



St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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Sunday, 17 December 2017 Third Sunday of Advent – Year B



Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.” (Phil.4.4-5)

Christmas this year falls on a Monday, and then perhaps some might be tempted to ask whether a person might fulfil the obligations to attend Mass on Sunday and Christmas by means of attending just one Mass, on Sunday evening.

Hopefully not many Catholics are so miserly with their time, so misplaced in their priorities, so ungenerous in their discipleship and so negligent in their Church membership responsibilities that they would seek to minimise the time they “have to” spend in worship. But just in case you know somebody who may wish to, the short answer is “no”.

Two obligations = two Masses.

The obligation to attend Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent 2017 is fulfilled by attending any Mass celebrated on Saturday evening 23rd or Sunday 24th, including a Sunday evening Mass (even if the prayers and readings are for Christmas not for the Sunday). The obligation to attend Mass for Christmas 2017 is fulfilled by attending any Mass on Sunday evening or on Monday 25th. A person cannot fulfil both obligations by attending only one Mass over the period from Saturday evening to Monday night.

The following weekend will be simpler: New Year’s Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation in Australia.

Some people complain that the Church has rules and obligations. They forget that the Church is a Mother, and by wholesome discipline empowers her children to grow in faith and grace. I think that if only everyone in the Church paid more attention to the “rules” there would be much more joy and far less damage to vulnerable souls.

May your week be joyful!

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

Liturgy...

Is 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**The word of the Lord.
Response: Thanks be to God!**

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R)**
 2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R)**
 3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R)**
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Liturgy...

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you. Amen

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God!



Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!



Liturgy...

Gospel Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!



CATHEDRAL CLERGY

*Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
Father Donald Richardson, Dean
Father Brendan Purcell
Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo
Father Pierluigi Passoni*

CATHEDRAL STAFF

*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan
Thomas Wilson – Director of Music
Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys
Cathedral Precinct*

A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2

Weekend Mass	Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12noon Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass
Weekday Mass	Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised)
Reconciliation	Monday-Friday: 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm Saturday 11.30am- 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
Vespers (Evening Prayer)	Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm; Sunday 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacraments)

****COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.