

Listening to God's Word
Growing in Faith



Reaching out to All

WEBSITE

www.allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

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ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

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Secretaries

Louise Byron, Anna Bojkowski

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9.00am-3.00pm (May vary)

Closed 12 noon - 1.00pm

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Columba's Adamstown

St Kevin's Cardiff

St James' Kotara

PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS

St Pius X Adamstown

St Paul's Booragul

[Links are on our Website](#)



SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Kotara-5.30pm; Sunday Adamstown-8am;

Sunday Cardiff-9.30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 9.30am Adamstown;

Wednesday 7am Kotara; 9.30am Adamstown;

Thursday Cardiff 9.30am;

Friday (New Years Day) 9.30am Kotara



How do we start this new year? How do we take up 2021? The wish is that we do not endure another climate emergency. The hope is we enter the year with a roll out of a vaccine! And with that a return to life as we knew it. And perhaps we may have time for some reflection on what humanity has learnt from the the COVID-19 pandemic.

Historical Context – Ritual

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

Living the Gospel – Faithful

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

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Parish News

SICK/SPECIAL NEEDS: *We remember in prayer ...*

Leonie Pickett, Veronica Hipwell, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Mick King, Margaret McLellan, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Emma Pacifico, Lorraine Caldwell, Emilinda Peralta, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Dean Hart, Barry Moore, Leigh Hooper, Chris Patsan, Catherine Hobbs, Bernadette Coffey, Dorota Bakowska, Abby Rodwell, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Joseph Cuschieri, Geoffrey Caruana, Anthony Swadling

And for all those who have been affected by COVID-19 and the frontline and medical staff that are caring for them.

ANNIVERSARIES: Sr Jude Pearson, Sr Helen Brooks, Narelle Chaffey

COUNTING	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	
<u>20/12/2020</u>	Dot Reynolds Lyn Johns		
<u>27/12/2020</u>	Hamilton Koelmeyer	Len McCullum	Narelle Robb, Patricia Hines, Paul Crosbie

IMPORTANT CHANGES to Parish COVID-19 Safety Plan Requirements

Thank you for your continuing efforts to help us support and protect our fellow parishioners and visitors during this pandemic. It is important we remain vigilant. The Parish COVID-19 Safety Plans continue to be updated as we receive advice from the NSW Government and Bishop's Office. These are available for your information and review at each Mass Centre.

Please remember, it is your responsibility to ensure you stay home if you are not feeling well.

The capacity limits of our churches have now increased due to the 2 square metre rule : Adamstown & Kotara - 100 each and Cardiff - 84. This includes funerals.

Effective immediately, registration for Mass and all other liturgies will be via **QR code on arrival**. We ask parishioners with phones to assist others who may not have a phone to register. Capacity will be subject to the limits outlined above.

The previous arrangements concerning a 'discrete' group (e.g. a family, a household etc.) **have been discontinued. The contact details of all persons entering a church building or attending a religious service must now be collected.**

Sanitisation is required before entering the church. Please maintain required social distancing and refrain from gathering before/after any liturgy.

Parishioners are asked to ensure doors and windows are open and fans on to increase natural ventilation.

Parish News

MASS CHANGES:

- ⇒ **Sunday Evening 5.30pm Mass will cease in the New Year.** This Sunday, 27 December, will be the last 5.30pm Sunday Mass.
- ⇒ **New Years Day** Mass on 1 January at 9.30am Kotara.
- ⇒ There will be **no weekday** Masses from 4—8 January 2021.

The Parish Office is now closed until Monday, 4 January. There will be no bulletin for Sunday, 3 January.

During the current situation if you have visited the Sydney Northern Beaches area or have been in close contact with anyone from the area—please stay at home.

The Parish Finance Committee met on Tuesday, 15 December. It was noted the collections have dropped significantly during the pandemic. As people return to Mass with the easing of restrictions we encourage you to **collect your planned giving envelopes** from the church foyer at Adamstown or the hall at Kotara. Please consider converting to regular electronic giving from your bank account or credit card to help reduce our stationery costs. It is convenient, safe, flexible and confidential. The form is available from the Parish Office. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the planned giving program. Even though the pandemic has stopped us gathering together for Mass, our expenses remain constant and we need your help to meet these ongoing costs e.g. insurance, repairs & maintenance, cleaning, utilities, wages, supplies, etc.

St Vincent de Paul - 2020 Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your generous responses to our Appeal. It is greatly appreciated and your donations will directly assist families and individuals in our community particularly at this very difficult time.

Nominations for Pastoral Council—boxes for nominations and forms are now at back of churches. Nominations will close on January 15. Each Mass Centre is asked to nominate at least 15 members please.

Counting of the Collections has resumed at each Mass Centre. If you can assist at any of our Mass Centres, please contact the Parish Office. We would really like to establish a 3rd

team at Kotara following the Vigil Mass.

Latest edition of 'Aurora' copies available from back of our churches.

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units. Commencing on Tuesday February 2, 2021, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation. Bishop Bill writes:

The Christian Formation Course has been a very great contributor to Catholic life in this diocese. It is based on adult learning methods that involve the participants in on-going dialogue and engagement with the material and the staff. It is my hope that many, many people will take this course. I further hope that it will be just the beginning of their living more informed and engaged Christ lives.

If you would like to enrol in the Christian Formation Course in 2021 go to:
<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/>

The next sessions of the Diocesan Synod will be Session Two- Discernment to be held on the 22nd May 2021 and Session Three – Implementation to be held on the 20th November 2021.

Soon parishes will be asked to nominate delegates to receive an invitation from Bishop Bill to attend Sessions Two and Three.

Applications for Delegates close on 4th January 2021.

DoMN COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey

Let your voice be heard! The DoMN COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live!

This is an important opportunity to voice your liturgical insights and experiences during COVID-19.

If you do not have access to a computer, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.

Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy>

Don't miss out on anything in your Diocese! Go to mnnews.today to see updates and read stories about what is happening locally.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. *(R.)*
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. *(R.)*
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life. *(R.)*

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

(or Shorter form Lk 2:22. 39-40)

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to
see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to people
of good will
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great
glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father
Lord Jesus Christ,
Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father
You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and 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 life everlasting. Amen.