

Parish Office Hours: Revised Hours during Holiday Season

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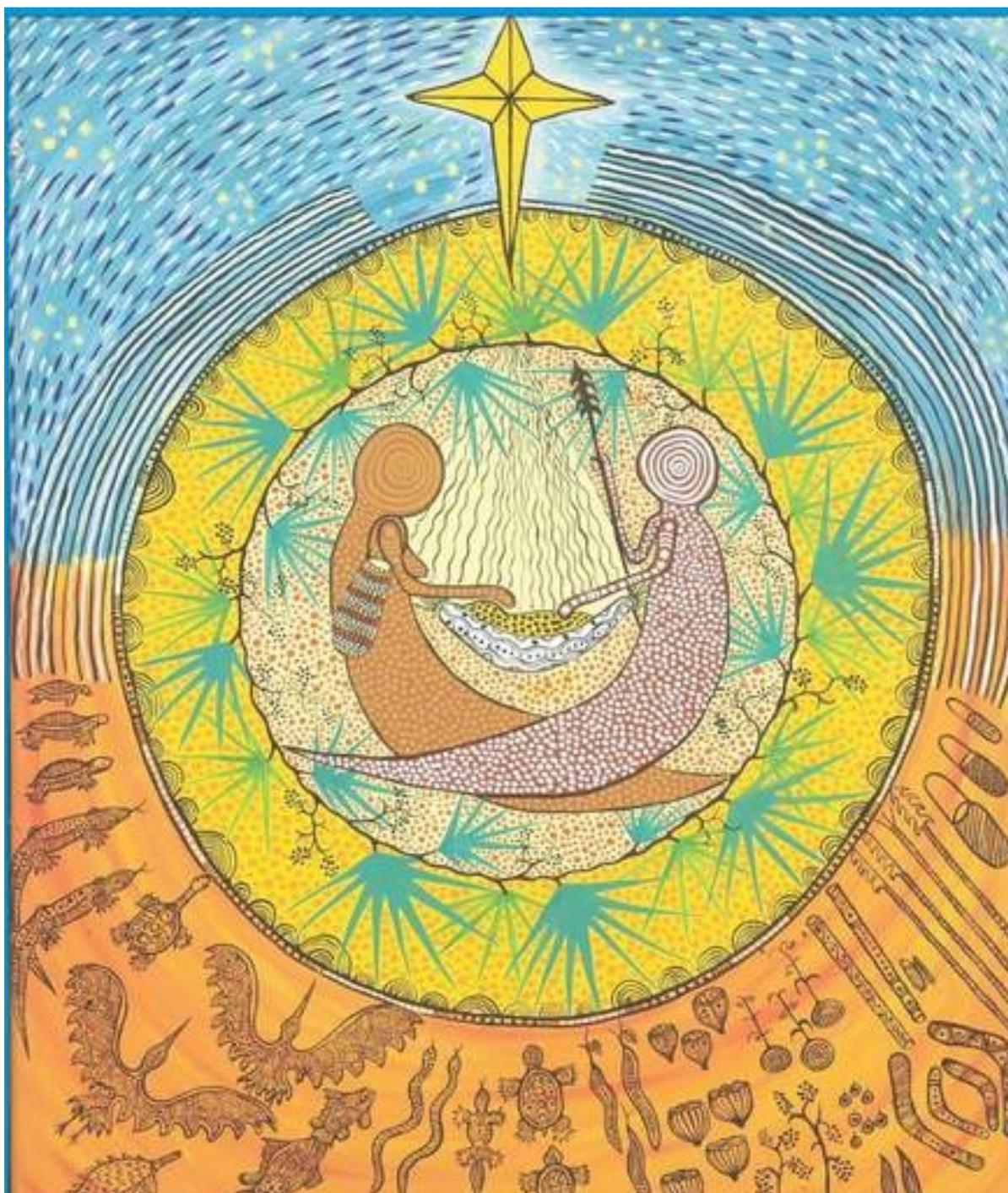
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NATIVITY OF THE LORD



© 'Bright Star' by Grace Kumbi (from *Our Mob, God's Story*, Bible Society Australia 2017)

The Catholic Community of City South acknowledge the Gadigal People, the traditional custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation of this land.

Fr Paul Smithers | Parish Priest | Follow on *Instagram & Twitter:*

@frpaulsydney

Sr Rosemary Mitchell RSJ Pastoral Associate

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

PARISHES OF CITY SOUTH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: Sr. Vianney Hatton.

Death Anniversaries: Fr Terence Purcell (19 Dec); Moya Veronica Banfield (22 Dec); John Agnel D'Souza (26 Dec).

Those who are sick: Marlic Erland; Ana Lucia Solorzano; Dalila Quinatoa; Luis Chin; Mary Cunney; Joan Kenny; Abrelita Aguillar; Rosemary Cooley; Pat Frost; Helen Abbey; Joan Buist; and all the housebound.

Remembered in the Masses and names recorded at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mt Carmel: Joseph Mizzi; Chiu Kue Hock; Lourdes Chiu; Tessie Chiu; Delfin Basilio; Alexis Espino; Charlie & Carmen Vassallo; Arthur & Janice Gray; Ethel & George Gray; Bill & Pat Clarke; Sydney & Violet Green; Arthur & Edna Dennett; John & Eileen Dennett; Hazel Holly; Arthur and Rose Dennett; Carmen Bonello; Bonello Family; Bill, Muriel and Marc Wickert; Shirley Turner; Sr Patricia Wilkinson; Anna, Stanley & Jim Atkins; Therese & Alfred Scerri; Margaret & Joseph Fenech; Isabel Fenech; Joseph & Rose Lia; Robert Clarke; Jay Rosenstraus. All Souls, especially those that have no one to pray for them; All Souls of the Unborn.

Birthdays: Kath Atkins (23 Dec); Manuel Lascano (24 Dec); Wil Jackson (25 Dec); Cornell Harjanto, Dulce Burqhei (26 Dec); Wayne Lobo, Alice Balbi (27 Dec).

Wedding Anniversary: Laura & Greg Foster (27 Dec).

If you would like your name included in this section please email the parish office.

For Mass offerings, please use the envelopes available on the notice tables.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

(electronic transfers only):

Thank you for your contributions towards our Parishes.

Rosebery

Account Name: Rosebery Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 053 750 02

Redfern

Account name: Redfern Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 208 450 00

Waterloo

Account name: Waterloo Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 062 750 01

The Tap N Go facility is an alternate way of giving to the 2nd Collection. It is not a payment to enter the Church. We thank those who use this facility and remind you that the funds go to 2nd Collection which is for the upkeep of the Church and administration expenses. Please continue to give to the 1st Collection plate which supports the Priests.

Morning Tea at Redfern

Sunday 29 December after 11am Mass.

Morning Tea at Rosebery

Sunday 2 February after 9.30am Mass.

Modified Weekday Mass Times

December 26 2019 - 11 January 2020

Thursday 26 December - No Mass

Friday 27 December - No Mass

Tuesday 31 December 5pm Waterloo

Wednesday January 1, 2020

9.00am Rosebery

Thursday 2 January - No Mass

Friday 3 January - No Mass

Saturday 4 January - No Morning Mass

Tuesday 7 January - No Mass

Wednesday 8 January - 9.00am Rosebery

Thursday 9 January - 9.00am Rosebery

Friday 10 January - No Mass

Monday 13 January - Friday 17 January

No weekday Masses

The Parish Office hours during Holiday Season will be:

Mon 23 Dec 10am - 2pm, Tue 24 - Thu 26 Dec closed,

Fri 27 Dec 10am - 2pm, Tue 31 Dec 10am - 2pm,

Wed 1 Jan Closed, Thu 2 & Fri 3 Jan 10am - 1pm,

Tue 7 Jan to Fri 10 Jan 10am - 1pm.

Normal Office hours resume Tuesday 14 January 2020

Dear friends,

St Paul tells Titus in our Christmas reading that Jesus Christ came into our world with a simple message, “The kindness and love of God our saviour was revealed” at His birth and through his life among us. Remember Jesus Christ was born into a similar world of his time where the concerns we might have in 2019 were similar at the time of his birth. We offer the same message as Paul, it is no different and will scatter the darkness when we open up our hearts and minds to the message Christ has brought to us. Keeping this in mind, remember the moments in life where those moments of darkness were scattered by the kindness and love of someone when you least expected it. The beauty and splendour of God revealed to us through the life of others.



The light of Christmas, whether with brilliant sunshine or candles encourages an attitude of gratefulness, with hearts full of gratitude for all the blessings received. Christmas encourages an attitude of listening to the whisperings of the longings, sadness's, hopes and joys of our families, friends and those on the margins.

Christmas also marks the second anniversary of our Catholic Community of City South established just before Christmas 2017. This year we also gave thanks for the 160th anniversary of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Waterloo. Archbishop Fisher OP celebrated Mass in August to mark the occasion (see picture). I am thankful to those in Redfern who support the poor and marginalised in many humble ways. There is much to be grateful for and to thank God as we strive to continue to be daring in building the Kingdom of God in Rosebery, Redfern and Waterloo.

Drawing on our long tradition of care and concern particularly for supporting families I announced in August the construction of a new Child Care Service at Rosebery. The timing of this is subject to approvals by local authorities.

With the departure of Fr Wills Melteras during the year, I was informed that no other priest was available for appointment as assistant priest. This meant the consolidation of Mass times with the new Sunday Mass schedule starting in October. I'm happy to report that attendance at Mass continues to be strong over the three locations.

I am making available for comment plans for important renovation work to be carried out at the Rosebery church. This renovation includes work to comply with the Archdiocese of Sydney policy on the space for confession as well as improving the liturgical furniture in accordance with canon law. The church will also install a ramp to the sanctuary in compliance with national standards for public buildings and the Decree from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference regarding greater accessibility for people with mobility issues to participate more fully in liturgical celebrations (on Sunday but in the event of funerals, wedding etc). Based on the 2018 community survey and focus groups there will also be a 24 hour Adoration chapel constructed at the back of the church. The space underneath the church will be refreshed as parish administration and community space. I welcome your feedback on the proposals for Rosebery. The timing of this work is subject to further liturgical and architectural advise and other approvals.

I also announced this year that I have entered into an agreement with Sydney Catholic Schools to allow for the development of the Eileen O'Connor Hall and old Convent at Waterloo which would allow for increased capacity for the school. The timing of this will be subject to a site masterplan which SCS will develop in conjunction with me over the coming year. I will present concepts to the community when they are available. This will also enable the parish to look at urgent maintenance work to be done on the Waterloo church. This is subject to the appropriate Archdiocesan approvals process for repairs.

I wish to acknowledge some people who have collaborated with me closely this year:

- ◆ Sr Rosemary Mitchell RSJ who has been an outstanding pastoral associate and supported me in my role as Pastor with loyalty and great energy,
- ◆ Mr Steve Lemos who finishes as Acting Principal of OLMC School Waterloo,
- ◆ Maria Awad is more than just a parish secretary, she is my PA, bursar, ideas person, organiser and so much more,
- ◆ the Emmanuel Community for the energy and youthfulness they bring to our evangelisation efforts
- ◆ Jenny Carter who coordinates the Meal at Redfern on Friday
- ◆ All parishioners who volunteered for a ministry.
- ◆ Everyone who has chosen the Catholic Community of City South their spiritual home.

This year I also introduced the compulsory safeguarding requirements for everyone involved in any type of ministry in our Community. The Royal Commission recommended many steps to be taken by the Church to make our parishes, schools and institutions a safer place. I thank those who have cooperated with these requirement.

During my holidays in October I visited Fr June Ongart OMI who is parish priest at Our Lady of Lourdes Phetchabun, Thailand. In conversation with him I was moved by the faith of his people but shocked by how they struggle to make ends meet. A portion of the 2nd collection at Christmas will be offered to the parish of Phetchabun for their spiritual and material needs.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas and joyful 2020

Handwritten signature of Fr Paul Smithers.

Fr Paul Smithers, KHS



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah Is 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

Second Reading St Paul to Titus Ti 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke Lk 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

*'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'*