

PARISH BULLETIN
30 November 2025





WE REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

We pray for our faithful departed who have died recently and whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. We also join in prayer for those who are unwell or in need of extra prayers:

Thomas Kang, Fr John Pickering, Maria Louis, Manuel Amala, George Zarb, Sue Gersbach, Susajraj Vasantha, Theresraj & Sunitha

We invite you to share the names of those who are sick or in need of extra prayers by emailing the Parish Office

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st READING Isaiah 2:1-5:

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9: R.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

2nd READING Romans 13:11-14: The time has come, our salvation is near.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia! (Ps 84:8)

GOSPEL Matthew 24:37-44: Stay awake, you must be ready.

As we begin the first Sunday of Advent, we need to be aware of the journey of Advent. Just think of some of those we will meet in the weeks to come. A teenager from Nazareth running to meet her cousin. A couple expecting a child and traveling to Bethlehem. Wise men following a star halfway across the world to a place they never imagined or expected.

This is the story of all of us during this season of transition, this time of expectation and waiting. But while setting up the tree and decorations, we need to make time for an inner journey – a humble, prayerful exploration that can help us to greet not only the son of God in a stable, but the King of Kings when he arrives at the end of time.

Consider this: If we met him as a child in a stable, what would we have to say to him? Or if we saw him coming in glory, what do we think he would have to say to us?

Do we see him outside the walls of this church? Do we recognize him sitting on the steps of the railway station, with a cardboard sign saying "Help"?

Do we see him in the people who are restless or unhappy, or hurting and alone?

Do we see him in the people we love, and those who love us?

But this Advent, we can help change that. Heart by heart. Person by person.

We need to open our eyes. We need to take the journey. We need to be aware of God at work in our world.

That's where it begins. Those are the building blocks.

May we use them to welcome our saviour into our lives as a baby, as a king, as a brother.

Deacon Sam



IN OUR PARISH

Monday 1 December

1pm Rosary, **Leppington**,

Tuesday 2 December

9:30am Rosary on Zoom 5pm Devotions &

6pm Reconciliation &

Adoration

6:40 Evening Prayer &

Benediction

7pm Mass, Oran Park

Wednesday 3 December

8am Mass, Oran Park

Thursday 4 December

9.30am Rosary

10am Mass, Oran Park

Friday 5 December

9.30am Mass, Anointing of

the sick, Oran Park

6:30pm Praise & worship, Adoration, Oran Park

Saturday 6 December

4pm Reconciliation & 5pm Mass, Oran Park

Sunday 7 December

8am Mass, Leppington

8am Mass, Oran Park

10am Mass, Oran Park 5pm Mass, Oran Park

Chaldean Holy Mass 12:00noon Sunday

NEW to our Parish?

Whether you are here for the very first time, or have been here for a while, we would love to connect with you.

Please scan the QR

Code and a member of our Welcome Ministry

TAKE ME H



2026 SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR

Our Parish 2026 Youth Sacramental Calendar is now available on the Parish Website. Those families wishing to enrol their children in 2026 for RCIC, 1st Holy Communion or Confirmation are asked to visit the website and note when online enrolments will be available.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

Advent, like Lent, is a Season of the Church's year that invites us to be reconciled to God and to one another so that we can "prepare a way for the Lord".

To allow as many Parishioners as possible to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in preparation for Christmas, we will be holding the following sessions of Reconciliation:



Tuesday, 2 December: 6pm-6.45pm

Saturday, 6 December: 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday, 9 December: 6pm-6.45pm

Saturday, 13 December: 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday, 16 December : 5pm-6.45pm

Saturday, 20 December : 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday, 23 December: 5pm-6.45pm

ADVENT PROGRAM BOOK

Our Diocese has again produced a booklet for daily reflections for the upcoming seasons of Advent. Every household in the Parish is encouraged to have at least one copy of this booklet to use during advent season. Copies of these booklets can be purchased from the Welcome Table for \$5 each.

TURNING POINT CAMDEN - CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Our Parish this year will again be supporting clients of Turning Point with Christmas Hampers. Please collect one or more gift tags from the Welcome Table and return items to the designated crate over the next 2 weekends. Each gift tag has a nominated item so that each Hamper is the same for the many families supported by Turning Point. We thank you in advance for your gifts to support men, women and families experiencing hardship in our community at this special time of year. All items will need to be donated no later than Sunday, 7 December.

2025 ADVENT GROUPS

Advent Groups are an opportunity, as a member of our Parish, to gather in small groups to reflect on the Advent scriptures for the coming weekend, to share your faith, to pray and to 'get to know' fellow parishioners outside the context of the weekly Mass. A session usually runs for about 90 minutes and groups sometimes finish with a cuppa or supper.

Please sign up at the Welcome Table or contact the Host directly.



MARY MACKILLOP YOUNG ADULTS ADVENT GROUP

Come and join us for dinner, conversation, prayer and reflections in the Season of Advent.

WHO: Young Adults 18-35 years old.

WHEN: Sundays 6pm: 30 Nov to 21 Dec

WHERE: Penola Room at

St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park

To find out more and to register,

RSVP via bit.ly/AdventOP25

- hope to see you there!



RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)

Children 7 years and above who are not baptised or who have been baptised in a Christian church other than Catholic, are still able to make their 1st Reconciliation and/or 1st Holy Communion by taking part in our Parish RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children) program prior to enrolling in our 1st Reconciliation/1st Holy Communion preparation program. Those families interested in being a part of RCIC are asked to send an email to oranpark@dow.org.au. Enrolments for RCIC will be available on the Parish website from 2 Feb 2026.

3 DEC: ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Saints & Feast Days of the week

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope. From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malayans, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

4 DEC: ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

6 DEC: ST. NICHOLAS



The true story of SANTA CLAUS begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 if on the Julian Calendar). Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas life and deeds. These accounts help us

understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

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https://shalomworld.org/



WHAT IS RESTORATIVE REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE?

AIRRM is hosting an online webinar on Wednesday, 3 December at 7 pm AEST / 5 pm WST / 8 pm AEDST to explore restorative reproductive medicine. Register here:

https://www.airrm.org.au/community/eventrsvp/ For more information, visit www.airrm.org.au

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE DAY: OUR SOULS AND PRAYER

The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow invites everyone to our final Jubilee Pilgrimage Day. Taking place on Saturday, 6 December, the day begins with Mass at 10:00am, followed by the catechesis, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, and Benediction at 3:00pm. Please BYO lunch.

2025 Advent Retreat 9am - 5pm Sat 13 Dec 2025 at Holy Family Parish Ingleburn. Retreat Facilitator: Charbel Raish. Please contact the parish office or visit hfi.org.au

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAM



Program code: 3587

Bachelor of **Primary Education**

The University of Notre Dame Australia's Bachelor of Primary Education focuses on the characteristics, development and needs of primary school children and the knowledge, skills and experience you will need to teach them at an excellent standard. The degree includes extensive practical placement and the opportunity to select a specialisation to diversify your

Who is this program for?

Designed for those passionate about teaching children and fostering an enthusiasm for lifetiong learning, this degree will equip you with the skills, conflidence and knowledge to effectively teach primary-aged children in Catholic, independent and government schools in Australia and overseas.

Why study this degree at Notre Dame?

When you study a Bachelor of Primary Education at Notre Dame you

Study mode

Four years full time or equivalent

Available on our Fremantle and Sydney Campuses.

Available fully online through our



LEARN MORE

AROUND WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty. View the range of Global Gifts:

caritas.org.au/global-gifts. Answer: Besides God's Mercy there is no other source of hope for mankind -John Paul II

Advent Retreat - St Mary's Towers: 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park, 9:30am - 3:30pm Saturday 13 Dec 2025. Cost: \$60 (meals included).RSVP by 3dec: 0422725438orchristabelhoneysett@barnabasminist ries.org.au.

IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2026

When is it? 1-7 Jan for youth and young adults (14 years and up); 1-5 Jan for married couples and families (includes children's ministry)

Where is it? Armidale, NSW. to register visit www.immaculata.org.au/ims before 23 Dec.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAM

- ORAN PARK CAMPUS



Program code: 3058

Bachelor of Commerce

SCHOOL OF LAW & BUSINESS

Success in business requires an understanding of risks and opportunities and how to make effective decisions, even amid uncertainty and ambiguity.

Taught by a combination of experienced acade strong commercial and industry experience, our Bachelor of Commerce will equip you with the skillset you need to navigate those complexities and give excellent, ethical advice.

analytical skills required to succeed in today's modern business landscape

Who is this program for?

Whether you're considering a career in economics, human resource management, accounting, finance, marketing or management, a Bachelor of Commerce is an excellent starting point. With a diverse array of Majors to select from, graduates of this program enter the workforce equipped with a broad knowledge base, critical and ethical decision making skills and the ability to apply commerce disciplines to real-world situations.

Why study this program at Notre Dame?

With a focus on small class sizes and approachable teaching staff with a focus on small class sizes and approachable teaching starr, complemented by client-based projects and guest speakers, this degree combines both practical and theoretical components so that students gain a holistic appreciation and understanding of the business environment.

Study mode and duration

On campus. Three years full time or equivalent part tin

Program summary

- . Five compulsory business foundation
- · Eight additional business courses as a major
- · A compulsory internship course
- Eight other courses to form a second major or eight general elective courses
- Core Curriculum: Foundations of Wisdom and Core elective

Please see our website for detailed



APPLY NOW

Study primary education locally

Start your journey as a primary educator close to home by choosing the University of Notre Dame Australia to study your Bachelor of Primary Education.

In your first year

Take two courses at the Oran Park Study Centre and two courses at the Sydney Campus on Broadway. Each course has a lecture and a tutorial.

Our flipped learning model means lectures are prerecorded so you can watch them online at home or at the Study Centre with your peers before you come to your in-person tutorial

Courses at the Oran Park Study Centre are:

ills and Digital Literacy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence Sain essential skills in academic writing, communication and digital literacy while exploring safe, ethical and effective use of emerging technologies and Al as a future

nglish 1: Language, Learning and Literacy evelop a deep understanding of linguistic and cultural diversity to build a strong undation for an inclusive teaching practice, while gaining knowledge and skills to ontidently prepare for the national Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher ducation Students (LANTITE) exam in NSW.

Ready to start your journey? Enrol now at Notre Dame's Oran Park Study Centre

Why Oran Park?

- Local convenience Study close to home within your own community.
- Community connection Engage with local school systems to gain insight into classroom dynamic



EXPRESS YOUR

Commerce in your backyard

Start local, go global with commerce at the University of Notre Dame Australia

In your first year

- Commerce program (2+2 model): Two courses at the Oran Park Campus and two courses at the Broadway campus.
- Flipped learning model: Online lectures combined with in-person tutorials in Oran Park - featuring small group learning and pastoral support

Gain an understanding of market dynamics, inflation and how to interpret

Principles of management

Explore how organisations operate and how managers navigate decision-making using the VUCA framework

Accounting for business

Learn essential accounting skills to evaluate business performance, make informed decisions and understand how money flows through an organisation.

Principles of marketing

Develop practical skills in marketing strategy and discover how theoretical frameworks translate into real-world campaigns that influence consumer ehaviour and drive business impact.

Ready to start your journey? Apply now at Notre Dame's Oran Park Campus

Why Oran Park?



Pope's December prayer intention: 'For Christians in areas of conflict'

Pope Leo XIV releases his prayer intention for the month of December, and invites the faithful to pray that Christians living in the midst of war may be seeds of peace.

Cardinal Parolin: Pope a 'messenger o harmony, dialogue, peace in Middle East'

As Pope Leo XIV prepares to visit Türkiye and Lebanon, Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin emphasizes the importance of the Apostolic Journey for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, as well as his role as a sign of hope and peace.

Order of Malta Lebanon: Pope's visit offers message of support and hope

Oumayma Farah, Director of Development and Communications of the Order of Malta Lebanon, speaks to Vatican News about the dire humanitarian situation in the country and how the Pope's upcoming Apostolic Journey will bring a renewed sense of hope in the future.

Catholic universities network for a new humanism in an age of algorithms

At an international conference held in Salamanca, Spain, the themes of communication and artificial intelligence are tied to the mission and challenges faced by Catholic universities. The prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, Paolo Ruffini, notes that AI is a gift, but cannot replace human intelligence.

Over 300 students kidnapped from Catholic school in Nigeria

Gunmen stormed and kidnapped more than 300 students at a Catholic school in Nigeria. The United States and local Church have condemned the act, voiced deep concern, and Washington is considering sanctions.

After Mass on the Solemnity of Christ the King in St Peter's Square, Pope Leo makes a heartfelt appeal for the release of students and priests kidnapped in recent days in Nigeria and Cameroon.

Pope: 'Virtual connection' cannot replace human relationships

Pope Leo meets with some 160 men and women religious from the Union of Superiors General, encouraging them to make good use of the "extraordinary opportunities" offered by technology—so long as these don't come at the expense of human connection.

Only hope in Christ can give our lives meaning -



Pope Leo XIV at general audience on 26 Nov 2025

Thai Church launches urgent relief as historic floods devastate Hat Yai

The Catholic Church in Thailand has begun coordinating rapid relief efforts after days of historic rainfall inundated Hat Yai and nearby districts, triggering a widening state of emergency across the South.

60 years of Nostra Aetate:

from a seed of hope a great tree has grown

Participants from numerous countries and various religious traditions gathered at the international symposium "Nostra Aetate: 60 Years Later" held at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. Cardinal George Koovakad, Prefect of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and one of the speakers, emphasized that interreligious dialogue must receive greater attention on the international stage and that the spirit of Nostra Aetate remains essential for contemporary peacebuilding efforts.

Campaign to immunize children in Gaza underway

A catch-up immunization campaign is underway in Gaza to reach over 40,000 children under three who have missed routine vaccines due to two years of conflict.

Pope Leo: Choirs are called to be a sign of the Church's unity

On the Jubilee of Choirs, Pope Leo XIV celebrates Mass, urging choristers to live their ministry as a sign of ecclesial unity, singing "in unison" as a people walking together in faith. He notes that liturgical music must foster communion, helping the whole Church journey forward

Pope Leo to young people:

Technology can help us live our Christian faith

Pope Leo XIV meets online with over 15,000 teenagers gathered in Indianapolis, Indiana, and invites young Catholics to grow in friendship with Jesus Christ, use technology healthily to deepen their faith, and avoid using political categories to speak about the Church.

Two Italian priests martyred under Nazism in 1944 to be beatified. Two young priests killed in Nazi reprisals in Italy's Emilia Romagna region are to be beatified, following decrees promulgated on Friday, which included four new Venerables from Italy, Australia, and Brazil.

Pope asks for prayers ahead of visit to Türkiye and Lebanon.

Image: A billboard depicting Pope Leo XIV, ahead of his planned visit to Lebanon in Beirut



VIA VERITAS VITA

Have a faith based article to share? Please email 'LEO CATHOLICUS' at oranpark@dow.org.au

It's Time to get Ready for Christmas!

Advent is here! In a few weeks it will be Christmas, so it's time to start getting ready!

brighter it gets.

of? Trust in God to

protect you!

lendor of eternal ht, sun of justice me, shine on O Radiant Dawn.

Jesus' coming is like

the dawn after

a dark cold night.

e who dwell

darkness and e shadow of death

During Advent we remember "In um, Jesus' first coming, and get ourselves and our homes ready to celebrate His birthday. Lighting the candles on an Advent wreath

> helps us to remember that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. We start with one candle, and every week light one more, so that the closer we get to Jesus' coming the

In Advent we also think about Jesus' second coming. In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the people to be prepared for that time. We must never let ourselves forget that this world and this life are only temporary and that we have something much greater to

of your country!

O King of all nations 22 and keystone of the Church: come and save

man, whom you formed

from the dust!

Jesus is the

kindest king.

Serve Him

with joy!

look forward to: Jesus and Heaven!

In 2025, the four Sundays of Advent are as follows: November 30, December 7, December 14, and December 21. The final Sunday, December 21, represents the love of God and falls just before Christmas. First Sunday of Advent: November 30, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent: December 7, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent: December 14, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 21, 2025





KBOJIOG

CRYPTOGRAM: THE MORNING STAR

answer in the bulletin



Feast of Saint

The giver of every g

and perfect gift has called

giving..." St. Nicholas of Myn

Feast of

Saint Lucy

Thank God for the

Christmas

decorations you see!

Read the story of

David and Goliath!

O Key of David,

opening the gates of God's eternal

Kingdom: come

and free the prisoners of darkness!

Thank Jesus for

coming to save us!

Read or recite God's

Ten Commandments

Christmas

Dav!

Glory to God in

the highest!

1 25

Nicholas

Advent 2025

of the universe God has created!

high shall break upon us, to thing on those The dawn from on 24

One more day to

prepare your heart

and home for Jesus!



hymn!

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Emmanuel means

God is with us. His

birthday is in two

more days!