



Brighton Catholic Parish Newsletter

St James & St Joan of Arc Churches



3rd Sunday of Advent

11th December 2016

Services

Sunday Mass

Sat 6.00pm & Sun 9am
at St James Church

Sun 11am & 5.30pm at
St Joan of Arc Church.

Weekday Masses

Tues at 7.30pm &
*Thur 9.15am at
St James.

Wed & Fri at 9.15am at
St Joan of Arc.

*First Thursday of the
month at noon, chapel at
Cabrini Hospital, Btn.

Weddings & Baptisms

By appointment.

Parish Groups

Card Players:

First Thursday of the
month in the St Joan of
Arc presbytery meeting
room from 11.30am.

Meditation:

Mon 10am- presbytery
at St Joan of Arc

Prayer Group:

Thurs at 8pm St Joan of
Arc Church

Gospel Reflection

Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins! I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching. In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives. The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead. This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian.

Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis. We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words

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Remember In Our Prayers

Illness: Mary Callea, Leanne Ickeringill, John Marich,
Beth & Terry Pilcher, Tom Van Kampen.

Recently Deceased: Anthony Hillman

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Dixon

Pastoral Associate: Cesar Lopez

Organist: Mary Taylor

Catechist: Carole Cheng

Cantor: Adam Kaczanowski

St James

Address: 73 North Rd. Brighton. 3186

Tel: 9596 1334 **Fax:** 9596 8492

Email: parishoffice@stjamesbrighton.org.au

Web: www.stjamesbrighton.org.au

Parish Secretary: Robyn Hirt

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Thur

9.15am-3pm. Entrance in Murphy St

School Principal: Brendan Flanagan

School Tel: 9596 4766

St Joan of Arc

Address: 118 New St, Brighton. 3186

Tel: 9593 1703 **Fax:** 9593 3155

Email: Brighton@cam.org.au

Web: www.cam.org.au/brighton

Parish Secretary: Elaine Bolitho

Parish Accountant: Marina Stevenson

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Fri:

9.30am-3.30pm.

School Principal: Tony McMahon

School Tel: 9592 3840

Welcome to Brighton Parish

Services This Week

Healing & Reconciliation Service - St James 4 December

The rains prevented the Sunday service, from being on the lawn in front of St James' presbytery, however we gained shelter and comfort in the Pop Up Church.

As parish priest of St James, I am conscious of the past and the actions that have brought us here this evening. Although the actions of one, all of us have suffered to varying degrees, none more so than the victims and their families. When St James church was built a foundation stone was laid to commemorate the event. As we begin to rebuild St James I hope this evening's prayer and action will be the foundation stone of a renewed church. I invite you to stand as we cry out in lament to our God. To every young man who was abused, sexually or otherwise, I am deeply sorry. Booklets of this service are available upon request.

GodStart Christmas Event

For young families next Sunday 11 Dec at St Joan of Arc hall from 10-11am.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR: NEW CD RELEASED

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir has just released a new CD recording entitled Sing, my soul. Conducted by the director of the Cathedral Choir, Dr Daryl Barclay, and accompanied by the organist for the choir, Dion Henman, the CD features a wonderful array of traditional and contemporary classics recorded in the glorious acoustics of St Patrick's Cathedral. It is the perfect Christmas gift, and a worthy addition to parish piety stalls and gift shops. Order now for Christmas.

Cost: \$25

Details and orders: St Patrick's Cathedral Shop, or 9665 2256 or cathedralshop@cam.org.au



Invitation

Young families are invited to our Christmas event to learn about the 'Joy of Giving'.



- Sunday 11 Dec 10-11am
- includes morning tea
- St Joan of Arc hall
- RSVP Ina Keung on 0421 349 899 or email brighton.godstart@cam.org.au by 5 Dec.

Christmas Bowl Appeal

Friday 16th December

Each year we join our Covenant Churches by collecting for those less fortunate. We need your help to collect outside Woolworths in Church St, Brighton. Please add your name to the roster in the church foyer. Many thanks.



Supporting Refugees

This weekend is our final collection of items for refugees for 2016. As it is Christmas, the parish thought that gift packs of toiletries would be a nice touch.

For anyone wishing to make a donation to BASP, the Project Bank details are: Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account: bsb: 083-004; a/c: 56-924-6603; NAB.

Please put your name on the entry and if possible send us a message so that we can send you a receipt. This could be a text message on 0438 001 515 or an email to jcaldwell@basp.org.au.



Beautiful Columban calendars & Christmas cards are now for sale at both churches. Keep Christ in Christmas. Sales support the great work of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Calendars \$10. Cards packs of 5 for \$3.

We invite you to join us again next week



Where Are Our Creative Geniuses Hiding?

We are very excited to launch our first combined parish magazine this December. The magazine will need a new name to reflect our combined parishes. This is your chance to come up with a new name and win a beautiful prize. Entries close Tuesday 13th December. We also invite all parishioners to contribute to the magazine with stories, photos, jokes, recipes, parish history or just about anything which parishioners may be interested in. Please send your contribution to the St Joan of Arc parish office by next week. Many thanks.

Meditating with Advent Holy Icons 10th & 17th December

You are invited to join us in 20 minutes of quiet prayer with an Advent Holy Icon before the 6pm Saturday evening Mass. We meet in the front room of the presbytery at 5.30 pm on the 10th and 17th December. All very welcome!
St James Prayer and Liturgy group.

MERCY & PEACE TREE for Advent & Christmas 2016

All are invited to decorate the Mercy and Peace Tree each Sunday of Advent in 'popup' church, this week by placing **symbols of stars and hearts** (provided) on the tree – along with your prayer intention. The **five-pointed star** is the **Star of Bethlehem** and represents Jesus' birth and incarnation. It is also known as the



Epiphany Star. "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a sceptre will rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17).

Hearts remind us that during this Advent season we prepare our hearts and our homes to celebrate the Lord's birth into our world – being always open to the merciful Christ who brings us peace.

St James Prayer and Liturgy group.

Merry Christmas



WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS MASS WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES
THIS FESTIVE SEASON

ST JOAN OF ARC

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

6.00PM FAMILY MASS

8.00PM REFLECTIVE MASS

9.30PM CAROLS LEADING TO 10.00PM MASS

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

8.30AM MASS

11.00AM MASS

ST JAMES

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

6.00PM FAMILY MASS

11.30PM CAROLS LEADING TO MIDNIGHT MASS

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

9.00AM MASS

10.30AM MASS

'I bring you news of great joy.' We share the joy of the angles and the shepherds as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. He is one with us, in times of darkness and hardship, in joy and celebration

Volunteers Needed

Communities in East Timor, PNG and Kiribati are asking for educators, health professionals and trades people to mentor their local personnel. Their aim is sustainable poverty reduction through self-reliance.

They have asked Palms Australia to recruit, prepare and support those who volunteer. In appreciation of any who undertake this mission in 2017 the church also offers considerable financial support.

Applications must close very soon. Please email palms@palms.org.au or call Christine on 02 9560



St James Church Roster

17 Dec 6pm Mass

Special Ministers: Mary Field, Ruth Martinez, Josephine Stokes

Collector: Bob Fleming

Reader/Com: Gail Hunt & Lois White

Sunday 11 Dec & 18 Dec 9am Mass

Special Ministers: Brian Bailey, Peter Toms & Carmel Sullivan

Collector: David Taranto

Reader / Com: Penny Respse & Katrina Respse

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.

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.
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.

SECOND READING: JAS 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the
Lord's coming will be soon.

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 com-
plaints 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: JAS 5:7-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we
wait for someone else?
John in his prison had heard what Christ was do-
ing 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 palac-
es. 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.'

Readings For Next**Christmas Week**

St Joan Of Arc Rosters For the Christmas Services

Reader, collectors, special ministers please volunteer to assist
at the Christmas services. Full timetable in the church foyer.
Thank you.

St James , please contact Carmel Sullivan to offer your
availability for the Christmas services.
Lectors / Readings are also available to collect from the tray
on the Organ in the Pop Up Church.