



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS  
*Chatswood Catholic Parish*

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## The Four Weeks of Advent

Advent signals that Christmas is just four weeks away as well as marking the beginning of a new liturgical year in our Church. The four weeks are divided according to two themes, from the first Sunday until 16 December we are called to reflect on the second coming of Christ. The first Christians believed that the risen Christ would return in their lifetime to complete his mission. This is the fullness of the reign of God that we long for as we continue to work to realise Jesus' mission.

We live in the time between Jesus' first coming and his second coming in a world that cries out for the mercy, peace and love of God. The in-between time of waiting is about learning how to live as disciples of Jesus while we wait. The longings and hopes of the prophets of Advent in both the Old and New Testaments echo our own longings and hopes for a just and liberated world.

From 16 December, the Advent focus is on preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. At the heart of our faith is the affirmation that Jesus of Nazareth is the *Word made flesh*, God become human. This is a time of invitation to deepen our sense of Jesus being alive and with us now, inviting us to experience the joy of recognising him active now in our lives and in all of creation, while we anticipate that 'Christ will come again.'

## An Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, master of both the light and darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways  
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'

*Henri Nouwen*

## Advent Colours, Rituals and Prayers

The liturgical colour for Advent is violet, symbolising a combination of preparation, penitence and expectation. The third week of Advent begins with Gaudete Sunday, the time to rejoice as the readings open up prophecies about the coming Messiah and the Gospels speak of the events leading to the birth of Jesus. Priests may wear rose coloured vestments.

### The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath originated in Europe where Advent and Christmas are celebrated in the darkness of winter. A circle of green leaves symbolises the continuous life of God always with us. Three violet or blue candles and one rose coloured candle mark the time until the birth of Christ with increasing light each week. A fifth white Christ candle may be included for Christmas. Simple prayers and the ritual of lighting the candles are part of family and parish community gatherings.



### The Jesse Tree



Isaiah's prophecy, *a shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse*, is the source of naming the Jesse tree. Jesse was the father of King David, part of the family of Jesus.

Matthew's Gospel begins with a genealogy of Jesus which leads into the account of his birth. The Jesse tree is a way of telling the story of God's love from the beginning of creation to the birth of Jesus. Symbols are hung on the tree with a prayer, culminating with a star at the top of the tree on Christmas Eve to symbolise the birth of Jesus.

### The 'O' Antiphons

From around the 8th century, during the final seven days of Advent the 'O' Antiphons accompany the Magnificat canticle at Evening Prayer. The biblical imagery speaks of the yearning for a Messiah over long periods of time. Each antiphon begins with a biblical image:

- O Wisdom
- O Lord
- O Root of Jesse
- O Radiant Dawn
- O King of All Nations
- O Emmanuel



## Advent Week One

Sunday 28 November

May He so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. *1Thess 3:13*

<b>Sunday</b>	Mass: 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm <b>Online Seminar: Our Lady of Gaudalupe 7.30pm Fr Joey</b> <i>Connect via Parish Website</i>
<b>Monday</b>	8.00 - 11.00 am Eucharistic Adoration for HSC Students Mass: 12.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12,30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm Eucharistic Adoration: 9.30am - 12noon Advent Holy Hour: 7.00-8.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	<i>St Francis Xavier</i> Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm 1.00 - 3.00pm Eucharistic Adoration for HSC Students
<b>Saturday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10.00am Benediction: 10.30am



### Online Seminar

**Our Lady of Guadalupe with Fr Joey  
7.30pm Sunday 28 November**

Join via the Parish Website

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/news-events/on-line-gatherings>

## Advent Week Two

Sunday 5 December

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

*Luke 3:4*

<b>Sunday</b>	Mass: 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm Filipino Mass 12 noon
<b>Monday</b>	<i>St Nicholas</i> Rosary: 11.30am Mass: 12.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm Eucharistic Adoration: 9.30am - 12noon Advent Holy Hour: 7.00-8.00pm <b>8.00pm Christmas Concert on Church Forecourt</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am Mercy College and 12.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10.00am Benediction: 10.30am <b>7.00pm Launch of Simbang Gabi by Bishop Anthony</b>

The Lord is coming, always coming.

Be alert to his coming.

When you have ears to hear and eyes to see,  
you will recognise him at any moment in your life.

Life is Advent;

life is recognising the coming of the Lord.

*Henri Nouwen*

## Advent Week Three

Sunday 12 December

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

*Zephaniah 3:14*

<b>Sunday</b>	Mass: 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm <b>Online Seminar: Advent O Antiphons 7.30pm Fr David</b> <i>Connect via parish website</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>St Lucy</i> Rosary: 11.30am Mass: 12.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>St John of the Cross</i> Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm Eucharistic Adoration: 9.30am - 12noon Advent Holy Hour: 7.00-8.00pm <b>8.00pm Christmas Concert on Church Forecourt</b>
<b>Friday</b>	5.30 am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm <b>7.00pm Reconciliation</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am Mass: 9.00am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10.00am Benediction: 10.30am <b>9.30am - 12 noon Reconciliation</b> <b>6.30 pm Parish Christmas Carols</b> Our Lady of Dolours School



### Online Seminar

**The 'O' Antiphons with Fr David**

**7.30m Sunday 12 December**

Join via the Parish Website

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/news-events/on-line-gatherings>

## Advent Week Four

Sunday 19 December

Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. *Luke 1:45*

<b>Sunday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Mass: 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm Spanish Mass 12 noon; Indonesian Mass 7.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Rosary: 11.30am      Mass: 12.30pm <b>Reconciliation 9.30am and 1.00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am      Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm <b>Reconciliation 9.30am and 1.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	5.30 am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am      Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm <b>Reconciliation 9.30am and 1.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am      Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm Eucharistic Adoration: 9.30am - 12noon Advent Holy Hour: 7.00-8.00pm <b>8.00pm Christmas Concert on Church Forecourt</b>
<b>Friday</b>	5.30am Simbang Gabi Mass Morning Prayer: 8.45am      Mass: 9.00am and 12.30pm <b>Reconciliation 9.30am</b>

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ON NEXT PAGE**

Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and let him - whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend - be our companion.

*Henri Nouwen*



## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5.30pm Children's Mass**

**8.00pm Family Mass**

*These Masses will be celebrated outdoors in the play area of Our Lady of Dolours Primary School*

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**Midnight Mass in the Church**

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## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am**

*Please make a booking on the Parish website  
[www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood) or call the Parish  
Office for assistance 9410 9000  
There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day*