mass) & 11pm (Carols at 10.30pm)
Wednesday December 25 7.30am and 9.30am
- St Gregory's:** Tuesday December 24 8.00pm Vigil Mass
Wednesday December 25 8.00am
- St John of God:** Tuesday December 24 7.00pm Vigil Mass

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

St Monica's,
Richmond
Monday,
16 December
7.00pm.

Come Join the Celebrations At St Paul's Feast

Saturday 18 January 2020
St Monica's Catholic Church

We will be celebrating the 30th year anniversary of St Paul's Feast. Mass commences at 5:30pm followed by a procession & activities. Food & drinks available for purchase, raffles, prize wheel, rides & fireworks. All welcome.

Fun For The Whole Family...

We have a **major shortage of Junior Servers** to assist the Priests and Ministers at the Altar at all Masses (except for 9.30am) celebrated at the **three Parish Mass Centres**. Any young person who has received their First Communion is invited to join this ministry. **We particularly call upon servers who are now in secondary school to step up and take lead in this important role.** To meet the need, there will be a training programme early in the new year for newcomers or for those wanting to refresh their skills. Please contact the Parish office if you are able to assist.

Announcements

Rosters for Christmas. Are you going to be here for Christmas? You may like to take up the Offertory or the Collection, you might like to welcome people as we gather there are many visitors and new faces over this period. Perhaps you are a designated Minister of the Word or Sacrament. You are invited to sign the sheet in foyer today. Thank you.

Rosters 2020: Within the past week the **2020 rosters** have been **distributed by email**. The *Cleaning Roster* & *Children's Liturgy* are yet to be sent. Please check them and contact mary.mcguinness@parishofrichmond.org.au with any concerns or feedback. **Those not on email have been sent a hard copy in the mail.** Please note, those parishioners who, in the *Parish Survey*, have asked to be involved with various ministries, will be contacted early in the new year. Once you have attended the respective training you will be included in the rosters.

Catholic Foundation Appeal (Bishop's Christmas Appeal) Thank you for your generous support. \$3160.70 was collected.

Catholic Outlook: The first issue of the Catholic Outlook quarterly is available in the church foyer. Please take a free copy today.

Piety Stall has a variety of Calendars, St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards, Advent Calendars & Daily Advent Reflection booklets.

PARISH DIARY DATES

- Monday 16 December **Second Rite of Reconciliation** 7pm at St Monica's.
- Saturday 18 January 2020 **St Paul's Festa** (Please note: Mass will be at 5.30pm).

Please Note: Suspension of Weekend & Weekday Masses:

Due to Fr Clifford being on leave.

St John of God - Weekday Mass: No Mass on Tuesday beginning 24 December until 21 January 2020. Mass resumes on Tuesday 28 January 2020.

St John of God - Weekend Mass: No Masses from 28 December until 18 January 2020.

Vigil Mass resumes on Saturday 25 January 2020.

St Gregory's - Saturday Mass: No Saturday morning Mass from 28 December until 18 January. Mass resumes on Saturday 25 January 2020.

Grant Eternal Rest to the recently deceased

Andreana Medak
James Carroll
Kathleen Boyce
Betty Bambrick
Philip Cauchi
Hugh Walker
Susan Whyte
Ivo Yelarich

... and those we remember at this time.

Sr Pauline Mary Babicci (Sr Angela),
Peter Galluzzo, Carmelo Magro,
Magro & Portelli Families,
Kathleen Breden, Dianne Smyth,
Bryan Bambrick, Joseph Baldacchino,
Joseph Vella, Grazio & Salvina Camilleri,
David Butler, Nola Gleeson,
Michael John McMahon, Thelma Want,
Peggy Roberts, Neville Bondfield,
Mary & Felix Aquilina, Ronald Clark

 **We welcome the newly Baptised...**

**Brayden Bugeja
Lachlan Ryan**

...to our Christian family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To all those celebrating this week



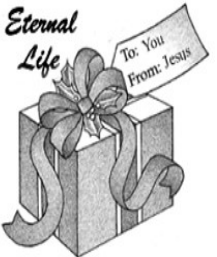
WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER THE SICK

Stan Fienberg, Paul McDonald,
Peter McGrath,
Katrina Coutis-Cooper,
Archun Leong, Min Tamsitt,
Jeff Steven, Rachel Stoveigh,
Josephine Cutajar,
Pauline Azzopardi,
Tye Angland

The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV).



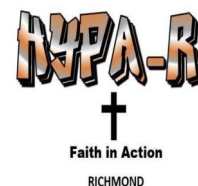
P F R A I S E D X P X G W O B
R K P R I S O N T T U P O X O
E S J E F N I B S U Q D O O A
A D O F K O I I S B C N E O D
C U H N G I R H E Y U L U A R
H W N S R H M E F D R Z N F D
E A M F C C C A D L E Z E T N
D L M K R C E X L M D E W C I
V K J A S D F L L C S W S Q S
H B E S B B I E E D H E A R T
E H L U I L A M E P H O N N I
A Y Z I P G W H I P R B P X N
R O N C N H H M I M G O Q A E
D Y D X Q D I T A H I Y S M J
A O Y K B B P H F L F E H Y E

BLIND	LAME	HEARD	DEAF	HEAR
GOOD	PREACHED	POOR	CHRIST	DEAD
RAISED	SEE	LEPROSY	PRISON	JOHN
NEWS	CURED	SIGHT	WALK	HEAR

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HYPA-R New...

- Saturday, 14 December 2019 will be the Youth Mass at 6:30pm. All welcome.
- Friday, 31 January 2020 will be the HYPA Team Meeting at 7pm in the Parish meeting room. If you have any ideas or interested in joining the team please come along and join us.



Children's Mass Christmas Eve ...

Christmas Play Rehearsals will be on Sunday, 15 & 22 December 2019 after the 9:30am mass. Sign up sheets are in the Church foyer, please add your name. If you or your child are interested in participating in the Christmas Play during the St Monica's Children's Mass on Tuesday 24 December 2019 at 6pm please come along to the 2 rehearsal sessions. If you have any queries please contact Michelle Saliba via the Parish office on 4578 1410.



PARISH MASS TIMES

St Monica's
Saturday: 6.30pm
Sunday: 7.30am, 9.30am, 5.30pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9.00am
St Gregory's
Saturday: 9.00am
Sunday: 8.00am
St John of God
Tuesday: 4.00pm
Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation
St Monica's:
Saturday 5.30pm - 6pm.
St Gregory's:
Saturday after 9.00am Mass.

Anointing of the Sick
Friday 31 January 2020, 9.00am
at St Monica's.
Or by arrangement with the priests.

Baptism

By appointment only.
St Monica's: 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 11.00am.
St Gregory's: 1st Sunday at 11:00am
Booking & Preparation are essential.
Marriage
Strictly by appointment. A minimum of 6 months notice is required.
All enquiries please email admin@parishofrichmond.org.au

**PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
11 February
2020 at 7pm.**

**Meeting Minutes
available on
notice boards in
church foyers.**

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

Rosary
St Monica's: 8.40am
before weekday Mass.

**Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament**
St Monica's: Wednesday
after 9.00am Mass to
pray for vocations.

Choir Practice
St Monica's:
Wednesday 7-8pm
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Body of Christ Prayer Group
Wednesday 7-8.30pm
pray for vocations. All welcome
1 Hughes Ave, Hobartville.

Children's Liturgy
St Monica's:
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.30am

Circle of Friends
Parish Meeting Room:
1st Monday of the month
9.30am

Youth Group Social
Meet every 3rd Saturday of the month after
6.00pm HYPA Mass.

HYPA-R Holy Hour
Meet every 1st Friday of the month
6:30pm-7:30pm praying for youth followed by
pizzas.