

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH ROCKINGHAM

Incorporating the community of the
Order of the Clerics Regular of Somasca

Christmas Day 25 December 2020



Parish Priest: Fr Pierluigi Vajra CRS
Email: pierluigi.vajra@perthcatholic.org.au
Web Page: olol.kolbe.wa.edu.au/
Facebook: [Rockingham Catholic Community page](#)

Address: 2 Townsend Rd, Rockingham
Postal: PO Box 3, Rockingham
WA 6968
Secretary: secretary@ololrockingham.org.au
Phone: 9527 1605

First reading Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 97(98):1-6

R/ All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **/R**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **/R**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy. **/R**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **/R**

Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty.

So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
A man came, sent by God.
His name was John. He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.
The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

OUR WEEKEND MASSES CAN ACCOMMODATE 210 PARTICIPANTS IN THE CHURCH AND 180 IN THE PARISH HALL WITH LIVE-STREAMING AND COMMUNION. PROTOCOLS AND HYGIENE WILL APPLY AS PER THE REGULATIONS OF PHASE 4.

MASS and EVENT TIMES AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Sunday 7.30am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
Monday – Saturday 7.30am
Friday 8.00am – 9.00am Holy Hour
Saturday 8.00am intercessory Rosary
6.00pm (Vigil)

Reconciliation: (Church only)
Saturday: 11.30am – 12.30pm; 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Priests can be contacted at any other time as well.

SOTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

2 Townsend Rd, Rockingham Phone: 9553 9500

KOLBE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

25 Dowling Street Rockingham Phone: 9592 1500

Banking Details 2nd collection: NAB BSB: 086 006 Account No: 867962536
Account name: Our Lady of Lourdes Rockingham parish

Banking Details 1st collection: NAB BSB:086-006 Account No: 978620205
Account name: Our Lady of Lourdes Rockingham Presbytery Account

LOURDESCARE - CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Visiting, transport for appointments and meals: Glenda - 0439 913 621, Ana - 0437 801 085; Laurie - 0408 900 650

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS - SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS

Natalie Boyd 0410 582 272; Rebeca Svilicic 0403 825 530; Mariza D'Souza 0435 435 013; Daniel Joyce 0431 636 947

FACEBOOK PAGES

Please look for "Rockingham Catholic Community" and "Lifted High".

24:7 SOUTH YOUTH GROUP For all youth in Years 7-12 Every Friday, 7.00pm - 9.00pm (during school term)

Call Ming Yan 0414 998 043, Will 0499 516 377 or Charli 0472 684 508 for more information

RIP's: Ryszard (Richard) Walawski; Ronnie Williams

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS: Tuesday Dec 31

Thanksgiving Holy Hour: 9.00pm followed by New Year's Eve's Mass: 10.00pm

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021**

For any issue to be considered, please email
Fr. Pier in advance.

EVANGELISATION THINK TANK

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021- 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Open to all. Come and share your insight towards the
future of our parish.

GRACE TRIUMPHANT ANNUAL FLAME CONGRESS

The Congress will be held on 15, 16 and 17 January 2021 at John XXIII College, Mount Claremont. Free event.
Please see the notice board or take a flier. Contact Kaye 0421 605 502 or Cyrus 0403 414 621.

EVERY CHILD COUNTS

In the lead up to the 2021 State election, Catholic Education of Western Australia would like to make everyone aware of the contribution made by the Catholic Church in this area. They produced a publication - *Contributing to stronger WA communities* - an independently assessed document outlining CEWA's significant social and economic contribution. This publication, and more, is available on the website everychildcounts.net.au. It can be found on our parish website.

MASSES CAN BEEN SEEN ON:

Facebook: [Rockingham Catholic Community page](#)
YouTube: [Our Lady of Lourdes Rockingham Online channel](#)

THANK YOU FROM THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (VINNIES).

Thank you for your generous donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society appeal. Your donations will help support those who are experiencing financial hardships in our local area.

Thank you to those who generously support St Vincent de Paul throughout the year with donations to the Poor Box.
Please also support us with your prayer.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: Presents or Presence

The first Christmas Story is simple: it reveals the real presence of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to each other. Maybe the lesson for us is to focus more on being 'present' to one another rather than on giving 'presents', so that Jesus can be born again in our marriage and in all those we love and care for.

Excerpts from The New Jerusalem Bible, copyright 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd, and Doubleday, a division of Random House Inc. Reprinted by permission.

MESSAGE - CHRISTMAS 2020.

We can catch glimpses of Jesus, when we see signs of people being their best version.

“The Word was made flesh, he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

The god’s humanity imagined were sort of superheros.

The people of Israel expected the Messiah to be a warrior king, with the power of God behind him, coming to make Israel the rulers of the world - at long last.

The Gospels tell us that God is a man. “He lived among us, and we saw his glory.”

John speaks like an eyewitness, who experienced God directly: “What we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have watched and touched with our own hands - the Word of Life - we are declaring to you.” (1John 1:1.3)

We should have known.

“God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them.” (Genesis 1:27).

When God wanted to reveal himself, he became a man.

We are his image. We resemble him. Jesus is the best version of ourselves. No spots, no wrinkles.

Something went wrong with us - we chose to disfigure our resemblance to God. We sinned, we made choices against our good.

“The Word was made flesh.”

Jesus came to restore our resemblance with God. He came to heal our wounds, our scars. He came to make us the best version of ourselves.

We can catch glimpses of Jesus, when we see signs of people being their best version.

The child Jesus shows us the best version of ourselves - the Word made flesh.

Catch a glimpse of Jesus in you and around you - spot the signs of the best version of ourselves!

THANK YOU AND WISHES

This time of the year is always a moment in which we look back and see how much ground we covered. We all know how unusual this year has been. It is surprising, under the present conditions, how far we journeyed all the same!

Our neighbourhood connections started with enthusiasm right after the lockdown. Our community responded so quickly, it was obviously the answer to a need for connection that many people perceived.

The livestreaming opened a new way for many of us to stay connected with their faith and the community.

We started using more programmes to help our community to grow, and results were quick to emerge. Particularly the gift discernment programme Called and Gifted made such a difference to those who took it, that now we have over 65 people registered for the programme that starts on 7 January.

We are right now shaping a process of appraisal of the performance of the Parish Priest and of the journey of our whole community so that all members can have a voice.

These are just some examples of the reasons we have to be grateful for.

For a number of community members this year was more trying than for others. I would like to acknowledge their faithfulness even in the midst of their struggle and to ask everyone to keep their intentions in prayer.

For all this and for more, I would like to thank all of you. Many of you played an active role in shaping the journey of our community. I am humbled by the dedication you have shown, the maturity of your faith. Thank you, and may God reward you abundantly for your work in His kingdom.

Finally, at this time of the year many of you bless us with various gifts and wishes. I would like to thank each one personally, and I am sure I cannot get to everyone. Once again, thank you! We have taken a vow of poverty long ago, when we joined our religious order (the Somascan Fathers). This means that everything we have belongs to the poor. We use what is essential, and give away everything else. Whatever your gifts allow us to save, it all goes to the poor.

Thank you, on their behalf. May God bless you all with a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Fr. Pier and the Somascan community

VATICAN PUBLISHES NOTE ON MORALITY OF USING COVID-19 VACCINES

We publish here some excerpt from this Note, as some members of our community had been wondering about the morality of the upcoming vaccines. The full Note, which is rather brief, can be found on the Vatican website.

"In recent months, this Congregation has received several requests for guidance regarding the use of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, which, in the course of research and production, employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century."

"When ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available, it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process."

"The fundamental reason for considering the use of these vaccines morally licit is that the kind of cooperation in evil (passive material cooperation) in the procured abortion from which these cell lines originate is, on the part of those making use of the resulting vaccines, remote."

The "moral duty to avoid such passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is a grave danger," such as "the otherwise uncontrollable spread of a serious pathological agent—in this case, the pandemic spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. It must therefore be considered that, in such a case, all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive."

"It should be emphasized, however, that the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines."



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