



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo ACT

Supporting and supported by Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd,
Mother Teresa Primary Schools and St John Paul II College

18-19 December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Year C



Upcoming Events

Monday 20 December

No Mass
Office closed

Tuesday 21 December

9:15am Mass
7:00pm Reconciliation
Service

Wednesday 22 December

7:00am Mass

Thursday 23 December

9:15am Mass

Friday 24 December

5:30pm Mass
7:00pm Mass
9:00pm Mass

Saturday 25 December

9:00am Mass

Sunday 26 December

9:30am Mass

Bring the Christmas Message Home

This weekend usually is one of the busiest travel times of the year. Airports, bus terminals, train stations, and, of course, highways will be filled with people laden down with gifts, all trying to make it home for the holidays. Home with their loved ones is where people want to be, if at all possible. And so they are willing to withstand all sorts of incredible trials and tribulations to get to where they want to go. If some breakdown and accidents are in the mix, it is guaranteed to snarl everything. But year after year people do it.

Scripture tells us little of Mary's journey to her cousin Elizabeth home. We are given only vague details telling us that it is somewhere in the hill country and that Mary hurries there because of Elizabeth's pregnancy. It probably was a gruelling trip for her to make. But Mary does it willingly to be where she is needed. And when her own pregnancy nears completion, she will take another difficult journey, this time to Bethlehem to fulfill the words of the prophets.

Mary, this "Christ-bearer," is bringing to Elizabeth the presence of the messiah for the first time. And it has a dramatic effect on her and on the baby John in her womb. Neither would ever be the same again.

With Christmas only days away, we are challenged to bring that very same presence to all whom we will touch this Christmas holiday season. Mary has become the embodiment of what we are called to be and do as Christians in our service to one another.

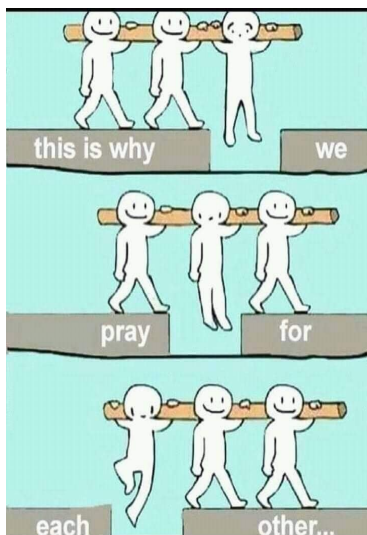
www.gpbs.com.au

God of life,

You have offered us all things to be gifts for your glory.

Help us to pursue you above all things, and then use your resources faithfully.

May we be good stewards of your gifts, now and forever.



TODAY'S READINGS

Readings: Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.
- Liturgy Help

Ministry Marvels

Name: Raul and Cindy Ruiz

Time in the parish:

We joined the parish back in 2003 and we were attending mass at the Holy Spirit School Hall. Fr. Bernie and Sr. Genny and Sr. Anne were so supportive of us, most especially in our journey in trying to become parents. During Fr. Bernie's Charismatic masses, he has always prayed-over and lifted our hearts' desire of having children. After 10 years of trying, we now have 2 children. Fr. Mark and Fr. Joseph and Fr. Jiss and Fr. Thonn and Theivani continued to be supportive of our family, most especially in showing their care for our special-needs child Rynel, who was diagnosed with autism when he was 3 years old. Rynel's brother Ridge has been such an amazing brother to Rynel and they both love going to the Holy Spirit Church - they feel like it is home because everyone is very welcoming.



Ministry:

Raul and Cindy are both part of the Music Ministry; while Raul helps-out as an Audio-Visual Technician.

What do you enjoy about your ministry?

We are so inspired by others who have been helping the church in their own big ways and own little ways, so it motivates us to do our part too - just making it possible for events and activities to happen, so it can enable more parishioners to be involved with the church.

What do you like about our parish?

We migrated from the Philippines, so we appreciate the multiculturalism in this parish promoting each culture - especially the Filipino culture/tradition of Simbang Gabi. But what we most like about the parish are the people - Parish Priests, Parish Assistant Priests, Parish Staff, Parish Pastoral Council, Parishioners and everyone else at the church. Everyone we see are very friendly and always has a smile on their face - showing their gladness of being part of this parish.

Fun fact about yourself:

Cindy: "I remember in Peter Burnett's Ministry Marvel article, whenever Peter says something absurd with a straight face, people don't know whether he means it because he is known to be a serious person. With Raul who is known to be a joker, when he says something serious, no one believes him. My role is to confirm if Raul is serious or not."

Favourite quote or prayer:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Comments:

Thank you to everyone at the Holy Spirit Parish for continuing to promote the Catholic faith, most especially during this pandemic. You cannot imagine how grateful that with your wonderful work for the church, you have continued to make us all feel the Holy Spirit in our community and in our hearts. God bless you all always.

News & Updates

- ★ **Parish Office opening hours over the holiday** - The Parish Office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year and will re-open on **Tuesday 4 January 2022** for reduced hours. We can be contacted via email at office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au. Alternatively, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.
- ★ **No Weekday Masses** - From Tuesday 28 December—Friday 31 December. Weekday Masses will resume on Tuesday 4 January 2022.
- ★ **Simbang Gabi 2021—Please note change of venue—** St Monica's Parish nightly at 8:00pm.

Children's Sacramental Program 2022



Sacrament of Confirmation

For children in Year 6 and above wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2022. Information sessions will be held on

Tuesday 15 February 1:00pm or 6:15pm at the church.

More information is provided on our website.
The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated over 2 weeks **3, 4, 5 May and 10, 11, 12 May**.

Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation

For children in Year 3 and above wishing to receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation in 2022. Information sessions will be held on **Tuesday 21 June 1:00pm or 6:15pm** at the church.

Celebration of First Reconciliation

Week of 22 August

Celebration of First Eucharist

At Masses on weekends

10-11 September and 17-18 September

For more details please contact Sacramental Coordinator
Katrina Battilana: sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au



Please keep the following individuals in prayer.....



For those who are sick

Baby Aarya
Katie Charlton
Ronald Robles
Patricia Lebon
Glenn Mowbray
Gabrielle Eagles
Roland Zocchi
Sophia Vamvakaris
Graham Seymour
Helen Morris
Paul Mowbray
Mark Williams
Brian Ware
Fr Thonn
Margaret Ord
Sr Marie
Laurie Hancock

Recently Deceased

Kevin Jones
Ashley Craig
Michael Banfield
Helen Perry
Robbie Cotter
Noedelan Abroguena
Loi Abroguena
Pona Mariner
Manuel De Sausa
Edward Cartier

Anniversaries

George Velso
Maple Craig
Nick Furlan
Paul Ryan
Christopher Fish

We include those who are members of our Parish or relatives. Please email contact the parish office or click here to request prayers.

[Prayer Requests](#)



Social Justice Matters

As 2021 draws to an end, the Social Justice has prepared a summary of what we have achieved during the year. We are looking forward to an exciting and active 2022 and we'd love you to be involved. The link to the SJG newsletter is <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/category/sjg-newsletter/>
With Christmas blessings for a Happy and Holy Christmas to the Parish team, parishioners, family and friends.

Advent and Christmas



* **Donating to St Vincent de Paul** Christmas Appeal envelopes are available in the foyer.

* **Parish Advent Giving - Fr Mark's Special Appeal**

A big thank you to everyone who have made a contribution to this special appeal.

This weekend is the last opportunity we have to collect your generous donations to bring some Christmas cheer to some of our parish families who are doing it tough at the moment.

You can donate online <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/holyspirit> or normal parish bank account (BSB: 062 786 Acc

Number: 00010701 Reference: Parish Advent Giving) or use envelopes available in the foyer and place it in the Wooden Box or collection baskets.

**Children's Christmas
Nativity
at 5:30pm and 7:00pm
Christmas Eve**



It is not too late!

We still need you!

Please **complete the form** in the foyer,
online <https://forms.gle/iAbkVX5kMWk7BoSJA>

Practice times as follows:

- * Thursday 23 December 9:00am-11am
- * Friday 24 December 9:00am-11am



Don't forget to submit your carols to Frances via <https://wetransfer.com/> - using email address frances_1406@hotmail.com. The parish will upload and share these carols on our [Facebook page](#), creating a collection of carols for our whole community to share and enjoy.

Christmas Mass Times

Tuesday 21 December 2021

- ◆ 7:00pm Reconciliation Service

Friday 24 December 2021 | Christmas Eve

- ◆ 5:30pm Children's Nativity Mass
- ◆ 7:00pm Children's Nativity Mass
- ◆ 9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday 25 December 2020 | Christmas Day

- ◆ 9:00am Christmas Day Mass

St Francis Xavier Hall

- ◆ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass





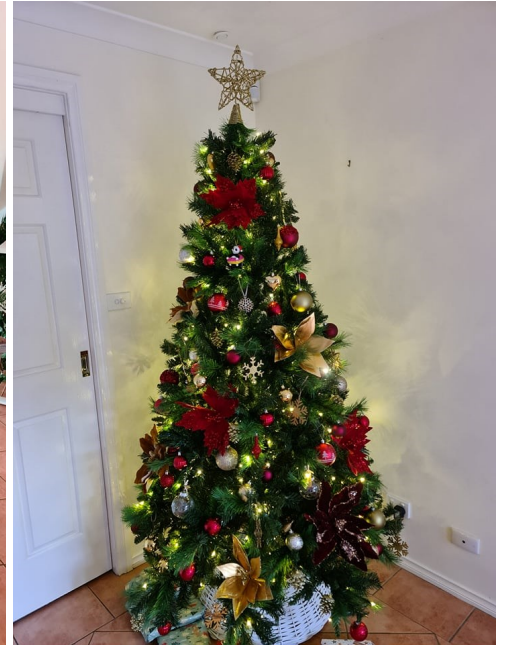
Getting ready for Christmas....



Santa and Gran chilling together... - Karlien, Layla and Lucius.



The most magical time of the year.....yes, we repeat....
'the baubles go on the tree...' - Smith family, Amaroo with 14 month old.



Arty wreath made at school by Matthew Baraniecki.



Little elves helped Fr Mark put up the Christmas Tree and decorated the Presbytery house.....we are missing Fr Thonn's creative touch!





LET
THERE
BE
LIGHTS!
-
NICHOLLS



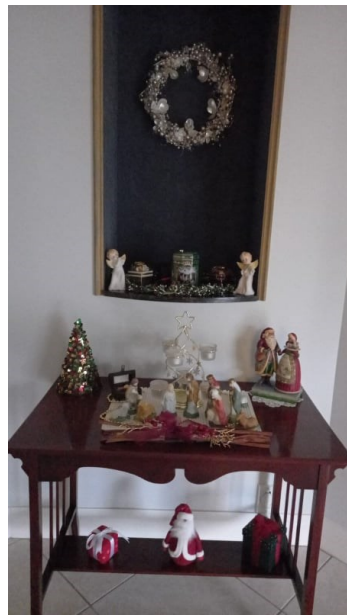
All about Simplicity..... Gungahlin



We love getting our tree decorated around the 1st of December. The kids love our little Nativity scene that they build on each day of the month leading up to Christmas. - Johnson Family.



Ruiz Family



Christmas in Ngunnawal....



Baking and tree decorating in Western Australia! – Fiona Wilkinson



Thank you to wonderful parishioners who check in on office staff and bring goodies. We are grateful!

Pradeep Family



Decorating and baking cookies—Michelle Francis



Waiting in Hopeful Expectation

Let us give up all of our unfulfilled expectations for this Christmas. Whatever we have done is enough. Let us dedicate these last days of Advent to peaceful acceptance rather than frantically trying to meet our own expectations.

Practice waiting in prayerful expectation. Use times of waiting — waiting for a parking spot at a crowded mall, waiting in a check-out line, waiting at the airport — as a time of quiet prayer. Place your trust and your expectations in God's hands.

www.osv.com

STARS

Look up at the splendid universe
light years away from the dimness of our earth.
The wise are shining like the stars giving out points of
light, showing the way.

How do they attain such heights?
By offering a cup of water, or their house,
or their food, or anything they could find.
They gave away their time, their money, their lives;
they never counted the cost.

They took every gift they had and spent a lifetime
teaching others how to use what is given.

Lord, Let these stars guide us.

Anne Osdieck

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Secure Online Payments



Online Mass Contribution (First and Second Collections combined)

We encourage you to continue to support our parish by making contributions to our First and Second Collections online. Follow the steps below to make a secure online donation.

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Select Biller Code 1002872 – Mass Contribution
3. Enter your payment details.

Parish Bank Account Details

BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish

CONNECT WITH US

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Croker

Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony (Fr Thonn) Riosa, SSS.

Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622

Website: www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Assistant: Theivani Evers

E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

P: 0472 921 518

Parish Secretary: Magda Baraniecki

E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Office Support: Naomi Johnson

E: officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Finance Officer/ Planned Giving: Tony Rose

E: gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Katrina Battilana

E: sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Youth Minister: Paris Morris

E: youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Alison Weeks

E: alisonmweeks@bigpond.com

Parish App and Parish Facebook Page



Pocket Parish
Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

**Holy Spirit is
with you where
ever you go!**

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now from

