

"**Evangelii Gaudium**" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), released by the Vatican Nov. 26, 2013 is an **apostolic exhortation**, one of the most authoritative categories of papal document. (Pope Francis' first encyclical, "Lumen Fidei," published in July, was mostly the work of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI.)... Pope Francis writes that an "evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" -- and its emphasis on some of his themes, including the dangers of economic globalization and "spiritual worldliness." The church's message "has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary," he writes. "In this basic core, what shines forth is the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead." Inspired by Jesus' poverty and concern for the dispossessed during his earthly ministry, Pope Francis calls for a "church which is poor and for the poor." The poor "have much to teach us," he writes. "We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voices to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them." Charity is more than mere handouts, "it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor," the pope writes. "This means education, access to health care, and above all employment, for it is through free creative, participatory and mutually supportive labour that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives."... He emphasizes that the church's concern for the vulnerable extends to "unborn children, the most defenceless and innocent among us," whose defence is "closely linked to the defence of each and every other human right."... The pope writes that evangelization entails peacemaking, among other ways through ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. He "humbly" calls on Muslim majority countries to grant religious freedom to Christians, and enjoins Catholics to "avoid hateful generalizations" based on "disconcerting episodes of violent fundamentalism," since "authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Quran are opposed to every form of violence." ...Returning to a theme of earlier statements, the pope also warns against "spiritual worldliness, which hides behind the appearance of piety and even love for the church, (but) consists in seeking not the Lord's glory but human glory and personal well-being," either through embrace of a "purely subjective faith" or a "narcissistic and authoritarian elitism" that overemphasizes certain rules or a "particular Catholic style from the past." (CNS)

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1st Dec 2013 (C)

1ST SUNDAY of ADVENT

1ST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

2ND READING: Romans 13:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Apts)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS:

By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat Vigil: †Vincent Hayes

Sun 8am: †Tony Demanuele

Sun 9:30am: Pro Populo

Mon 7:30am: Willie Keogh (special int)

OUR SICK: *Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Alan Sargeant. Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari Joy Williams, Moira Butler and Domenico Cirillo...*

Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.

★ Anointing Masses will be held this weekend of 30th Nov / 1st Dec. ★

Happy Birthdays to: Hae Jung Kim (30th) and Erica Widjaja (3rd).

We welcome the following children and their families to their Baptisms this weekend at the 9:30am Mass:

★ **Samantha Sicha McHugh** ★ **Ember Stasia Morrison**
★ **Caitlyn Sophia Ranoso**

Congratulations to Tanya and Terence Killalea on their 50th Wedding Anniversary (30th Nov 1963).

Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to **Lily and Annabel Chong** on the passing of their dearly beloved husband/father, **Aloysius.**

Requiem Mass will be celebrated in our Parish on **Wed 4 Dec at 10am.**

★**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** will be held next weekend (7/8 Dec). Please use the specially printed envelopes in the pews for your donations. Thank you.

★ **Parish School News: 1) Class Mass: Fri 6 Dec:** Kindy. 2) **Family Mass:** Sat 7 Dec: Yrs 3 & 4. 3) **Last day of Term:** 19 Dec.

★**Reminder: Faith formation class on "Catholicism – the Journey of a Lifetime"** will be held on this Sun 1st Dec from 3:30 to 4:30pm in the presbytery.

☛**Youth Summer Schools of Evangelisation 2014.** Week long retreat for young people wanting to grow in faith and share the Christian challenge with others. Theme: "Alive in the Spirit" will be held at 2 locations in NSW – **Bathurst (5-12 Jan)** and **Paterson (12-19 Jan).** For more details, visit www.summerschool.org.au.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) Yrs K- 2 Parents (R) F Doherty, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: J Heaney (A) P Tjugito, A Burke (R) P Chen, R Houghton (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, D Tjahjadi (R) C Findlay (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) Yrs 3-4 Parents(R) G Hage, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: J Heaney (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) E Widjaja, H Widjaja (R) I Tjahjadi (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counter:** J De Andrade



In Catholic tradition, the most popular colours for the Advent candles are violet and rose, corresponding with the colours of the liturgical vestments for the Sundays of Advent. In the Western church, Violet is the historic liturgical colour for three of the four Sundays of Advent: Violet is the traditional colour of penitential seasons. Rose is the colour for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday from the Latin word meaning "to rejoice"--also from the first line of the traditional entrance prayer (called the Introit) for the Mass of the third Sunday of Advent. Rose-coloured vestments are used on Gaudete Sunday, as a pause to the penitential spirit of Advent.

THE STORY OF THE JESSE TREE

Jesse was the father of the great King David of the Old Testament. He is often looked upon as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. In Church art a design developed showing the relationship of Jesus with Jesse and other biblical personages. This design showed a branched tree growing from a reclining figure of Jesse. The various branches had pictures of other Old and New Testament figures who were ancestors of Jesus. At the top of the tree were figures of Mary and Jesus. This design was used mostly in stained glass windows in some of the great medieval cathedrals of Europe. The Cathedral of Chartres (which was dedicated in 1260) has a particularly beautiful Jesse Tree window. Another development in religious art during the Middle Ages was that of Mystery Plays—drama that depicted various Bible stories or lives of Saints and Martyrs. These plays were performed in churches as part of the liturgical celebrations. One such play was based on the Bible account of the fall of Adam and Eve. The "Tree of Life" used during the play was decorated with apples. (Quite possibly this is also the forerunner of our own Christmas tree.) Combining the two ideas of the stained glass Jesse Tree window and the Tree of Life from the Mystery Play we come up with our Jesse Tree Advent project. This custom has been used for years to help Christians to prepare for Christmas.



The Jesse tree represents Jesus' family tree. The name is taken from Isaiah 11:1, in which Jesus is referred to as a shoot coming up from the stump of Jesse, the father of David. The ornaments on the Jesse tree tell of Jesus' ancestors, and of the events leading to Jesus' birth.



Thank you to Norma Cook for sponsoring 10 "Daily Mass Books 2014"

Tuesday 3 Dec. is International Day of People with a Disability. This year, the theme is "Break barriers and open doors: to realise an inclusive society for all!" Visit www.catholic.org/disability for 3 beautiful videos which may be used for a time of reflection. We are thankful for this wonderful opportunity to reflect on the great gift of our brothers and sisters who have a disability and strive to be a more welcoming and inclusive Church for them and their families.