



# Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo ACT and 220 Victoria St, Hall ACT  
Supporting and supported by Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd,  
Mother Teresa Primary Schools and St John Paul II College

2-3 December 2023

1st Sunday of Advent | Year B



## Holy Spirit Amaroo

### Monday

No Mass  
Office closed

### Tuesday

9:15am Mass

### Wednesday

9:15am Mass  
6pm Holy Hour and  
Reconciliation

### Thursday

9:15am Mass

### Friday

7:00am Mass  
7:30am Morning Beans  
NO 12:00pm Mass

### Saturday

4:30pm Reconciliation  
5:00pm Mass

### Sunday

8:00am Mass  
9:30am Mass  
5:00pm Mass

## Like Leaves In The Wind

I've known several people in the last three years who were told by their doctors they were terminally ill. In each case, these folks immediately made decisions about their lives that they'd been delaying until now. People who know they're dying can't afford to save anything until later. There may not be a "later". There's only now.



The rest of us are kidding ourselves if we think we're not dying: not now, not any time soon, maybe never. When Jesus says, "Be watchful!", we think he means the other guy. We put our faith squarely in "later". Some of us belong to the Church of Later, in which we fully intend to be good, spiritual, faithful people – at a future time to be announced.

Some of us may live to a satisfying old age and wear out with a smile. Some of us will get a deadline from our doctors and have some lead time to prepare. Many of us are left in the dark as to when we'll die or how. This can make us sloppy about the way we live, even arrogant about it. Not taking death seriously is a real mistake in the spiritual life. The church's wisdom is to remind us, right from the start of the church year, that mortality is just what it says it is: a short-term proposition.

## Ponder

Resolve to live this Advent season with watchfulness and attention. Miss no opportunity to be kind, generous, forgiving. Resist spiritual laziness with its shrug toward "later". Be a saint in the making right now.

## Kids' Corner

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert!". (Mark 13: 33)

A little boy came into the world more than 2,000 years ago to save us all. But Jesus also comes into our hearts every day. We call this a mystery because it's the power of God at work, and we can't fully understand it. But we can be watchful and alert for Jesus. We can notice his presence in our families and friends. We can watch for Jesus in the hearts of people all around the world and even in the hearts of people we don't care for. We can be alert to him everywhere! How will you be alert to Jesus' presence in everyone during this Advent season?

Lord Jesus, help me see your face today. Amen.  
[www.gpbs.com.au](http://www.gpbs.com.au)



## St Francis Xavier Hall

### Sunday Mass

8:30am  
2nd and 4th Sunday of  
each month

"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance,  
looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart  
in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people,  
of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

- Pope Francis, 2018

## This Weekend's Readings:

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

# Parish News and Events

- \* **The Chosen Discussion Group | Wednesday 6 December at 10:00am.**  
All are invited to join Fr Troy to watch a few episodes of Season 2 of The Chosen followed by a discussion group.
- \* **RCIA program and Alpha | Parish rooms on Thursdays at 7:00pm.** If you would like to find out more about the program please contact [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)
- \* **Morning Beans for Young Adults | Friday 8 December at 7:30am-9:00am -**  
Blossoms Café Ngunnawal —spill in at anytime!

## Advent Holy Hour—Preparation for Christmas

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm

Talk at 6:30pm | Confessions available.

### Topics:

6 December: Prayer  
13 December: Conversion  
20 December: Discerning the Will of God



## International Day of People with Disability 3 December

This Sunday is the annual United Nations International Day of People with Disability. It is celebrated on 3 December every year, with a different theme each year. This year the theme is about making the world better and fairer for people with disability.

Last week we celebrated Christ as King but we were told the values the Kingdom of Jesus Christ proclaims are not of power and wealth, but of caring for the smallest and least powerful in the Kingdom. We are called to be like Christ, and to stand with all our brothers and sisters. To feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, to visit the sick and imprisoned. To love them and care for them.

Jesus is always presenting us with opportunities to love our neighbour. It might just mean giving a smile or a kind word or lending a helping hand. People with disability often have many more challenges in their everyday lives than able-bodied people. This is partly because we live in a world that does not always provide fair opportunities for them. So let us reach out to people with disabilities, and both welcome and provide opportunities for fairness, connection and care. And try to reflect on what life might be like for a person living with a disability - to 'walk a mile in their shoes' - and remember that we are all interdependent and reliant on each other. Some of us need more support than others but we all need each other, in all our unique ways of being.

God made us all unique, and that is something to be celebrated and cherished. If we celebrate and cherish people living with disabilities, then we must also consider what it means to make the world better and fairer for them.—*Leanne Johns*

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



### For those who are sick

Dorrell Hogan  
Kathy Morris  
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell  
Caitlin Wigglesworth  
Kwang Hui Lim  
Grant  
Maria Therese Cummins  
Gail  
Elizabeth  
Adriano Cesar Junior  
Maria Teresa Meireles  
Theresa and Joseph Tan  
Cyril Jolicoeur  
Bill Honess  
Ghlyanne Chelmiah  
Tony Johnston  
Jaya Raghwan  
Julie Mirfan  
Paul Johnston  
Edwin Joseph Dsouza  
Alan Kay  
John Sweeny  
Sharron Davis  
Michelle  
Mark Bush  
Maria Stark  
Julie Morgan  
Tim Watson  
Jim Banks  
Barbara Kirk  
Pratik

### Anniversaries

Angela Brown  
Luke Donohue

### Recently Deceased

Cathy Cleary

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

[Prayer  
Requests](#)



# Community Messages

## \* 7 December | Young Adults "Purpose Conference"

Sydney Archdiocese is hosting International Catholic speakers Jason Evert & Matt Fradd to run an evening conference for Young Adults this Thu 7<sup>th</sup> & Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. \$60 per person. Rosebank College, Five Dock NSW 2046. Organise your own accommodation, food, transport. Info & registration at [www.sydneycatholic.org/events/summer-series/](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/events/summer-series/)

## \* 7 December | Roundtable on Domestic Church

In preparation for our Archdiocesan Assembly in October 2024 you are invited to participate in a series of prayerful listening & discussion 'roundtables' on various topics, This Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Dec we will reflect on the blessings and challenges of family life in relation to the evangelising mission of the Church. Attend in person (St Christopher's Pastoral Centre) or online (Zoom). 7:00pm - 8:30pm More info at [www.cgevangalisation.org.au/roundtables/](http://www.cgevangalisation.org.au/roundtables/) Register at <https://tally.so/r/3xJdY9>

## \* 8 December | Ministry Support Officer Applications Close

The Archdiocese is seeking a skilled applicant keen to provide practical and administrative support to the Marriage Family & Relationships team who run faith-based relationship formation programs for students, parents and families, as well as engaged & married couples. For more information and to apply text "Job Info" to 0429 192 869 by Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

## \* 8 Dec | Sponsorships close for JPPII Immersion Course

Young Adults aged 18-35 years are invited to apply for sponsorship to attend a six day Theology of the Body **Immersion Course on JPPII's Love and Responsibility** with Dr Christopher West, 21-26 January 2024 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville. More info at [www.sydneycatholic.org/events/summer-series/](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/events/summer-series/) To apply for sponsorship text "JPPII Course" to 0429 192 896 By Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

## \* 9 Dec | Half day for Parents & Teens with Jason Evert

Sydney Archdiocese is hosting International Catholic speaker Jason Evert to run a seminar for teens and parents on relationships and sexuality. 9am-1:30pm this Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield, NSW. \$25 per person. Info & registration at [www.sydneycatholic.org/events/summer-series/](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/events/summer-series/)

## \* 13 Dec | Zoom Information Evening – Ministry to the Newly Married

Are you recently married (in the past 2 years) or about to be married? Come and hear about a mentoring program for couples in the first 5 years of their marriage called Ministry to the Newly Married (MNM). Join us for a zoom information evening about how the MNM Program works 7pm-8pm Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. Details: Ralph & Angela (m) 0401 994 081 OR Helena and Richard on 0405 440 463 (e) [contact@newlymarried.org](mailto:contact@newlymarried.org). More information is available at <https://bit.ly/MinistryNewlyMarried>. Register for 2024 before 12 Jan.

## \* 7-14 January 2024 | Summer School of Evangelisation - Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW

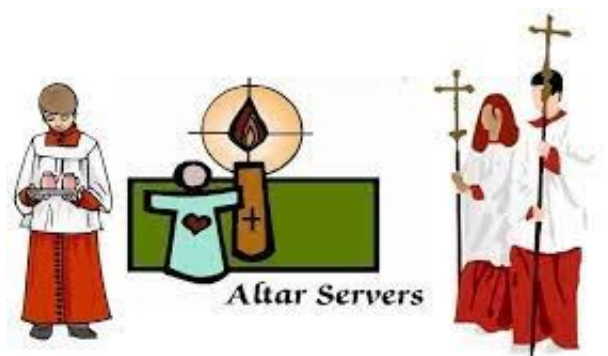
Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31<sup>st</sup> October. More info: [contact@summerschool.org.au](mailto:contact@summerschool.org.au). Bookings: [summerschool.org.au](http://summerschool.org.au)

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## Compulsory Altar Server Training

All current Altar Servers who wish to continue serving are required to attend a compulsory training session with Fr Eden on one of the following dates:

- Sunday 10 December at 3:30pm **OR**
- Sunday 17 December at 3:30pm



Fr Eden and Fr Troy will be introducing a few new elements into our weekend Masses in the coming weeks; therefore, it is necessary for all Altar Servers (even experienced ones) to attend at least one of these training sessions.

Please RSVP to [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au). If your child is not able to attend one of these dates, please let us know and we will arrange another session in the new year.

# Advent and Christmas

**Advent and Christmas is the time for giving.** Here are a couple of ways you can contribute this year:

\* **St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree**

Please support our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers by taking a tag and returning your item to the specially marked baskets in the Church foyer. Please donate ONLY non-perishable food donations, vouchers or money as specified on the tags you take. This is a very rewarding experience and a great way to give to people in our community who need our support this Advent and Christmas season.

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

## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus open doors of hope."  
Pope Benedict XVI*

During the Advent season many of us will have an Advent wreath on the table. Let each candle not only mark the countdown to Christmas but also serve as a daily reminder to spread kindness. In the hustle and bustle, take a moment each day to brighten someone's world – a smile, a small gesture, a thoughtful word. As we anticipate the joy of Christmas, let the spirit of giving and compassion guide us through the days of Advent, creating a ripple effect of warmth and connection. In these simple acts, find the true magic of the season, making each day leading up to Christmas a testament to the power of kindness.

*Dear God, as we approach Christmas, may our actions be reflections of Your boundless love. In simple acts of kindness, let us sow seeds of joy and unity. May the spirit of the season spread through our hearts, creating a world where Your love is felt by all. Amen.—www.majellan.media*

## What's happening this Advent and Christmas

### Saturday 2 December 2023

- ◆ 9:00am Decorate church with lights
- ◆ 5:00pm Mass and Picnic at St Francis Xavier, Hall

### Tuesday 19 December 2023

- ◆ 7:00pm Reconciliation Service

### Saturday 23 December 2023

- ◆ 11:00am Children's Nativity Practice\*\*

### Sunday 24 December 2023 | Christmas Eve

- ◆ 11:00am Children's Nativity Practice\*\*
- ◆ 6:00pm Children's Nativity Mass\*\*
- ◆ 8:30pm Carols\*\*
- ◆ 9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass\*\*

### Monday 25 December 2023 | Christmas Day

- ◆ 9:00am Christmas Day Mass\*\*

### St Francis Xavier Hall

- ◆ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

\*\*Events to be held at St John Paul II College Nicholls.



## 2023 Advent and Christmas Reflection Book - With Expectant Hearts

Grab your copy this weekend \$6.00 only! See foyer cabinet for details.

## Children's Christmas Nativity at 6:00pm Christmas Eve

Children in Years 3-9 who would like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity on

Sunday 24 December are asked to **complete the form** in the foyer, online <https://forms.gle/iAbkVX5kMWk7BoSJA> or using the QR code by **Friday 15 December 2023**

**Practice times to be held at John Paul II College:**

- \* Saturday 23 December 11:00am-1:00pm
- \* Sunday 24 December 11:00am-1:00pm



# Things we can do during Advent



There is no shortage of things to do during Advent which is a special time of year for Christians.

Why not start the season with an Advent calendar. Calendars typically have 24 doors or compartments, each revealing a small treat or surprise. It's a fun way to count down the days until Christmas and adds an element of excitement to each day, especially for young children.

Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your home with festive lights, ornaments, and a Christmas tree. This can be a fun activity for the whole family, and it helps create a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Attending Advent services can be a meaningful way to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Many churches offer special services and events during this time, such as Advent wreath lighting ceremonies and carol singing.

Why not let your creative juices flow in the kitchen and bake

some holiday treats. Gingerbread biscuits and muffins are a few examples of festive treats that you can enjoy. There's nothing stopping you from inviting friends or family over to help with the baking or just to partake in the delicious delights.

Advent is a time of giving, so consider volunteering your time or donating to a local charity. You can take part in food drives, toy drives, or other initiatives that help those in need. It's a wonderful way to spread joy and make a positive impact in your community, especially when times are tough as they are for many families due to the rising cost of living.

Slouch back on the couch with a cup of hot chocolate or a fine wine and watch your favourite holiday movies. Classics like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *A Christmas Carol* are holiday movie musts. Even consider hosting a film night with friends or family and make it a festive event.

Many cities and towns have Christmas markets during Advent, where you can find unique gifts, crafts, and delicious food. Take a stroll through the market, enjoy the festive atmosphere, and do some Christmas shopping while you're out and about.

It's also important to take some time for yourself to reflect on the past year and set goals for the year ahead. You can practice mindfulness, journaling, or meditation to help you find peace and clarity during this busy season and to relieve the stress.

Advent is a time to slow down, appreciate the present moment, and prepare for Christmas with family and friends and celebrate the birth of Christ. [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)

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## Holy Silence

At first silence might only frighten us. In silence we start hearing voices of darkness: our jealousy and anger, our resentment and desire for revenge, our lust and greed, and our pain over losses, abuses, and rejections. These voices are often noisy and boisterous. They may even deafen us. Our most spontaneous reaction is to run away from them and return to our entertainment.

But if we have the discipline to stay put and not let these dark voices intimidate us, they will gradually lose their strength and recede into the background, creating space for the softer, gentler voices of the light. These voices speak of peace, kindness, gentleness, goodness, joy, hope, forgiveness, and most of all, love. They might at first seem small and insignificant, and we may have a hard time trusting them. However, they are very persistent and they will be stronger if we keep listening. They come from a very deep place and from very far. They have been speaking to us since before we were born, and they reveal to us that there is no darkness in the One who sent us into the world, only light. They are part of God's voice calling us from all eternity: "My beloved child, my favourite one, my joy." - Henri Nouwen

Holy Spirit Parish Gungahlin

# Car Boot Sale

Someone's trash can be your treasure!



\$10 per spot -  
contact the parish  
office to book yours.

Sausage sizzle, cakes  
and coffee available.

Sunday  
10 December  
10:30am to 2pm

93 Burdekin Avenue, Amaroo  
6242 9622 or office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

## Community Garden

The summer crop is starting to look very good!  
Keep an eye out for the community garden stall at  
the car boot sale on 10 December. If you would like  
to join the garden group please contact Theivani  
at the parish office.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH-YOUTH ALTAR  
SERVER - PARTY

# LASER TAG

10TH OF DECEMBER- AT  
ZONE 3: 3 PM - 4:40 PM

RVSP

<https://forms.gle/y9Pc3sb5VWl3WCJA8>



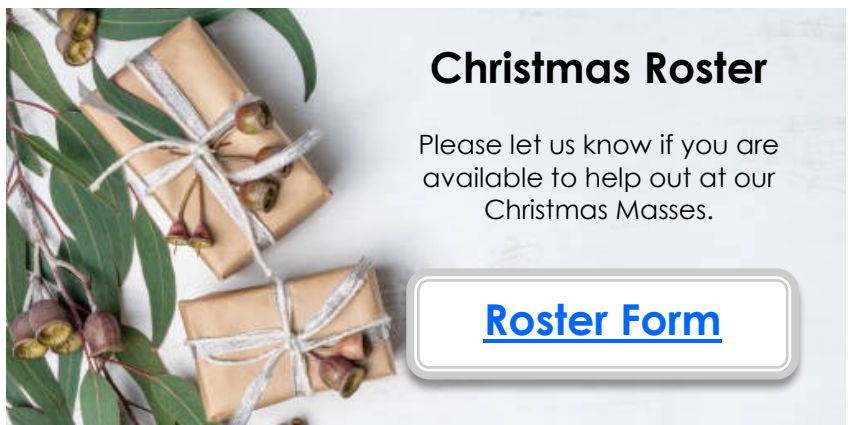
## WHAT TO BRING

1. \$5 FOR THE FEE
2. SNACKS TO SHARE
3. COMFY CLOTHING
4. A WATER BOTTLE
5. A CARRY-ON BAG

## WHO-WHY-WHERE-WHAT-WHEN

- CONTACT - MATTHEW ALLEN BY EMAIL:  
YOUTH@HOLYSPIRITGUNGAGHLIN.ORG.AU
- CHRISTMAS PARTY - A FUN PARTY FOR  
THE ALTAR SERVERS AND THE SUNDAY'S  
YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS
- EVENT - LASER TAG
- LOCATION - ZONE 3, 28 WEEDON CLOSE  
BELCONNEN
- DATE & TIME - 10TH DECEMBER  
ARRIVAL: 3:00 PM  
PICKUP: 4:40 PM

RSVP BY THE 26TH OF NOVEMBER!  
COME ALL & LETS HAVE FUN



## Christmas Roster

Please let us know if you are available to help out at our Christmas Masses.

[Roster Form](#)

## Community Carols

Leading up to Christmas an opportunity exists for people to join a community carols group. All age groups are invited to express an interest to join a Holy Spirit Christmas Carols Choir this season. If you're interested in joining, please contact: [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

## WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### First Collection (Supporting all priests of the Archdiocese)

1. BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00029248 Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund Ref: Gungahlin and Surname
2. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!

### Second Collection (For the upkeep of our parish, staff salaries, parish loans, liturgical needs etc)

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Direct Credit: BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish
3. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!



## CONNECT WITH US

**Parish Priest:** Fr Troy Bobbin

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Eden Langlands

### Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622

Website: [www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Parish Manager:** Theivani Evers

E: [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

P: 0472 921 518

**Parish Secretary:** Magda Baraniecki

E: [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Office Support:** Anne Smart

E: [officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Finance Officer/ Planned Giving:** Tony Rose

E: [gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au](mailto:gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au)

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Sean Ryan

E: [sean.ryan.cdss@gmail.com](mailto:sean.ryan.cdss@gmail.com)

Download our parish app: [Pocket Parish from App Store or Google Play.](#)

## Parish Groups

**Craft Group** | Beth Forshaw  
Mondays 1:00pm Parish Office

**St Vincent de Paul** | Drazen Roginic President

P: 0401 669 301

E: [Drazen.Roginic@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Drazen.Roginic@vinnies.org.au)

**Call to Connect** | Maureen Hilton

M: 0431 123 465

**Holy Spirit Prayer Group** | Kathy Torcasio 0401 920 028

Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the church

**Social Justice Group** | Peter Petersen

E: [socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com](mailto:socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com)

**Legion of Mary** | Grace Magbutay

E: [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Youth Ministry** | Matthew Allen

E: [youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Young Adult Ministry** | Melwyn Monteiro

E: [melwyn.monteiro@cg.org.au](mailto:melwyn.monteiro@cg.org.au)

**Care Group** | Sonja Vocisano

P: 0438 699 591

**Community Garden Group** | Parish Office

E: [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)