



## St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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**Fr. John Macdonald**, Administrator

**Fr. Nicola Falzun OP**, Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

### Feast Days – First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Tue 29 Nov Saint Andrew, apostle

Fri 3 Dec Saint Francis Xavier

### Christmas Mass times

Friday 24 Dec: 8:00 pm Vigil Mass

Saturday 25 Dec Christmas Day: 10:00 am Mass during the Day

Sunday 26 Dec: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: 10:00 am Mass

**Daily Mass:** Mon: 7:30am, Tues to Sat: 10:00am

**Sunday Mass:** 9:00am & 10:30am (Sung Mass)

**Confessions:** Wed (10:30am – 11:30am) & Fri (6:00pm – 7:00pm) during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Sat:** 9:30am - 10:00am

### We Pray For

**Our sick and injured** – Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Noel Allport, Louise McCann, Nathan Essey, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un and Dan Southee.

**Our deceased** – Sylvia Abela (28/10), Bernard Laino (5/10 (Daniel Luke's brother)), Jane Ryan (24/10), Philip Adam, Charles Grech (25/9), Coralie Hinkley, Katie Brincat (27/7), David Patrick Watson (18/7), Charles Xavier ((13/7), William Winterton (8/6), Peco Mitrevski (30/6/21), Muriel Rosemary Goddard [Tyrell] (2/7)(Paula's mother), Helen McGuirk, George Voricek, Lourdes Eulalia Martinez (10/6), Anne Kelly (Deborah White's mum (14/5), Betty Harkins (12/5), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood, Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy and June Veronica Hailwood.

**Our house bound elderly** – Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Myra Krcma and Robert Pearce

Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.

Pope Francis

*Catechesis on the Mass 2018*

## **Saint Andrew, the Apostle (Feast Day 29 Nov)**

by Artus Wolffort (painted between 1596 and 1641).

He was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, and worked as a fisherman. He may have been a disciple of St John the Baptist. He became one of the first to follow Jesus and introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to him. As one of the twelve Apostles he was widely venerated in ancient times, and became patron saint of Scotland because according to legend some of his bones were brought there and buried at the place where the town of St Andrew's now stands.

**St. Francis Xavier (statue at the front left of the sanctuary) encourages us to love God for only one reason (Feast Day 3 Dec) – Philip Kosloski 12/03/19**

*Ask yourself, why do you love God?*



When we say we “love God,” sometimes it isn’t always for the purest motives. We may love God, *because* he blesses us with many graces, or because he has healed our broken heart.

While basing our love of God on particular events in our lives or the future promise of Heaven isn’t

bad in itself, Saint Francis Xavier **encourages us to love God because of who he is and how he loved us first.**

In a similar way that a child loves a parent from the first moments of their life, we too should love God **without any strings attached.** This type of love can endure any type of hardship or difficulty and will help us when we feel alone and abandoned. Here is a prayer traditionally attributed to St. Francis Xavier, called his “**Hymn of Love,**” that illustrates this basic principle, focusing on how we should love God, not because of any future gain or to avoid a future punishment, but because God is God **and already showed the depths of his love for us on the cross.**



*O God, I love Thee, for Thyself. And not that I may heaven gain,  
Nor because those who love Thee not, Must suffer hell's  
eternal pain.*

*Thou, O my Jesus! Thyself didst me Upon the cross embrace; For  
me didst bear the nails and spear And manifold disgrace; And  
griefs and torments numberless, And sweat of agony; Even death  
itself—and all for one Who was Thine enemy. Then why, O  
blessed Jesus Christ, Should I not love Thee well, not for the sake  
of winning heaven, Or of escaping hell; Not with the hope of  
gaining aught, Not seeking a reward; But as Thyself hast loved  
me, O ever-loving Lord? Even so I love Thee, and will love, And in  
Thy praise will sing, Solely because Thou art my God, And my  
eternal King.*



Thank you for supporting the CWF Parish Appeal  
On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting the  
**Charitable Works Fund (CWF) November Appeal**. We cannot  
do the work that we do without your help! Once again, we are able  
to continue in our mission to provide care for the most vulnerable  
in our communities, while also building up our Catholic  
communities.

For more information about the Catholic Works Fund, please visit  
[www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf).

**PARISH GROUPS can resume meeting on the parish property provided everyone is fully vaccinated**

**RCIA** – Thursday: 6:30pm – 7:30pm (fortnightly) (Online)

**Neocatechumenal Way** – B16 - Thursday: 7:30pm – 8:30pm

**Mother's Group** – Courtyard – Friday: 2:30pm

**Christian Life Community (CLC)** – B16 Room - Tuesday: 7:30pm (fortnightly)

**Marian and Divine Mercy Groups** – before mass daily

**Cenacle** – Church – Tuesday after 10:00am Mass; Thursday 8:30 am

**Liturgy Group** – B16 – after Sunday lunch

**Special prayer petitions**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, we pray for your holy intercession, especially for all mothers-to-be that they carry their babies to full term and keep them protected under your blue mantel.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our premier, Mr Dominic Perrottet that in making fair and just decisions, and that his decisions will be respected by the members of the NSW parliament. St Joseph, watchful defender of Christ intercede for us.

**Artes Christi – Christmas in the City which will be hosted by Saint Peter's on Sunday 19 December 2021 at 5:30 pm. Entry: \$20 or by donation.**

With gratitude to Almighty God Redemptoris Mater Seminary of the Archdiocese of Sydney cordially invites you to the Presbyteral Ordination of Anderson Galleo Rodas and Rafael Silva Galicia, by the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, 7:00 pm, Fri Dec 3, 2021

**First Communicants** – We pray for Bali, Beatrice, Daniel, Jupiter and Sebastian who will be receiving their First Holy Communion next Sunday Dec 5 at the 9:00 am Mass.

**Bishop Elect Danny Meagher contacted the parish to extend his invitation to all our parishioners to his Episcopal ordination on Dec 8, at 7:00 pm at St Mary's Cathedral. Fr Danny said that he has fond memories of the six months he spent living in Saint Peter's Parish.**

### **Sydney City Catholics - Annual Lessons & Carols (and BBQ)**

St Peter's is thrilled we can again co-host our annual Lessons and Carols, together with the Parishes of the Sydney City Deanery.

**Date:** Saturday 18 December, 2021

**Time:** 6.30pm (doors open 6pm)

**Location:** St Benedict's Church, Broadway (note the rotating location), cnr Broadway & Abercrombie St, Broadway NSW 2007

The evening will be hosted by the young adults of the City Deanery, including our own Saint Peter's. Following the Lessons & Carols, all are invited to a BBQ dinner in the adjacent courtyard (BYO alcohol).



Special guests include Bishop Brady, and will feature the scholas of St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills and St Benedict's, Broadway.

For catering and registration purposes, we ask for the small contribution of \$5, to be booked in advance via the [Trybooking link](#).

Please note that due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions capacity limits are in place and bookings are essential.

Reach out to **Gerard Horsfall** or **Sarah Moody** with any questions.

THE PARISHES OF SYDNEY CITY DEANERY HOST

# Lessons & Carols

2021

SATURDAY  
18 DEC

6:30PM  
(DOORS OPEN  
6:00PM)

*Booking Essential*  
SCAN THE QR CODE

ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH, BROADWAY  
104 BROADWAY (CNR ABERCROMBIE ST. & BROADWAY)

*All are welcome!* [TRYBOOKING.COM/833372](https://trybooking.com/833372)

BBQ DINNER IN THE COURTYARD TO FOLLOW  
SMALL CONTRIBUTION OF \$5 FOR CATERING/REGISTRATION

The poster features a dark blue background with white stars and two angels (one red, one green) blowing trumpets. In the center is a white silhouette of a nativity scene with a bright yellow star above it. A QR code is located on the right side, and a text box on the left encourages booking.

## First Sunday of Advent – Reflection by OSJ, 11/17/2021

*This reflection is written by Andy Hamilton*

In most religious traditions we find a rhythm of fasting and feasting, waiting and celebration, work and holiday, of life and death. This rhythm matches the patterns of our everyday lives in which planting is followed by harvest, illness by a return to good health, and times of turmoil by calm. That is true also of our public commitments. For supporters of the winning team in the Football Grand Final the mingled excitement, hope and anxiety of the previous week makes the joy and relief of winning even more special. For Christians, too, such experiences echo the understanding that our life of daily struggle on earth is the prologue to the perpetual happiness and rest of heaven. By reminding ourselves of what we await and hope for, we can stay cheerful in the time of waiting and remain focused on what really matters.

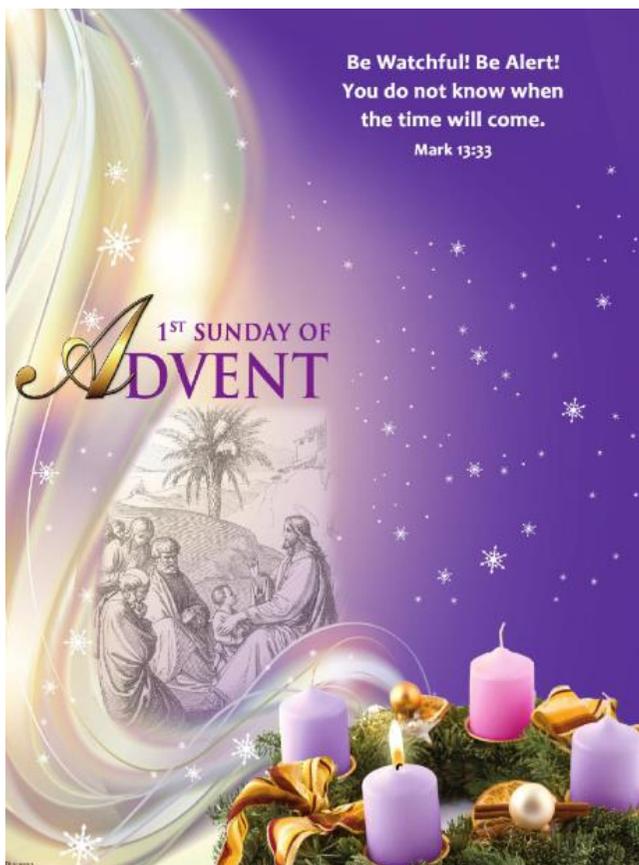
In the Catholic year Lent is a time of waiting for Easter, and Advent of waiting for Christmas. They are periods of promise that might sustain us in even the hardest of times. The Mass readings of Advent return again and again to the Book of Isaiah. These passages are full of an extraordinarily buoyant hope, of images of peace, of flowing waters, green fields, tree covered hills, abundant harvests, peace and of a God who is with the people. Such images may come easily to us in good times. But Isaiah's world was one in which the Jewish people, including himself had been overrun in war, sent into exile, and had lost their temple, their land and their confidence in their God. If you made a film about them it would have been full of dark nights and dark clothing. In contrast, Isaiah's vision of a return to their own land in peace, with respect, and to plenty is in bright technicolour. He does not describe their current miserable life in exile as the new normal but as a time of waiting for return to a glorious new world. He reminded the people that God's special friends are those who are doing it hard and that God will rescue them.

In our society Advent speaks to our experience during the last two years of COVID restrictions, and to the stress that we felt while waiting to live freely again. It still encourages us to hope for the freedom of an unrestricted life. More deeply however, it also encourages us to enter the experience of people in our own world who are exiled from their home, wait on the kindness of strangers for welcome, and survive as best they can. Among these are refugees who today share the experience of Isaiah and the Jewish people. They have also had to leave their homes, often separated from their families, struggling without support in a wealthy land, and able only to do no more than dream of a decent life. We cannot give them a home, but during Advent we can keep

them in our hearts, spending time to know them better, and through our support doing for them what Isaiah did for his own people: encouraging them to hope that one day a Christmas would come when they would be able to begin living full lives.

At Jesuit Social Services the last years have also been a time of struggle for the young people whom we serve. We have felt for them in their stress and been amazed by their resilience.

Advent gives way to Christmas. That is a time to look forward to and celebrate, as we might a Grand Final with a stacked stadium. The first Christmas was a quiet occasion in which the celebrating took place deep within human hearts. It had the intensity of joy that comes with the birth of a new born and eagerly awaited baby at the end of a hard pregnancy. That joy spread and changed the world. Our compassion might help to do the same.



**Advent increases our hope,  
a hope which  
does not disappoint.  
The Lord never lets us down.**

Pope Francis