

Dernancourt Catholic Parish

St. Pius X ~ Dernancourt



Church of Saint Pius X

In the Pastoral care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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Parish Priest: Fr John Sebastian OMI (ppdernancourt@gmail.com)

Assistant Priest: Fr Joshua Nash OMI

Secretary: Tanya Batty (Thursday-Friday 9am-2pm)

4th Sunday of Advent Year B

Sunday 24th December 2023



Weekly Reflection

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience. (Loyola Press)



*Wishing all St Pius X Dernancourt
parishioners and visitors,
a very blessed and joy filled
Christmas and great peace in 2024.*

**** This will be the last parish Bulletin until the first weekend in February 2024. Please make sure you have a copy of your rosters for all the Church ministries that you are involved in over January. ****

Parish Office Hours

Thursday-Friday (9am-2pm)

Secretary (e) officedernancourt@gmail.com or

Parish Priest (e) ppdernancourt@gmail.com

Bulletin Submissions

The **cut-off time** for current weekly Bulletin submissions is **9.30am Thursday**. All requests received after this time will go into the following week's Bulletin.

Parish Office Closure Over Christmas/New Year Period

Please note the parish office will be closed from 22 December 2023 until 3 January 2024.

NEED FOR A NEW CHURCH ROOF

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I am pleased to share with you a significant decision made by our dedicated Finance Committee. After careful consideration and thorough assessment, it has been determined that our church roof is in a state of disrepair, requiring urgent attention. In light of this, the Finance Committee has taken the thoughtful initiative to replace the roof to ensure the structural integrity of our beloved place of worship. Three competitive quotes were obtained and with pre-approval from the Diocese, we are ready to embark on this essential project.

Your continued support and contributions have always been the backbone of our vibrant community, and we are confident that together we can undertake this essential project. The upcoming roof replacement is not only a practical necessity but also an investment in the long-term well-being of our sacred space. We trust that this endeavour will enhance the safety, comfort, and beauty of our church for generations to come.

In the spirit of unity and shared responsibility, we humbly request your prayers and support as we embark on this endeavour. The Finance Committee will keep you informed of the progress, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact of our collective efforts.

May our church continue to be a beacon of faith, love, and community for years to come.

We Pray...that the sick will be strengthened by Christ

Virginia Lampe, Garnet Gamet, Ken Porter, May Green, Louise Rhodes, Viv and John, Anna Cicharello, Barbara Stirling, Kay Morrison, Alison Hellams, Tom Trainor, John, Wendy Lloyd, Barry Whitford, Brenton Powell, Jill O'Reilley, Tracy Mifsud, Michael, Catherine Walsh, Cynthia Edwards, Peter Comas, Helen, George Marshall, Jim Corkill, Claire Hokin, Lisa Johnstone, Margaret Musolino, John Jordan, Colleen Wallace, Matt Basedow, Helen Starr, Darryl Ferguson.

RIP:

Please ring the parish office and let us know whose names you would like listed for prayer.



Dernancourt Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 6.30pm

Sunday, 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Rosary 8.55am

Reconciliation

Saturday 11:30am-12 noon

Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings

Please call Parish Office to arrange

Adoration

Fridays 9.45am-11am (*during school terms*)

Next Week's Readings The Holy Family Year B

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

This Week's Saints & Feasts

25th Christmas Day; 26th St Stephen; 27th St John;

28th Holy Innocents; 29th St Thomas Becket

Saint of the Week – The Holy Innocents

The prophet Jeremiah described the agony of the Jews as they were taken into Babylon: "Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they were no more" (31:15). Rachel, wife of the patriarch Jacob, is shown to be lamenting the exile of the people formed from her. When Christ entered the world, Jeremiah's words gained a new depth. King Herod learned of the birth of the newborn "King of the Jews" and intended to murder him. Jesus escaped into exile with Mary and Joseph. In a rage, Herod slew all Jewish males under the age of two in Bethlehem. The Jewish mothers lamented their children, killed in Christ's stead. But eternal life triumphs over evil. The Holy Innocents live victorious in heaven.

Diary Dates

Sunday Dec 24:

Christmas Eve Masses

6pm Children's Mass

8pm Carols & 8.30pm Vigil Mass

Monday Dec 25:

Christmas Day Mass

9.30am Christmas Day Mass

Saturday Dec 30-Sunday 31:

Feast of the Holy Family.

6.30pm Saturday, 9.30am & 5.30pm Sunday

Parish Morning Tea

The first parish morning tea for 2024 will be on Sunday February 4 after the 9.30am Mass.

All welcome to come and share a cuppa and fellowship.

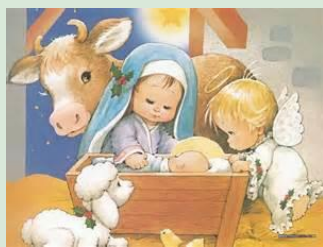
Music at the Cathedral in December

Sunday 24 December 11pm

Christmas Carols with the choir

Congregational participation encouraged.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



We, the members of the Dernancourt Conference of St Vincent de Paul, thank our parishioners for their generous support of our Christmas Appeal. Your support enabled us to provide Christmas hampers and toys for 80 families in our local area. Our grateful thanks also go to St Pius X Primary School, Kildare and St Paul's Colleges where students, parents and staff have blessed us and our poor with their energy and generous donations in supporting our Appeal. Great work, schools!

Christmas Cards:

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas cards will be available at all Masses— packs of 10 for **\$8.00**.

Our Conference will close now for visitation until 30 January, 2024, with our first meeting in February. With visitation suspended, we ask for donations of food and milk to be held off until further notice. We are in urgent need of new members so please consider being part of this caring group. If you would like further information, please contact Fr John or the Parish Office at the times indicated elsewhere in this Bulletin.

National Oblate Youth Encounter

The National Oblate Youth Encounter will be back in January 2024! National Oblate Youth Encounter is an event that brings together young people from around Australia who wish to share their Catholic faith in tandem with the charism of St Eugene De Mazenod.

It will be a great chance to grow in faith and reflect, as well as sharing plenty of fun with other young people. NOYE provides a balance of prayer, workshops, open-forums, liturgy and community time.

This year's camp theme will be "You Are the Light of the World". Young people (Year 12-30 years old) are invited to come and explore this theme while sharing the charism of the Oblates.

Thurs 4th–Sun 7th January 2024. Mazenod College (VIC)
Cost: Interstate participants (\$50).

Registration: <https://bit.ly/NOYE24> Contact Emma Rice (e) erice@oblates.com.au (ph) 0422705230

We are a 'Child Safe' organisation

Parish Prayer Network

All you need to do is call one of the following:
Marie S 0427 601 068 or **Marie T** 8266 2223



Winners

Congratulations to this year's Christmas raffle winners:

1. Anna Paravia; 2. Frisca Fernandu; 3. Victor/Mila; 4. Maria San Dres; 5. Josie King; 6. Ania; 7. Adam Charles; 8. Jon S.

Thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity, \$1394.00 was raised for the parish.

Thank you to Dot and Lou Nappa, Marie Smith, Philip and Narelle Matthews for your hard work in organising the raffle and the prizes.

Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal

In the spirit of Christmas, a time when our hearts are full of hope and compassion, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan has granted his blessing to allocate the Leaving Collection from our Christmas Eve/Day Mass for the invaluable work supported by Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities provides much-needed funds to Hutt St Centre, Centacare, Catholic Family Services, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Our Lady of LaVang and St Patrick's special schools. These agencies play a significant role in bringing hope to people in need here in South Australia.

I encourage all of you to participate in the Christmas Mass collections and give what you can. Your contributions, regardless of size, will have a meaningful impact on those who rely on the support of Catholic Charities.

Anyone requiring a receipt needs to donate online or via the app.

Ministry Roster Weekend 30/31 December

Saturday 6.30 Mass

Commentator: Rod Hern

Readers: Jean Canil & Audrine Vaz

Extraordinary Minister: Hilda Cheah & Terence Cheah

Music: James Lloyd

Sunday 9:30am Mass

Commentator: Jos Hensing

Readers: Vin Thomas & Olivia Jins

Extraordinary Minister: Joe Colangelo & Malcolm Davies

Music:

Sunday 5:30pm Mass

Commentator: Jack Taylor

Readers: Susan Timpani & Nella Mathew

Extraordinary Minister: Doris Taylor & Maria Cid

Music:

Altar Linen

Marie

Counters

Charlie & Lyn

Church Cleaners

Team F: Mohan; Zammit; Adam Slater; Joe Caruana; Maria Cid

This Week's Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth.

I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he, a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29.

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**** From 2nd January until 5th January there will be no Mass, only a communion service. Thank you for your understanding. ****