MINISTRY ROSTER - DECEMBER & JANUARY

Please see the roster for the month of Dec/Jan. If you cannot attend your rostered day, please see Fr Bernie or call 9369 9328.

16 - 17 December (Week 3)				
Ministry	**6pm Vigil**	**8.30am**	**10.00am**	**6.00pm**
Altar Serving	Barry Blake	Anthony Spratt	Celina Seeto Christian Abruzzese	-
Proclaimer of Word	Margaret Blake	Anne Fahy	Annabella Abruzzese	Elizabeth Rosa
Euch Minister	Barry Anderson	Fran Laura Neeson	Tony Abruzzese Alison Abruzzese	Katy Smith
Hospitality	Clare Cinhvu	Phyllis Spratt Laura Neeson	Jackie Durkin Eddie Seeto	Kathy Reilly
23 - 24 December (Week 4)				
Ministry	**6pm Vigil**	**8.30am**	**10.00am**	**6.00pm**
Altar Serving	Barry Blake	Anthony Spratt	Celina Seeto	-
Proclaimer of Word	Margaret Blake	Sally Crane	Des Durkin	Sally Crane
Euch Minister	Cameron Ward	Gaye Zammit Michelle Byrne	Genevieve Roberts Gisella Musumeci	Joy Pertile
Hospitality	Warren	Margaret Duncan Michelle Byrne	Laura Neeson Eddie Seeto	Kathy Reilly
30 - 31 December (Week 5)				
Ministry	**6pm Vigil**	**8.30am**	**10.00am**	**6.00pm**
Altar Serving	Barry Blake	Anthony Spratt	Celina Seeto	-
Proclaimer of Word	Margaret Blake	Bernadette O'Connor	Genevieve Roberts	Peter Foley
Euch Minister	Vincent Conroy	Kevin Brookes Margaret Kelly	Laura Neeson Jackie Durkin	Elizabeth Rosa
Hospitality	Clare Cinhvu	Phyllis Spratt Grainne Tierney-Reed	Jackie Durkin Eddie Seeto	Katy Smith
6 - 7 January (Week 1)				
Ministry	**6pm Vigil**	**8.30am**	**10.00am**	**6.00pm**
Altar Serving	Barry Blake	Anthony Spratt	Celina Seeto Christian Abruzzese	-
Proclaimer of Word	Margaret Blake	Trisha Brookes	Bianca Abruzzese	Mary McCafferty
Eucharist Minister	Barry Anderson	Fran Laura Neeson	Dominic Abruzzese Eddie Seeto	Miriam Wairau
Hospitality	Warren	Laura Neeson Margaret Duncan	Laura Neeson Eddie Seeto	Kathy Reilly

Julia Lynch
Travel Agent
T 9387 8954 or 0430 822 556
E julia.lynch@travelcounsellors.com.au
www.travelcounsellors.com.au/julia.lynch
travel counsellors

Duckmaloi Farm
The High Country Farmstay!
www.duckmaloifarm.com.au

Unique holiday escape experience in spectacular countryside.
Close to the world famous Jenolan Caves, Kanangra-Boyd National Park, Bathurst and Lithgow.
Book for School Holidays now!
www.duckmaloifarm.com.au

Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO

Waverley Parish will be a sign of God's love for all people by being a welcoming and caring community which embraces the Gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We walk on a land once occupied by the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B — 16 – 17 December 2017

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today we light our third candle – the candle of Joy. Our focus changes slightly with our third candle being rose coloured to remind us that we are on a pilgrimage of reflection and joy. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas. As our focus intensifies so this week do the prayers we pray as we light our candles. ***The response you are invited to pray is in bold italics…***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

Week by week, the light grows stronger and brighter, as we anticipate the coming Christ.
The candles of Hope and Preparation are already ablaze.
Today, we light the candle of Joy.

We excitedly anticipate the coming of the Mighty One. The promise of healing, comfort, liberty, and freedom is good news that is meant to be shared!
Rejoicing in the mercy and justice of our Lord, we kindle this flame. Together, we lift our hearts and voices in songs of joy.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-2. 10-11
Our guidance comes from God's Spirit
The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
The Word of the Lord ***Thanks be to God***

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: LUKE 1:46-50. 53-54
My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
Henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on all those who fear him.
He fills the starving with good things,
Sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,

FOR 8:30AM & 10AM SUNDAY MASS
My soul rejoices in the Lord, and magnifies his name

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24
The fervent spirit of the early Christians
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.
The word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God***

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8. 19-28
John's testimony to Jesus
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor. Alleluia

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

A NOTE FROM FR BERNIE

In a spirit of joyful service

Today's readings are brimful of joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth. This is not a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed – words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose – just as they should also be made real in the life of every Christian. So as we get closer to receive with Joy the Christ-child into our lives once again, let us remember to constantly strive to live in the hope of faith as we serve one another with joy.

Blessings, Fr Bernie

Adapted from https://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/2017/12/17-december-2017-3rd-sunday-of-advent/

WEEKDAY READINGS

Mon 18 Dec	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Matthew 1:18-24
Tues 19 Dec	Judges 13:2-7. 24-25	Luke 1:5-25
Wed 20 Dec	Isaiah 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Thu 21 Dec	Song of Songs 2:8-14	Luke 1:39-45
Fri 22 Dec	1 Samuel 1:24-28	Luke 1:46-56
Sat 23 Dec	Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24	Luke 1:57-66

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16	Psalm: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29
Romans 16:25-27	Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

WORKING BEE

Thank you to all who came on Saturday to help spring clean the inside and outside of the Church and Parish Centre. We could not have done this without your help!

REFLECTION

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. In this week's Gospel, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

FURTHER REFLECTION

In contrast to last week's text on John the Baptist, this one comes from the last of the written gospels. The Gospel of John was penned at the very end of the first century. One common characteristic, however, is clear: the Baptist is again presented as the forerunner. John the Baptist rejects all messianic or quasi-messianic titles. He throws human expectation into chaos. He claims for himself only the role of the 'voice' of Isaiah 40, but the evangelist presents him as the most reliable of witnesses, 'Sent by God … to speak for the light'. The only other person in John's Gospel to come from God is Jesus himself. Before an audience of the leaders of the religion of Israel, John witnesses with an authority and a truthfulness that has its source in God.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the early years, there was rivalry between the disciples of John the Baptist and of Jesus. This gospel makes it clear that John does not see himself as a rival to Jesus but as a witness to him. It is Jesus who is the one sent from God.
- The quote from Isaiah comes from a section of his Book which is addressed to the people in Exile in Babylon in the sixth century BC. It is designed to bring comfort and promises that, when the paths are made straight, the Lord will be revealed.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again from the dead,
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty,
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 9:15am

Saturday: 9:15am, 9:45 - 10:15am
Reconciliation & 6pm Vigil

Sunday: 8:30am, 10am & 6pm

Parish Centre

45A Victoria Street,
Waverley NSW 2024
www.waverleycatholic.org.au

P (02) 9369 9399 **F** (02) 9389 2073
E office@waverleycatholic.org.au
Office Hours: 9am - 3pm
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri

Parish Priest
Fr Bernie Thomas OFM
P (02) 9369 9328
E parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au

Pastoral Coordinator
Mr Barry Blake

Music Director
Kurt Ison

Parish Secretary
Carla Korkor
P (02) 9369 9399
E office@waverleycatholic.org.au

Local Schools

St Charles' Parish Primary School
53-63 Carrington Road, Waverley
P (02) 9387 3845
W https://stcwaverley.catholic.edu.au
School Principal
Ms Hilary Cameron

St Clare's College, Waverley
41-51 Carrington Road, Waverley
P (02) 8305 7100 **F** (02) 9389 3503
W https://stclares.nsw.edu.au/
School Principal
Ms Antoinette McGahan

Waverley College, Senior Campus
131 Birrell Street, Waverley &
P (02) 9369 0600
W https://waverley.nsw.edu.au/
Head of College
Mr Graham Leddie

Waverley Junior School
44 Henrietta Street, Waverley
P (02) 9387 5022
W https://waverley.nsw.edu.au/
Director of Junior School
Mr Anthony Banboukjian

LET US PRAY FOR…

Those who are sick: Nicola Jarman, Margaret Jones, Teresa Wong, Terry Dodds, Damian Johnson, Larraine Ladd-Hudson, Maria Alves, Joanne Macrae, Audrey Moran, Catherine Davis, Sr Francis Murphy osc, William Beaudoin, Denis Lindsay, Albert Miu, Jett Jarvis, Grazia Mafodda, Ana Letec, Helene Beazley, Wayne Townson, Dick See, Jessica Amelia, Behan Kahler, Kathleen Schlink, Bob Lloyd, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Stan Vesper, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Kiely, Ann Thomas (Fr Bernie's Mum), Gary Shipton, Kim Roper, Br Stan Cusack, Joan Roberts, Hernan Enrique Caceres, Veronica Chavez, Maria Sol Montel, Veronica Rodriguez, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Carolina Silvia Brizuela Perez, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Joan Dunsmore, Patricia Byrne, James Town, Alex Georgeandis, James Elliott, Alice Chapman; Barry Blake

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Maria Abruzzese, Elizabeth O'Connor, Stephen O'Connor, Allan Smith, Anthony (Tony) Roper, John Ashton,

Those recently baptised: Christian Wilson, Henry Ashton, Molly Ashton, Gabriel Collins

Those recently married: Zina Allami & Milad Sahyouri

Those recently deceased: John Gannon

NEWS AND NOTICES

RECONCILIATION RITE II SERVICE
Wednesday, 20 December @ 7pm
As a community we will prepare ourselves for the great gift of the birth of Christ but spending time in prayer and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please come along and celebrate together the gift of God's mercy and peace.

FRANCISCAN PARISHES PILGRIMAGE
The date for our pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi is for departure on 21st May 2018 and returning to Sydney on 3rd June. The trip will include 6 full days in Rome with guided tours around all the major pilgrimage sites and then 3 nights/2 full days in Assisi. Start saving - approx. cost around $3,500 including airfares.

CATHOLICCARE'S NDIS THERAPY
We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential. We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney. For more information, contact our friendly Careline team on 13 18 19.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday, 24 December
8:30am Moring Mass
10:00am Family Mass
6:00pm Christmas Children's Mass
Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday, 25 December
9:00am Mass & no evening Mass

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL
The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has been an outstanding success. There were more than 20,000 registrations and the young people participated with joy and enthusiasm in the prayers, workshops, plenaries and general activities.
The Closing Mass was very well attended by festival participants and by parishioners of Sydney. It was a beautiful celebration with the Archbishop of Sydney, 29 Bishops of Australia, 200 priests and 15,000 in the congregation. The Festival was an extraordinary achievement for our Archdiocese and the support of the priests and parishioners is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who gave up their time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to make it such a special event.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Carla, the Parish Secretary will be away from Monday, 25 December 2017 to Monday, 15 January 2018, returning Tuesday 16 January 2018. The Parish Office will be closed during this time, as Fr Bernie will also be away from 2 January to 11 January. If the matter is urgent, please contact Fr Bernie on (02) 9369 9328 or parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au before he leaves on 2 January otherwise Carla will attend to your email when she is back in the office on Tuesday, 16 January.