

Advent precedes Christmas. It begins on the Sunday nearest November 30, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and covers four Sundays. Because the day it begins changes from year to year, so does the length of each Advent season. In 2014, Advent begins on November 30. The word advent, from Latin, means “the coming.” For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. Even as the Christmas season has become more secular-with advertisers urging holiday gift-givers to buy and buy some more-Advent still brings joy and the observance of ancient customs. Christian families find quiet moments lighting candles in the Advent wreath, and children use Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas. Advent has probably been observed since the fourth century. Originally, it was a time when converts to Christianity were preparing for baptism. During the



Middle Ages, Advent became associated with preparation for the Second Coming. Many Christians still view Advent as a season to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus. In the last fifty years, however, it has also come to be thought of as a time of anticipating the Nativity, on Christmas Day. Advent wreaths have their origins in the folk traditions of northern Europe, where in the deep of winter people lit candles on wheel-shaped bundles of evergreen. Both the evergreen and the circular shape symbolized ongoing life. The candlelight gave comfort at this darkest time of the year, as people looked forward to the longer days of spring. An advent wreath traditionally contains four candles-three purple and one rose. The three purple candles in the Advent wreath symbolize hope, peace, and love. These candles are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The rose candle, which symbolizes joy, is usually lit on the third Sunday. Sometimes a fifth candle is placed inside the Advent wreath. This candle is lit on Christmas Day. It is white, the colour associated with angels and the birth of Jesus.



Cardinal Robert Sarah of Guinea has been appointed the new head for the Vatican congregation that oversees and determines the liturgical practices of the Catholic Church world wide.

On Tuesday, after a break of more than a quarter-century, another pope, Francis, returned here to the EU Parliament



with a grimly diagnosis. Europe, he declared, has lost its way, its energies sapped by economic crisis and a remote, technocratic bureaucracy. It is increasingly a bystander in a world that has become “less and less Eurocentric,” and that frequently looks at the Continent “with aloofness, mistrust and even, at times, suspicion...”



“The time has come for us to abandon the idea of a Europe which is fearful and self-absorbed,” the pope added.

## St Michael's Catholic Church

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 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.  
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30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2014 (B)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64-1.3-8

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** 1Corinthians 1:3-9

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

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

**GOSPEL:** St Mark 13:33-37

Please buy The Catholic Weekly and help WYD 2016 pilgrims with 30 cents of each \$2.



### **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 Hostel)

### **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: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

### **1<sup>ST</sup> 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:** †Aloysius & Anthony Chong      **Sun 8am:** †Antonio Cavaco  
**Sun 9:30am:** †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera  
**Sun 5pm:** Pro Populo      **Mon:** Thanksgiving  
**Tue:** Special Intention      **Wed:** Intentions of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor  
**Fri:** for Sr. Pat

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant

**Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – waiting list available. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 for further details.**

**Happy Birthdays to: Heatherbelle Hazelton (7<sup>th</sup>) & Rose Houghton (9<sup>th</sup>)**

We welcome Heston Leonard Folkard, his sister, Georgia Patricia and family members to their Baptisms this Sunday.

**SVDP Christmas Appeal: Next weekend.** Please use the specially printed envelopes for your donations and put them on the collection plates. Thank you.

**ANOINTING MASSES will be held next weekend: 6 / 7 Dec.**

☛ **Parish School: 1) Family Mass: Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec: Yrs 5&6. 2) End of year Mass: Thur 11<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 9am.**

☛ Please pray for 30 of our Parish children who will be making their **Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm. Grateful thanks and deep appreciation to Anne Slattery, Principal and Staff of our Parish School, Catechists and parents/caregivers for your spiritual guidance and support.**

☛ **Carols in the Chapel** at OLSH Convent, Kensington on Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm.

☛ **Xt3 2014 Advent Calendar and free App now available:** View at [www.xt3.com/advent](http://www.xt3.com/advent) or search "xt3 Advent" in the Google Play or App Store.

**WYD 2016 CAR BOOT SALE**  
**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec at CEO carpark from 8am to 2pm.** To book a car space, ring Patricia on 0409 718 665.



**Parish X'mas Party Sat 20 Dec**  
 in the church grounds after the Vigil Mass. Please bring your picnic blanket and baskets. Coffee/tea and sausage sizzle provided by the parish.

**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) M Butler, V Hage (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) A Burke, M Wells (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) H Evening, K Wong (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) N & L Jenner (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Haggar, M Wells



### May He Rest In Peace

Tony Abbott, Prime Minister, described Phillip Hughes as a "young man living out his dream," adding: "It's a very sad day for cricket and a heartbreaking day for his family. "For a young life to be cut short playing our national game seems a shocking aberration."

**2 Tim 4:7** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Looking to get more out of your summer? Why not come along to the annual iWitness Conference for young adults! As the year draws to a close, hundreds of young Catholics will come together for a weekend of fun, relaxation and enrichment – all whilst soaking up the sun by the beautiful Collaroy beach! Go to [www.lifetothefull.com.au](http://www.lifetothefull.com.au) for more details and to register. 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading. In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne - to save and shepherd His people. Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today - as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves. And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours - to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love. In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see [John 14:8-9](#)). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see [John 10:11-15](#)) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift - especially the Eucharist and penance - to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end - if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning - repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel - to be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return. (By Dr Scott Hahn)

### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Pre-Christmas Preparation Day – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**10:30am:** Procession  
**11:00am:** Rosary, devotions and Confessions  
**12noon :** Mass  
**12:45pm:** Birthday lunch for Rose Houghton (in hall) Please bring a plate to share  
**2:00pm** Video in hall; Confessions in church (to 4:45pm)  
**5:00pm:** Vigil Mass

