

**Catholic Church Communities of
St. Anne & Blessed Dominic and St. Vincent de Paul**



Newsletter

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Parish Office Hours: Monday and Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

This Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)	
14 th December 2025	Sunday Cycle: Year A	Weekday Cycle: Year 2

THIS WEEK				
Saturday 13th December	5:00 pm	M	St A&B	John Burril, Ross Rahim, Ian Fairhurst
Sunday 14th December	9:30 am	M	St V	Lilian & Alfred Tatlock
Rejoicing Sunday	11:00am	M	St A&B	People of the Parish
Wednesday 17th Dec.	12noon	M	St A&B	Athony Rae Marshall, Theresa Reid
Friday 19th December	10:00am	S	St A&B	Funeral Service for Stephen Critchley
	12noon	M	St A&B	Anita Guest, Margaret Gartside
Saturday 20th December	5:00 pm	M	St A&B	Edna & John Regan, A. Rae Marshall
Sunday 21st December	9:30 am	M	St V	People of the Parish
	11:00am	M	St A&B	John & Catherine Cooney

Please remember in your Prayers:

Lately died: Stephen Critchley, Sandra Welsby, Anne Cunliffe, Theresa Reid, Anita Guest, Margaret Gartside, Ross Rahim, Ian Fairhurst, Agnes Jolliffe (Tilly).

Anniversaries: John Burrill, John & Catherine Cooney.

Lord, Your Friend Whom You love is sick: Barbara Wright, Mandy Bennett, Annie Lee, Kathleen Valentine, Helen Smith, Cerys McKenna, Christine Terry, Moyra Lyon, Brian Fortune, Geraldine Roberts, Laura Mahon, Isobelle McDonald, Anne Whitehouse, Alan McMillan, Alex MacMillan, Sam Glover, Alex Downey, Joan Mary Cyril, Raymond Litherland, Angela Brooks.

THANK YOU. I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of St Anne & Blessed Dominic Church, to Pilkington Choir for raising £229 for the Church and to Barbara Fairhurst for donating £100 in memory of her son Ian Fairhurst. God bless you.

Third Sunday of Advent.

In the Gospel last Sunday, we heard John Baptist's voice crying from the wilderness about the one "who is coming after me, mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire".

This Sunday, we hear John's voice from the prison questioning if Jesus is that one: Is Jesus the one who is to come, or have the people to wait for someone else?

John is confused. The confusion comes from his image of the Messiah whom he expected to be a strict judge who would bring a fiery judgment, a dispenser of wrath from whom people would have to flee. This is not what he hears Jesus doing. In contrary Jesus heals the sick; he blesses the gentle and peacemakers; he tells people that they must not judge one another but indeed love your enemies. Jesus 'messiahship, therefore, seems a world away from that imagined by John.

When John's disciples do come, Jesus does not say to them: "of course I am the one". But "Go and tell John what you hear and see", what is happening, what you have witnessed: the afflicted are healed, the dead are raised to new life, and the good news is preached to the poor.

This indicates that those who meet Jesus must work out from what he does and says who he is. This is a decision of faith; Jesus cannot make it for anyone. He cannot make it for John.

To recognise who Jesus is, this is the basic requirement for entering the kingdom which he inaugurates. In the early Church, when the Gospel was being written, the first credo was three words: **Jesus is Lord**. The first credo is a recognition of who Jesus is. The least in the kingdom can do what John cannot do: to recognise who Jesus is. That is why they are greater than John.

The question of John is our question too. Is Jesus the one for us, or have we to wait for someone else? Is his Gospel enough for us? Do we find in Jesus the true answer to our longings? Does Jesus fulfil our heart's desire?

Advent is the perfect season for this kind of questions and a few questions of our own.

St Anne School Carol Service: Tuesday 16th December, 2 pm in St A&B church.

Advent Reconciliation Service:

Wednesday 17 December, 7:00 pm at St Anne & Blessed Dominic.

Christmas Service and Mass times

Wednesday 24 December at St Anne & Blessed Dominic:

4:00 pm: Individual Confession (optional).

4:30 pm: Carol Service.

5:00 pm: Vigil of Christmas (Mass with children).

Thursday 25 December, Christmas Day, Mass at St Vincent de Paul: 9:30 am

Stars to be placed on the Christmas Tree are ready for collection. Please collect them from the table in the porch of the church, write what you want to pray for or the name of someone you wish to be remembered during the Christmas period, and bring them next Sunday when the Christmas tree will be put up.

Foodbank. Just a gentle reminder that Christmas is a time to make a room for strangers. Thank you for your continued support. These are items needed: long life milk, juice, tinned vegetables, instant mash, tomatoes, snacks, toiletries, toilet rolls, Christmas sweets, selection boxes, biscuits, non-alcoholic Christmas puddings, mince pies.