

St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

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Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Emergencies or Anointing of the Sick:
call 9639 6516 and press 5

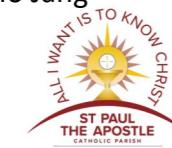
Parish Priest: Father John Paul Escarlan

Assistant Priest: Father Jobi Payyappilly

Assistant Priest: Father Pio Yong Ho Jang



For latest updates



Advent and the New Liturgical Year in the Catholic Church

The New Liturgical Year in the Catholic Church begins with the season of Advent. The word 'advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming'. The Catechism of the Catholic Church stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming: *When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming* (CCC 524).

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of our spiritual preparation before Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfillment of our longing for the Savior with the birth of Jesus Christ.

The season of Advent lasts about four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. The Church's Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days. Hence, Advent is a season of anticipation that leads up to Christmas.

During this time, we observe a season of prayer and reflection—followed by anticipation, hope, joy.

This new liturgical year also marks the transition from one lectionary cycle (A, B, or C) to the next.

This three-year cycle, a result of the Second Vatican Council, should help us become more familiar with the Sacred Scriptures. In this new liturgical year of cycle A, the Gospel readings will mainly be from the Gospel of Matthew. With Year B being Mark and Year C being Luke, the Gospel of John is read during the Easter season. Every Sunday's Gospel, there will be a significant theme which may help us in our reflections and in spiritually preparing ourselves for the Christmas celebration.

In this First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that we need to be spiritually awake and be ready for the coming of Jesus in our lives.

First week of Advent: Hope

It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope. The first Sunday not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is purple, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolising royalty.

It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

It harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

Why the Gloria is omitted during the season of Advent

Advent is a time of solemn preparation for Christmas, and part of that preparation includes penance.

One of the ways that the Church marks this penitential character to the season is the omission of the Gloria at Sunday Mass. This is meant to remind us that we are not quite ready to celebrate the Christ's arrival just yet, but need to strive to stay vigilant and awake for his coming.

Please pray for our sick ... Heavenly Father, lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. Amen

Aeroll Klein, Amanda Caputo, Ameriza Ayoub, Anne Burt, Arlene Diaz, Bailey Whou, Ben Rivera, Nick Galea, Darrel Morrison, David, Declan Trainor, Edgar Cruz, Ellen Wynne, Fermin Manuel, Valeriano Estacio Jnr, George El-Bayeh, Grace Kaddissi, Helene Barker, Jenny Goudas, John Gin, Joshua McCarroll, Lynda Steel, Krishna Premadas, Judy Ibrahim, Vanessa Ibrahim, Lou Ibrahim, Loy De'Souza, Lesley Neylan, Michael Hall, Lucas Le Huray, Lynette Giri, Marian Bacho, Maria Mezzagosto, Maridel Manuzon, Mark Lopez, Sam Papallo, Stella Kim, Therese Garamy, Mary McConvey, Natina Caccamo, Peter Beck, Perry Papasavvas, Sally Georges.

Please pray for the repose of the souls:

Jack and Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Beth Kenny, Charles and Josephine Clayton, George Steel, John and Kevin Young, Lorna and Jack Wardell, Noel Young, Roland Gonzalez, Vince Colosimo, Ho-Bae Ko, Lou, Amy and Leon Burbidge, Leon Chalker, Maggie Revilla-Simpliciano, Val Villanova, the recently deceased Marie Patricia Ogle and Jan Celeban, and for all the souls in purgatory.

May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace. Amen

Weekend Mass times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm

Weekday Mass times

Monday to Saturday 9:10am (*preceded by 8:40am Rosary*)
Thursday 7.00pm (*preceded by 6:00pm Adoration*)

Reconciliation: Thursday 6.15pm - 6.45pm (*during Adoration*)

First Friday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (*during Adoration*)
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Adoration: (24hour) First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

Baptisms: First and Third Sunday of each month

Baptism bookings only via our website

24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration - December

Commences: 9:10am Mass Friday 5th | Concludes: 9:10am Mass Saturday 6th

Our Lord Jesus will be exposed for 24 hours and at all times must have someone with Him.

If you are able to be in attendance to ensure we have someone always present, please record your details on the booking sheet as you enter the Church. Thank you.

Come ... spend some time with Him



It's not just 24 hours of silent Adoration

During the 24 hours of Eucharistic adoration, there are other ways one can participate in prayer or reflection and everyone is invited:

- 3:30pm - [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#) will be prayed in the church in front of the Blessed Sacrament (feel free to assemble at 3:00pm)
- 6:00pm - [Evening Prayer/Vespers](#) will be held. This is also known as [Liturgy Of The Hours](#).
- 6.00pm - [Reconciliation](#) until 7:00pm

Upcoming funeral service at St Paul the Apostle Church

† For the late Marie Patricia Ogle, this Thursday, December 4th at 12:30pm

Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Campaign - after all masses next weekend

This year our Winston Hills conference will again be purchasing Christmas hampers from Foodbank NSW at a subsidised cost.

This subsidy greatly assists the Society in their work. Each year your support enables the less fortunate families in the Mount Druitt area to enjoy a special treat. Next weekend there will be an opportunity as you leave Mass to find out more and to support their campaign.

You can always donate online at anytime: my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/winston-hills-conference-christmas-appeal

Parish Christmas Concert - Buon Natale 2025: Saturday, December 13th 7:00pm

What better way to lead into Christmas than being immersed in the Christmas Nativity. A concert like no other will be held on our church sanctuary and be a special combination of singing, music and readings recounting the journey leading to the birth of our saviour Lord Jesus. The concert is more than just a musical performance; it's an invitation to experience the joy, peace, and love of Christmas in a profound way. Let the carols and festive melodies fill you with the unparalleled joy that only this season can bring. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate the true spirit of Christmas!

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses: February to April 2026

This formation is for anyone interested in assisting our parish as Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. **IMPORTANT: Positions for these courses fill quickly.**

If you are interested in joining any of these Ministries, or want to know more, please contact the parish office.

Invitation to light our Advent Wreath candles

As part of our tradition leading up to Christmas, an Advent wreath is placed on the sanctuary, and at the beginning of each Mass, these candles are lit by members of our congregation. The wreath is typically made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolise eternal life and is surrounded by four candles, each one representing the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre is a fifth candle, the Christ Candle, which is lit Christmas Day. The candles remind us Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom. If you would like to light an Advent candle, record your name on the sheet as you enter the church.

Advent and Christmas - same or different?

Christmas (liturgical not societal!) season is December 25th until January 6th (Epiphany), and **Advent** is the season of preparation for Christmas, not the celebration of it. Advent is included with Christmas similar to the way Lent is with Easter. It is important, in terms of the purpose of Christian Holy Days as teaching tools of the Faith, that Advent and Christmas be different, to emphasise expectation and longing, a preparation for celebration. Without that, it is one long celebration without any context for celebration, and with little contact with the reality of life that gave birth to the season. This also extends to the music and why Christmas hymns aren't played during Advent.

Something just for the children for Advent

It is important for children to get a better understanding of what Advent represents and especially in relation to Christmas. There is an online resource used by our Catechists who teach Special Religious Education which is easy to follow and also contains a number of activities (for children of all ages!). How to access: issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/my_catholic_advent_and_christmas_2022_cress

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care Grief and Loss Counselling: THANK YOU

Thank you for helping heal broken-hearts this Christmas. Because of your generosity and compassion, the Bishop's Appeal continues to raise much needed funds to support Catholic Care's counsellors to continue bringing comfort and hope when it's needed most. Your kindness provides professional counselling, tailored care plans and training for their team to serve with wisdom and compassion. If you haven't had a chance to donate, at anytime please visit parracatholic.org/appeal. Thank you.

Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

December 3rd Saint Francis Xavier | 4th Saint John Damascene | 6th Saint Nicholas | 8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown presents 'The Witness'

"The Witness" is a musical telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. This production proclaims the Good News and the Gospel of Jesus in a rather non-traditional way – not through preaching or teaching, but through words and song.

The organisers are currently looking for a variety of roles to fill for the production, including director, choreographer, singers and dancers. To learn more, or express your interest, please visit privyr.com/form/5W7hISmG#the-witness-musical-cast-crew

Monsignor John Boyle book "Tested By Fire" available for sale

Almost 30 years after those tragic burning of St Patrick's Cathedral, Monsignor Boyle has written a book about the fire and its aftermath. Available in our piety stall for \$50. Visit: catholicweekly.com.au/new-memoir-tells-the-story-behind-the-burning-of-st-patricks-catholic/

Parish Safeguarding

Refer concerns to our Parish Priest, or safeguarding@parracatholic.org or 8838 3419. More information www.safeguarding.org.au