



Westmead Catholic Community PARISH HEARTBEATS

Official Weekly Bulletin of Sacred Heart Parish, Westmead

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'The sacred heart of Jesus is an open heart...' St Teresa of Kolkata

Third Sunday of Advent

13 - 14 December 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

PHIL 4:4-5

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

FIRST READING

IS 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 145:6-10. R. IS 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

R.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

R.

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

R.

SECOND READING

JAMES 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.

For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

IS 61:1 (LK 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

MT 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?'

Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

IS 35:4

Say to the faint of heart:

Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PARISH CONTACTS

(02) 9635 9262

www.sacredheartwestmead.com.au
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Parish Priest

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Parish Primary Schools:

Sacred Heart Primary

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Principal: Natalie Mifsud

Assistant Principal: Jodie Smith

Mother Teresa Primary

Telephone: 8841 2600 Fax 9687 5893

Principal: Julianne Regan

Assistant Principal: Katherine Stennett

Westmead Hospital Chaplain

Fr Domingo Barawid MI

Tel: (02) 8890 6037; Pager: 8512

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Friday: 9.30am - 4pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm

MASS TIMES - Parish Church

Saturday: 6:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00am & 9:30am

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00pm to 5:30pm

BAPTISMS

1st Sundays or by arrangement

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By arrangement with the Parish Priest (min 6 months notice for weddings)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By arrangement with the Parish Priest



The Westmead Catholic Community acknowledges the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation, traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, recognising elders past & present. We aim to be an inclusive faith community, welcoming people of all ages, races, creeds, genders, orientations, marital status & cultures.

PARISH DIARY DATES

13 / 14 December	Third Sunday of Advent	
20 / 21 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
16 - 24 December	Dawn Parish Mass	5.30am
	<i>(no 9am Daily Parish Mass during this novena)</i>	
24 December - 2 January	Parish Office Closed	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates and eligibility requirements for the **Parish's 2026 Sacramental Program** will be published in our parish bulletin & on our website early in the New Year - www.sacredheartwestmead.com.au. Enrolment Forms will be available:

Eucharist - March 2026 Confirmation - June 2026 Penance - September 2026

The parish office will be closed for Christmas from 24 December 2025 - 2 January 2026 and operate on reduced hours during January 2026. For matters of importance during this time email: office@sacredheartwestmead.com.au or telephone: 9635 9262 to leave a message.

At Sacred Heart Westmead, **Baptism** is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at 11am. Please contact the parish office to book for 2026.



St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Tree
Parishioners can support the work of SVDP by choosing a coupon and donating suitable gifts, or non perishable grocery items for hampers. To reach those in need by Christmas packaging & delivery of hampers will take place by SVDP volunteers on the weekend of **20/21 December** - and all donations **must please** be left under the tree by the **morning of 20 December**.

The parish office cannot distribute late hamper donations or gifts.



St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal
The SVDP Annual Christmas Appeal will be held as a retiring collection on the weekend of 13 / 14 December. Your donation will make a difference to the Christmas story of many families, so please give kindly.

If you are interested in volunteering in **2026**, please complete a **Commitment to Ministry** form available to download from website or in the Church; or contact the Parish Office if you can assist. **New roster begins February 2026**



CHRISTMAS MASS PROGRAM

Dawn Masses	December 16 - 24	5.30am
	<i>(no 9am Mass during this period)</i>	
Christmas Eve, Dec 24	Mass with Nativity	6pm
	Midnight Mass	12am
Christmas Day, Dec 25	Christmas Day Masses	8am & 9.30am



We are looking for volunteers for Christmas Mass Altar Servers, EMOE, Musicians & Readers

Please complete the sign – up sheets in the church to volunteer to assist at mass this Christmas.



Monday 15 December
9am Morning Mass will be the Sacred Heart Primary - End of Year Mass
All are welcome.



WEEK 3 ROSTERS—WEEKEND MASS

Please notify Fr Walter you are in attendance

EMoE - 20 / 21 December

6:00pm: S. Sutherland

8.00am: J. Nealon

9:30am: M. Kastoun

Readers - 20 / 21 December

6:00pm: R. San Juan Tuason / F. Cadeaux

8.00am M. Schinella / V. Kastoun

9.30am: P. Alexander / J. Macaraeg

Junior Altar Servers - 20 / 21 December

6:00pm: C. Cristobal / M. San Juan

8.00am:

9.30am: G. Vicente / A. Biju / A. Biju

Senior Altar Servers - 20 / 21 December

6:00pm: C. San Juan

8.00am: A. Dave

9.30am: N. Emmanuel

If you are unable to attend your rostered date, please arrange a swap with another minister.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Celebrant:

On this third Sunday of Advent we light on our Advent wreath the rose coloured candle, the candle of rejoicing. Let us pray that God will fill us with a sense of joy, peace and rejoicing as we await the coming of Jesus.

Leader: Shout for you, all you peoples of the earth!

All: The Lord is coming!

Leader: Rejoice and exult with all your heart!

All: The Lord is very near!

Leader: Have no fear, hold firm and take heart.

All: Hope in the Lord!

(The rose coloured candle, representing joy, is lit.)

Celebrant:

God of eternal rejoicing, you are ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Saviour's coming again and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove any sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy which his coming will bring, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 20/21 DECEMBER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1ST READING: IS 7:10-14

2ND READING: ROM 1:1-7

GOSPEL: MT 1:2-18-24

