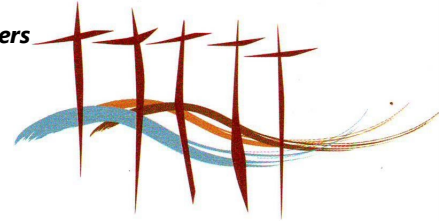


BURLEIGH HEADS CATHOLIC PARISH

- **BURLEIGH WATERS** - MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY CHURCH, 3 Sunlight Dr, Burleigh Waters
- **BURLEIGH HEADS** - INFANT SAVIOUR CHURCH, 4 Park Av, Burleigh Heads
- **PALM BEACH** - OUR LADY OF THE WAY CHURCH - Eleventh Ave, Palm Beach
- **MIAMI** - CALVARY CHURCH - Redondo Av, Miami
- **MUDGEERABA** - ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH - Wallaby Dr, Mudgeeraba
- **SPRINGBROOK** - ST TERESA'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



PARISH OFFICE: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm
 3 Sunlight Dr, Burleigh Waters
 [PO Box 73 Burleigh Heads]
 www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au

Phone: 5576 6466 [also for After Hours]
e-mail: burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au
facebook: BurleighCatholicParish



PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:

Fr Morgan Batt - Parish Priest
Fr Jacob Kalu - Parochial Vicar

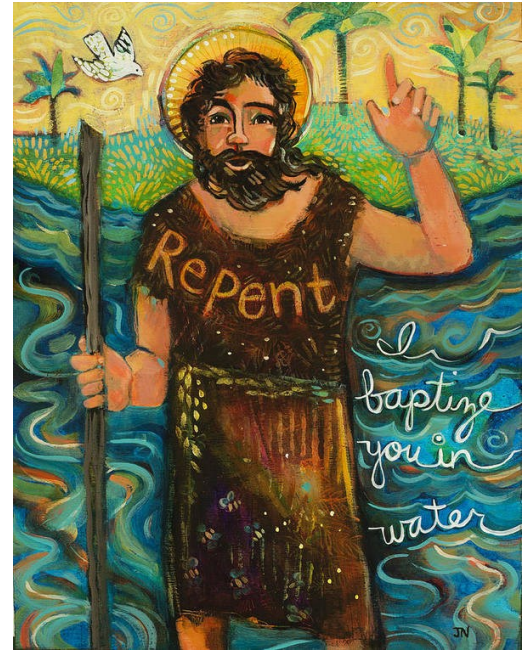
Parish Business & Finance Manager
 Neil Segerdahl - manager.burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au
 Parish Sacramental Co-Ordinator - Angela Williams
 Parish Women's Advisory - Bev Tronc, Maree Wright
 Parish Advisory Council Chair - David Sewell
 Parish Safeguarding Officer - Bren Milsom
 Parish Youth Minister - Darcy Rogers

Second Sunday of Advent 6 December, 2020

Year B: Is 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

next week's Readings: Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28

John the Baptist: the one who knew his space. One of the persons that the Liturgy of the Word during the season of Advent draws our attention to is John the Baptist. Evangelist Mark presents John the Baptist as a person who resisted the temptation to be more than himself. In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'after me is coming someone who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' (Mk 1:7, 8). From the narrative of Mark, there are three qualities that stand out in John the Baptist: his simplicity, humility and clear understanding of the purpose of his life. These are perhaps virtues that we too are invited to grow in as we look forward to the coming of Christ.



Artwork: Jen Norton, "St. John the Baptist"

Simplicity as a virtue for our journey: Mark describes the physical appearance of John the Baptist in some details. "John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey" (Mk 1:6). There are clear parallels to the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). His clothing was a camel's hair garment as that of Elijah (2 Kings 1:8); and his food was similar to the one that was supplied by the desert: locusts (Lev. 11:22) and wild honey (Ps. 81:16).

John's clothing reiterates his role as a prophet and the food habit portrays a man who does not have time to settle down, cultivate, and cook his food. He is on the move. He is on a journey. That image brings out his message – detachment and repentance, and his mission – to be a forerunner.

In any case, John the Baptist was himself a message. It is easier to preach a message, but is more challenging to be a message. This can be a good lesson for the preachers of today towards simplicity, detachment and of travelling light.

Humility can be seen as the right perspective of the self: There is always a temptation to be more than what we are meant to be. Sometimes we push ourselves too much; we fight; and we get frustrated. John the Baptist didn't want to be more than the "voice crying out in the wilderness" (Mk 1:3); he had chances to declare himself as the messiah (Lk 3:15). He had to accept his own limitations: for instance, he could not perform miracles (Jn. 10:41). In the Gospel of John, "when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' John declared, he did not deny but declared, 'I am not the Christ'...I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight" (Jn. 1:19-22).

Parish Weekly Diary....

Monday 7 December

St Ambrose

9.00am **Mass** - Miami

Tuesday 8 December

Immaculate Conception

150th Anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

7.30am **Mass** - Burleigh Waters (live-streamed)

Wednesday 9 December

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin

Ven Fulton J Sheen

8.00am Morning Prayer of Divine Office

5.30pm **Mass** - Palm Beach

Thursday 10 December

Human Rights Day

5.15pm Reconciliation - Mudgeeraba

5.30pm **Mass** - Mudgeeraba

Friday 11 December

St Damasus

International Mountain Day

10.00am **Mass** - Burleigh Waters

(350+ people - live-streamed)

6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer - Burleigh Heads

Saturday 12 December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8.00am **Mass** - Burleigh Heads (120+ people)

4.15pm Reconciliation - Miami

5.00pm **Mass** - Miami (200+ people)

5.15pm Reconciliation - Palm Beach

6.00pm **Mass** - Palm Beach (150+ people)

Sunday 13 December

7.00am **Mass** - Burleigh Heads (120+ people)

7.00am **Mass** - Palm Beach (150+ people)

8.30am **Mass** - Mudgeeraba (200+ people)

8.30am **Mass** - Miami (200+ people)

10.00am **Mass** - Burleigh Waters

(350+ people - live-streamed)

5.00pm Reconciliation - Burleigh Waters

5.30pm **Mass** - Burleigh Waters (350+ people)

In the Gospel of Mark, John the Baptist is very clear about his status: “After me is coming someone who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals” (Mk 1:7). John has no reason to hide that his own rituals are only a shadow of the real one that is soon to come: “I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit” (Mk 1:8).

In short, John the Baptist offers a good definition of humility: to have a right perspective of the self, and not to overestimate one's own worth. He must have been a satisfied person. John stands out as one who was satisfied with what he possessed, very at home with what he thought he was, and gratified with his own ministry. The element that added gratification was the clarity of his mission and a sense of purpose.

It is important to know that our happiness and wellbeing seem to be directly correlated to finding the right space in the universe. John the Baptist had a right understanding of his role in history. Even before his birth, and in his life and death he went on to live the mission for which he was born on the face of the earth. When John was born his father prophesied, “And you, little child ... you will go before the Lord to prepare a way for him, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins” (Lk 1:76-77). And that is exactly what John the Baptist went on to fulfil in his life. When Jesus would appear on the scene he would point out Jesus as the Lamb of God (Jn. 1:36), and agrees to exit (Jn. 3:30). Even though his life would end in an untimely death, which was in fulfilment of why he was born on the face of the earth.

The greatest challenge in our own life is in finding our space in the universe. We call this, ‘Will of God’. I would call it, the dream that God has for us. God created us in a unique way for a unique purpose. There is a unique space in the universe for each one of us. If I do not fill that space I would leave a vacuum in the history of the universe. On the other hand, our own happiness and wellbeing consists in finding that space and meaningfully filling it. Often in our prayers we ask God to give us this and give us that. Essentially we need to listen to God – listen to his dreams for us. When our desire meets with the desire that God has for us, it is like the whole universe moves for us. We experience fulfilment, gratification and wellbeing.

People with disabilities must be offered sacraments: Pope

Pope Francis kisses Peter Lombardi of Ohio, who has Down syndrome, after the boy rode in the popemobile during his general audience in St Peter's Square at the Vatican in 2018 (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

People with disabilities must have access to the sacraments and the ability to be full and active participants in the life of their Catholic parish, Pope Francis said yesterday. Source: *CNA*.

“Before all else, I strongly reaffirm the right of persons with disabilities to receive the sacraments, like all other members of the Church,” he said in a message for yesterday's International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

“All liturgical celebrations in the parish should be accessible” to the disabled, he continued, “so that, together with their brothers and sisters, each of them can deepen, celebrate, and live their faith.”

“I reiterate the need to make available suitable and accessible means for handing on the faith,” he said. “No one should be excluded from the grace of these sacraments.”

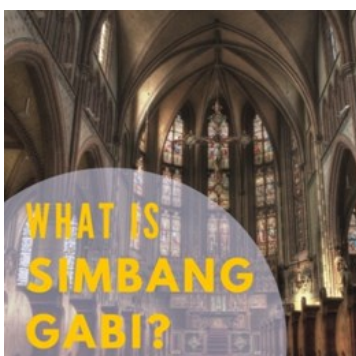
Francis emphasised that, by virtue of their baptism, people with disabilities are called to missionary discipleship just as much as every other baptised person. He encouraged parishes to include them not only as “recipients” of pastoral ministry, but also as “active subjects”.

“All the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation,” he said, quoting his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Though it takes effort to fully include everyone, according to their own gifts and talents, the Pope said, “the active participation of people with disabilities in the work of catechesis can greatly enrich the life of the whole parish”.

FULL STORY

[Pope Francis: Disabled people must have access to the sacraments, Catholic parish life](#) (By Hannah Brockhaus, *CNA*)



SIMBANG GABI FILIPINO CELEBRATION

Mass will be celebrated Wednesday 16th December 4.30am in Mary, Mother of Mercy Church.

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It involves a dawn Mass about 16th December and Midnight Mass on the 24th December (other dawn Masses can be also held). This tradition was introduced by the Spanish friars to allow the farmers to hear Mass before going to the fields early in the morning. The Masses can start as early as 4 in the morning. Simbang Gabi is not just a tradition that is celebrated because the Filipinos need to do so; it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.

The celebration is also seen as a way of requesting blessings from the Lord, as most people believe that if one completes the whole series of nine dawn Masses, their wishes will be granted.

Please join the community for this Annual Mass.

Christmas Mass Times

Thursday 24 December		Friday 25 December	
5pm	Calvary Church, Miami	7am	Infant Saviour, Burleigh Heads
5pm	St Benedict's, Mudgeeraba	7am	Our Lady of the Way, Palm Beach
6.30pm	Our Lady of the Way, Palm Beach	8.30am	Calvary Church, Miami
6.30pm	Mercy Church, Burleigh Waters	8.30am	St Benedict's, Mudgeeraba
9pm	Infant Saviour, Burleigh Heads	10am	Mercy Church, Burleigh Waters
Midnight	Mercy Church, Burleigh Waters	5.30pm	Mercy Church, Burleigh Waters

CHRISTMAS MASSES - We need to plan ahead and have a strategy in place for Christmas Masses. If you can join a team to help out at the 6.30pm Christmas Eve Children's Mass at Mary, Mother of Mercy Church (assisting with parking, sign-in, collections, marshalling, etc) please phone the Parish Office. Thank you.

*** For those who are keen to help out at this Mass (6.30pm - Christmas Eve, Mary, Mother of Mercy), there is a planning get-together on Saturday 19 December at 9am in the Parish Office. If you can't make it - just contact Neil at the Parish Office for your job list.**

ADVENT SUNG EVENING PRAYER - Infant Saviour, Burleigh Heads, 6pm Fridays 4, 11 and 18 December.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

As we no longer celebrate Second rite of Reconciliation in Parish, we will now move toward **MASSES OF RECONCILIATION**.

Miami - 21 December, 9am; Burleigh Waters - 22 December, 7.30am; Palm Beach 23 December, 5.30pm.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIFTING TREE AND ANNUAL APPEAL - You can help those in need - please take a card from the Gifting Tree and return with an **unwrapped** gift over coming weeks. The local St Vincent de Paul Conference will distribute on your behalf as part of Christmas hampers delivered to those in need on 24 December. Your assistance is much appreciated.

Scripture and Prayers for Advent

During Advent there are three prevalent themes we see as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ. We long for the Messiah, are urged to be alert for Jesus' Second Coming, and meditate on Christ's presence in our lives now. The Scripture readings for the four weeks of Advent and the Liturgy of the Hours revolve around the first two of these themes. They encourage proper preparation, point to the grace and humility of Mary, show us how to adore God in the Incarnation, and recognize the glory of Jesus and how he frees us from sin and ingratitude. We hear from the prophet Isaiah and are drawn to the compelling message of John the Baptist in the Gospels.

It is important to consider how we can grow in spiritual wholeness during such a busy commercial season. Take time for silence and reflection each day with Scripture, a devotional prayer, or with an Advent calendar. Dwell with the scene of the Nativity. What is it like to imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph and to be with them as the baby Jesus comes into the world? St. Ignatius of Loyola had a deep reverence for the Nativity scene, as we see in the Spiritual Exercises. Consider praying with saints like him, with the Liturgy of the Hours, or with the O Antiphons the last week before Christmas. A prayerful journey with the Holy Family and the Church throughout Advent will lead to gifts of gratitude and joy when we enter the Christmas Season.



The **PARISH CHOIR** meet for practice each Monday, 5.30 - 6pm, Mary, Mother of Mercy Church. Any singers or musicians who would like to join are most welcome.

BIBLE STUDY with Fr Jacob - Infant Saviour, Saturdays 8.30am.

There is an ancient tradition of chalking the front door of your Home on the feast of the Epiphany (3rd January 2021). To prepare for this what happens is one asks the priest to bless a piece of chalk which the family then takes home and writes above the front door **20+C+M+B+21** which means 20 May Christ Bless this Dwelling 21. If you want your chalk blest please bring along one Sunday in Advent.

PLANNED GIVING - Sincere thanks to all who have continued to support the Parish during these times. Details for internet banking: BSB: 064 786; A/c No: 00605 1108; A/c Name: Burleigh Parish; Reference: Planned Giving/Surname.

TELEPHONE MASS - 5647 3442.

PARISH PODCAST - Listen to weekly homilies, updates and more on your phone/mobile devices. Search **'Burleigh Heads Parish'** on your podcast app.

Family Groups

Goannas Sunday 13 December
12 noon, Dog & Parrot Tavern, 2 Scottsdale Dr, Robina.
rsvp by Thursday 10 December to Margaret - 5534 2654.



FUNERALS

Last week we celebrated the funerals of Audrey Lollback and Beryl Gaudry who have died in Christ. Let us remember their families and friends in our prayers this week.

God will raise you up on eagle's wings

SICK & SPECIAL NEEDS

Your prayers have been requested for Michael Allan, Patricia Ashton, Peter W Bennett, Leigh Boulcher, William Buckley, James Burke, Diane Busutil, Mary Cale, Jacqui & Emile Cloete & family, Norma Evans, Bart Fitzgerald, Peter Freeman, Geromy Grima, Fred Grioli, Kath Hare, Vera Havlik, Jean Hokin, Veronica James, Denis McEnery, Terezia Meleg, Fay & John Mooney, Pat Moy, Stephen Murray, Josie Nicolas, Eileen O'Neill, Michael Onn, Sean O'Reilly, Anne Owens, Phyllis Pola, Goldina Pondoc, William Sheehan, Peter Smith, Andrew Supple, Olivia Tonner, Warren Wilson, Graham Zendler, Norah Zipf, the sick of our Parish and all in need of God's healing Spirit.

DECEASED

Masses have been requested for the recently deceased and for friends and relatives whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frank Kennedy, Beryl Gaudry, Audrey Lollback, Gerald Dwyer, Clare Dobozy, Marek Běliček.

*May the choirs of angels come to greet you ...
May you find eternal life.*

Music for this Sunday

Gathering: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, come into our hearts.
O Emmanuel, we're waiting for your light.
O Emmanuel, God is with us now.
O Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

We, your people, are waiting for you, Lord,
waiting all throughout the earth.

We, your people, are waiting for you, Lord,
waiting to celebrate your birth.

We, your people, are longing for you, Lord,
longing with hope and with joy.

We, your people, are longing for you, Lord,
longing for the sign to rejoice.

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Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Psalm Response:

Lord, let us see your kindness

Gospel Acclamation:

Word of healing, Alleluia;
heal our sorrow. Maranatha!

Word of comfort, Alleluia;
bring us hope now. Maranatha!

Word of gladness, Alleluia;
fill our hearts now. Maranatha!

Word of wisdom, Alleluia;
come renew us. Maranatha!

For the Kids ...

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

"I am _____ my
_____ ahead of you,
who will _____ your way;
the _____ of one _____ out
in the _____:
'Prepare the _____ of the _____,
make his paths _____,'"

Communion: Like A Shepherd

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock
and gathers the lambs in his arms,
holding them carefully close to his heart,
leading them home.

Say to the cities of Judah;
prepare the way of the Lord.
Go to the mountain-top, lift your voice:
Jerusalem, here is your God.

I myself will shepherd them,
for others have led them astray.
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds
and pasture them, giving them rest.

© 1976, Robert J Dufford, New Dawn Music

Recessional: Joyful In Hope

Joyful in hope, your people pray.
Joyful in hope, we're on our way.
Though the road may not be clear,
we believe, Lord, you are near,
in the smile and open heart of a friend.

Joyful in hope, your people pray.
Joyful in hope, we're on our way.
There's sunshine after rain;
there's laughter after pain;
and I am with you always, so rise again.

Mary, so open to the Lord,
when you answered, "Yes", our hope was restored.
Though you couldn't understand,
in trust you took his hand.
So, joyful in hope, we live again.

© Michael Herry

COME LORD JESUS

crying
straight
way
voice
sending
prepare
wilderness
messenger
Lord

