

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 11 December 2011 – Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)

Third Sunday of Advent : Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

The **Prophet Isaiah** announces glad tidings to the dispirited and broken-hearted. God who is mighty does great things for us! God frees all those bound in physical, emotional and mental prisons. God is a faithful bridegroom who has not forgotten his beloved bride. God is a gardener who makes justice spring forth from the barren ground.

“Rejoice always and in all ways!” Paul entreats. As we await the Lord’s coming, we should never stop praying and giving thanks to God. The spirit invites us to grow and change, perfecting us in every way to make us a holy and *whole* people so that we can greet the Lord with joy when he comes.

John announces the glad tidings of the coming of the Lord. John is not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. He is simply a “voice” crying out in the wilderness: *“Prepare the way of the Lord!”* Like John, we are called to be messengers of good news. To a sad and weary world, we proclaim: *“My soul rejoices in God my Saviour”*.

For Reflection: Am I a messenger of good or bad news? In what ways can I bring joy to someone today?

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“Jesse” Giving tree: There is a tree at the back of the Church today with a variety of tabs describing what gifts are needed. The recipients of the gifts are homeless, or elderly, or children with mental difficulties from the local Child and Family Centre. I am inviting people to take a tab and when you are out Christmas shopping, perhaps you may be in a position to buy an extra gift for these persons. If so, by 17 December please bring your gift (wrapped) with description on it – so we know who to apply it to! Many thanks for your anticipated kindness and generosity. *Fr Tony*

December

Feasts/Memorials

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| Monday | 12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| Tuesday | 13 | St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr |
| Wednesday | 14 | St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor, Carmelite |
| Friday | 16 | Bl Mary of the Angels, Virgin, Carmelite |
| Saturday | 17 | Advent FERIA |

Pre-Marriage Procedure

If there are any couples planning to get married within the next year, it is very important they come and see Fr Tony or Fr Iain without delay so that marriage preparation and all the paperwork can be completed well in advance.

Christmas Gifts & Cards

Please note our Repository at the end of the Church has now got large stocks of religious Christmas cards, plus rosaries, statues and many other items suitable for gifts for your family and friends for Christmas. Please feel free to take a look round after Mass

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| Weekday Masses: | 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm |
| Saturday Masses: | 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>) |
| Sunday Masses: | 8.30am, 10.00am (<i>with Choir</i>) 11.00am Latin Choir 12.15pm, 6.00pm Young Adults Choir |
| Holy Day Masses | 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm |
| Bank Holiday Masses: | 9.00am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass) |
| Weekday Confessions: | 5.30-5.50pm - Priest on duty except 12 Noon-3pm |
| Saturday Confessions: | 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm |
| Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: | Fridays 6.30-7.30pm – for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Profession. |

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***Carol Concert in our Church in
Aid of the Catholic Children's Society***

You are all invited to our special **Carol Concert** in our Church this evening, starting at 7.00pm (immediately after the 6.00pm Mass), performed by singers from our Sunday Evening Choir, conducted by **Daniela Mirai**. There will also be some Christmas scripture readings by three excellent young Readers from the Parish., plus a special piece on harp by **Francesca Kaminski**. The performance will run for approximately one hour, following which you are all invited to the Refectory for some refreshments and mince pies. We hope as many of you as possible will come and support this event. Entrance is free but donations to the *Catholic Children's Society* will be gratefully accepted.

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Young Adults Monday Group

Our Monday Group will meet at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre tomorrow Monday 12 December. Their topic this week will be: "*Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son*" – Mary as Model Disciple. All young adults who come to our Church are welcome to join them. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt St.

Flowers for the Church for Christmas

Donations towards Flowers for the Church for Christmas will be gratefully accepted. Contributions may be handed in at Reception in an envelope marked "*Flowers for the Church*". *Thank you*

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Stamped with the Mark of Christ

The Society of St Paul writes: The Royal Mail should be praised for honouring the **Birth of Our Saviour** in its **Christmas Stamps** this year. The First and Second class stamps show *Jesus in the Arms of Mary*, and the *Angel appearing to Joseph*. The relevant biblical reference from Matthew's gospel is clearly given on each stamp. All Christians should ensure that they buy and use these stamps for their Christmas mail and also encourage their Christian friends and contacts to do so as well.

Children's Nativity Play on Sunday last, 4 December

Thanks to all the Catechism children who participated in the excellent **Nativity Play** held in the Parish Centre on Sunday last. A special thanks to the children's parents for their creativity and hard work, and for all who helped in any way. A superb performance by the children ! (Fr Iain)

A very Special Request

An invitation to children of the Parish to prepare a **Christmas Card** for our **Housebound Parishioners**, as a sign of care and togetherness at Christmas. Please feel free to use your imagination and creativity. The finished cards should be passed to Fr Iain who will take them to the housebound on the children's behalf. *Thank you very much.*

Notices

- * On Wednesday next 14 December, we celebrate the **Solemnity of St John of the Cross**, Priest & Doctor of the Church. Masses will be at the usual times: 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm.
- * All are invited to our **Holy Hour** with **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for *Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Profession*, on Friday next 16 December from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * On Sunday next 18 December, immediately after the 10 o'clock Mass we will have our monthly **Coffee Morning**, when you are invited downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.
- * Congratulations to **Mei Lee**, one of our parishioners, who performed in the Bach Choir last Thursday evening, in aid of *Action Medical Research*. Well done and a beautiful celebration

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Will Readers please collect their **Christmas Rota** as they leave after Mass today.