

ST PAUL'S NEWS

JESUS CHRIST | SPIRITUALITY | COMMUNION | TRADITION

WELCOME

At St Paul's "we love because God first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19). We believe in the inherent goodness of all people - that the divine dwells at the heart of all living things. We believe the whole world is sacred and so we seek to celebrate God's presence among us with joy.

As such, we are committed to the spiritual growth and wellbeing of all who seek a place to belong. St Paul's is an inclusive church, welcoming all and offering equal opportunities for those seeking an authentic spiritual community.

Fr Daniel Hobbs - Parish Priest

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PARISH PRIEST

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Carols & Communion

Christmas Eve

6pm

Holy Communion

Christmas Day

8.30am

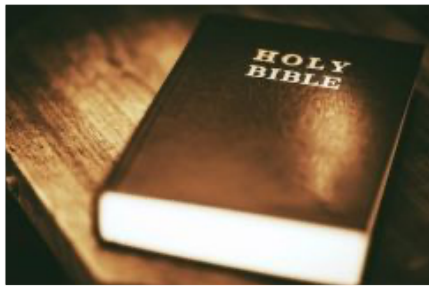


Pastoral Message

In the lead up to a big event, we prepare. We prepare our homes, prepare our kitchens and pantries, prepare a list of gifts for family and friends. The same is true during the Season of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Season of Advent. Some people may know that the Season of Advent focuses on expectation and that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Mat. 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (Jn. 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (Jn. 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for



December Readings & Services

Sunday Holy Communion 8.30am
 Tuesday Morning Prayer 9.30am
 Tuesday Lota House 11am

Sunday 5th - Advent 2

Malachi 3.1-14
 Song of Zechariah
 Philippians 1.1-11
 Luke 3.1-6

Sunday 12th - Advent 3

Zephaniah 3.14-20
 Song of Isaiah
 Philippians 4.4-7
 Luke 3.7-18

Sunday 19th - Advent 4

Micah 5.2-5a
 Song of Mary
 Hebrews 10.5-10
 Luke 1.39-45

Sunday 26th - Christmas 1

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26
 Ps. 148
 Colossians 3.12-17
 Luke 2.41-52



this celebration. Originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Held alongside the busyness and noise of the weeks leading up to Christmas, Advent invites us out of our heads and into our hearts for a time of spiritual devotion through our Advent Devotional, *Prepare the Way*. Through the ancient practice of lectio divina we will together reflect upon the story of Christ's birth and in so doing prepare our hearts for that moment when God broke forth into the world seeking to guide each of us home in love and hope.

I pray this Advent is a time of gentle anticipation and grace.

Pace e bene,
 Fr. Daniel+

December Ministry

4th Cursillo 10am speak with Jennifer Crisp
 12th PeACE Patrol after church Sunday - Asta

December Notices

5th Parish Council
 7th SAILS at Bayside Meeting, St Paul's Manly

For Our Prayers

Please hold in prayer those who are unwell at this time or have asked for our prayers: Ellen, David, Nancy, Veronica, Michael C, Gloria, Graham, Michael N, Gerald, Annie, Marie, Barry, Eddie, Joan, Shirley G, Glen, Shirley & Gordon, Shirley, Yvonne, Gayle & Lowie, Harline, Peter and Jean, David and Jody, Bev and Bruce and Alison.

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