

2nd Sunday
in Advent

Faith

Bethlehem Candle
reminding us of Mary and
Joseph's journey to
Bethlehem



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.' There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Richard Leonard SJ

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Priests of the Parish

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Fr Stephen Camiolo
*(Parish Ministry
& Hospital Chaplaincy)*

**LIKE AND VISIT OUR
SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC
PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE**
[https://www.facebook.com/
southportcatholicparish](https://www.facebook.com/southportcatholicparish)



Parish Mass Times – (Please note change of Mass times) Bookings for Sunday Mass essential

St. Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses
7:00am & 8:30am
(Please book on line)

Weekday Masses
Monday & Wednesday
7:00am
**(No need to book for weekday
Mass)**

Gold Coast University Hospital
Friday Rosary 10.00am
Mass Friday 10:30am

Guardian Angels' Church
99 Scarborough St., Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses
Saturday (Vigil) 4.30 & 6.00pm
Sunday 7:00am & 9:00am
(Please book on line)

Mass in Korean - Sunday - 5.00pm

Prayers & Adoration
Wednesday 12.00noon – 1.00pm

Weekday Mass
Friday 12:30pm
(No need to book for weekday Mass)

Mary Immaculate Church
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses
Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 5.30pm
(Please book on line)

Weekday Masses
Tuesday 9:00am
Thursday 9:00am
No need to book for weekday Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
By Appointment

ADVENT PROGRAM

Fr Gerard and Fr Stephen will be giving advent themed talks at the Lumen Christi Centre on **Wednesday the 9th December from 6:30pm**. People are encouraged to bring a plate to share after the talk.



ST VINCENT De PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

THE SOUTHPORT AND ASHMORE CONFERENCES WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL ON This WEEKEND 5th and 6th DECEMBER



Thursday, 24th of December

Mary Immaculate - 4:30pm & 6:30pm
Guardian Angels' - 6pm & 12midnight

Friday, 25th of December

St Joseph the Worker - 7am & 8:30am
Guardian Angels' - 7am & 9am
Mary Immaculate - 9am

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Christmas Eve

<https://scp.org.au/sjtw-christmas-mass/>

Christmas Day

<https://scp.org.au/mi-christmas-mass/>



Held in God's Loving Hands – A Quiet Weekend Retreat for Women.

What do God's hands look like? How can we reimagine our lives held in lovingly cupped hands and held close? Comfort, compassion, mercy, nurture, deep love... A weekend opportunity for women to leave behind the chaos and clutter that can be a part of life and enter into quiet in community. Come and experience a time of prayerful reflection. Facilitated by Grace Harwood (Dragonfly Ministries) 2 opportunities to choose from: **Friday 11 December 6pm to Sunday 13 December 3pm or Friday 15 January 6pm to Sunday 17 January 3pm.** Place: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston Cost: \$370 (\$340 for pensioners, f/t students and unemployed) includes all accommodation, meals, resources and facilitation. Santa Teresa requires an additional \$30 fee for those with special diets. To register or enquire contact: grace@dragonflyministries.net.au or 0409524283 (Grace).



SHOP 2/115 SCARBOROUGH STREET SOUTHPORT

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday – 9am to 4pm

Saturday – 9:30am to 12:30pm

Sunday – 10am to 12:30pm



CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION INSTRUCTORS and ASSISTANTS NEEDED

At our local State Primary Schools for 1-2 hours per week, tell children about JESUS.

New volunteers are placed with experienced Instructors. Training is free, with support.

An easy curriculum ensures Bible stories are covered to give an understanding of God's love.

The door is open for us to 'go' Matthew 28:19

Will you go?

For more information, please call Helene McCowan 0419 747 631 or Email helene.mccowan@gmail.com

**Liturgy of the Word for Next Sunday Year A/2
1st Reading – Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11 - 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel - John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**STOPLINE RECEIVES INFORMATION ABOUT SUSPECTED ABUSE,
MISCONDUCT & SERIOUS POLICY BREACHES BY ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY, EMPLOYEES OR VOLUNTEERS.**

PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: AOB@stoline.com.au ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Guardian Angels Church
Rebecca - 0414 994 928

Mary Immaculate Church
Raphaelle - 0414 915 047

St Joseph the Worker Church
Cathy - 0414 982 749 (Chinese)

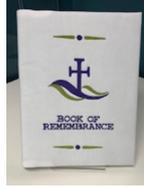
*Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy.
We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers
and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.*



Recently Deceased:

Jean Cronshaw

*The names of our sick and
deceased family & friends
Will be recorded in these books*



12 Hours ADORATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS

At Guardian Angels we will be holding 12 hours of continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Wednesday, 16th of December commencing at 10:00 and concluding at 22:00 with Benediction.** There will be an **opportunity for confession** during specific times, and Rosary but most importantly plenty of quiet time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in silence. There will be a list at the entrance of Guardian Angels for you to nominate a time, so we are assured Our Lord is always accompanied.

A clip board will be available at the sign in table in Guardian Angels, please write down the times you will attend so we know Our Lord is always accompanied

10:00 - 12:00 noon	Blessed Sacrament exposed, silent prayer, confessions available
12:00 - 12:45	Rosary with reflective readings on the Blessed sacrament
14:45 - 15:00	Silent pray time
15:00 - 15:45	Divine Mercy Chaplet with reflective readings on Divine Mercy
15:45 - 17:00	Silent prayer time
17:00 - 18:00	Confessions available, silent prayer time
18:00 - 20:00	Continuing Silent Prayer
20:00 - 21:30	Confessions available, continuing Silent prayer
21:30 - 21:50	Litany to The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hymns to the Blessed Sacrament
21:50 - 22:00	Benediction and reposing of the Blessed Sacrament

Feast of The Immaculate Conception - 8 December - Hour of Grace

Please join us for an Hour of Grace at **St Brigid's Catholic Church from 11.45am to 1.00pm.** We will follow a format given by Our Blessed Mother to Sister Pierina. Here is a little excerpt for you to read. Please arrive at 11.45am so we can start at 12.00pm sharp. Thank you.

During the period of November 24, 1946 to December 8, 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Pierina in a little church in Montichiari, Italy, eleven times. On the first appearance the Blessed Mother told Sister Pierina She wanted to be known as the Mystical Rose and that an hour of grace should be kept at noon, December 8th, in all the Catholic Churches of the world.

The Blessed Mother wanted this to be known through all Italy, and the entire world. Our Lady asked for penance. She said, "Penance is nothing more than accepting all our crosses daily willingly. No matter how small, accept them with love." At this time She told Sister Pierina to come again on December 8th at noon. "This will be my Hour of Grace." The Sister asked how she was to prepare for this Hour of Grace? To which the Blessed Mother said, "with prayers and penance. Pray the 51st psalm with outstretched arms three times. During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual graces would be granted. The most hard-hearted sinners will be touched by the grace of God." The Blessed Mother promised that whatever a person asked her for during this

Hour of Grace (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the Will of the Eternal Father. On the morning of December 8th, people began arriving at the little church at 8:00 in the morning from neighbouring towns. By noon, some 10,000 people had gathered to see the Blessed Mother... In the most gentle and loving voice, Our Lady smiled and began to speak [to Sister Pierina]: "I am the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of my Beloved Son, Jesus. I want to be known as the Mystical Rose. My wish is that every year on the 8th of December, at noon, an Hour of Grace will be installed. Many spiritual graces and physical blessings will be received by those who pray, undisturbed, during this hour.



A VOCATION VIEW: The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?

To talk to someone about your vocation, please contact Vocation Brisbane: 1300 133 544 or visit our website at vocationbrisbane.com.au, or email us on vocation@bne.catholic.net.au

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION. is on every **Wednesday** at **Guardian Angels Church.** Commencing 12 noon sharp and finishing at 1:00pm. No need to book, please drop in for some time praying with Our Eucharistic Lord.

WALKING GROUP at **St Joseph the Worker, Imperial Parade, Labrador at 6am.** Interested persons wishing to join us should ring **Janece on 0408 763 772.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you O Israel.**

O come, O branch of Jesse, free your
children from all tyranny,
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **R**

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home,
make safe the way
that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. **R**

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My Soul in Stillness Waits (sung)

Refrain:

**For you O Lord,
my soul in stillness waits.
Truly, my hope is in you.**

O Root of Life,
implant your seed within us,
and in your advent
draw us all to you,
our hope reborn,
in dying and in rising. **R**

O Key of Knowledge,
guide us in our pilgrimage,
we ever seek,
yet unfulfilled remain.
Open to us
the pathway of your peace. **R**

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord lasts for ever.
What is the Word that is living?
It is brought to us
through his Son Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this
Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

I Am the Bread of Life

I am the bread of life,
you who come to me
shall not hunger
and who believe in me
shall not thirst.
No one can come to me,
unless the Father beckons.

Refrain

**And I will raise you up,
and I will raise, you up,
and I will raise you up,
on the last day.**

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever,
you shall live forever. **R**

Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of His blood,
and drink of His blood,
you shall not have life within you. **R**

I am the Resurrection,
I am the Life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever. **R**

Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
Who has come into the world. **R**

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REFLECTION HYMN

There is a Longing

Refrain:

**There is a longing in our hearts,
O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts
for love
we only find in you, our God.**

For justice, for freedom,
for mercy, hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief,
be near, hear our prayer, O God. **R**

For wisdom, for courage,
for comfort, hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear,
be near, hear our prayer, O God. **R**

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

Advent Litany

Word of healing, **Alleluia.**
Heal our sorrow, **Maranatha!**

Word of comfort, **Alleluia.**
Bring us hope now, **Maranatha!**

Word of gladness, **Alleluia.**
Fill our hearts now, **Maranatha!**

Word of wisdom, **Alleluia.**
Come renew us, **Maranatha!**

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Presider: Lord Jesus, your coming was
proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who
described you as a 'shepherd feeding his
flock, gathering the lambs in his
arms' (*First Reading*). Brothers and Sisters
we are invited to be a Humble,
Healing and Merciful community. Like the
shepherd may we be people with arms
outstretched in love.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you will come
again. St Peter reminds us to live holy and
saintly lives while we wait and long
for the Day of God to come (*Second
Reading*). Waiting can be filled with
anxiety. The unexpected can be
frightening. Help us to live in the Spirit
always.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider: Lord Jesus, you call us to
baptism in the Holy Spirit (Gospel).
Be with us as we 'Listen to what the Spirit
is saying' throughout Advent.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Apostles Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
(all bow)**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;**

**He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from
the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven;
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty;**

**From there he shall come to judge the
living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And life everlasting.

Amen