



# Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish

Catholic Diocese of Bunbury

Dunsborough, WA

<https://olotscparish.org.au>

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## First Reading

**Isaiah 35:1-6, 10**

**God himself will come and save us.**

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**R.** Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

## Second Reading

**James 5:7-10**

**You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not

make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is

already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing, and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be Strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Pope's Intention for December 2025: FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT  
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East,  
might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



## REFLECTION

### **Matthew 11:2-11**

... more than a prophet. (Matthew 11:9)

John the Baptist was a pivotal figure in the history of Israel. It had been five hundred long years since Malachi had issued his momentous prophecy concerning “the day of the Lord” (3:23). And when John came on the scene, many people recognized him as a prophet, a voice of hope—and perhaps even the fulfillment of that hope! They were so excited that they flocked to the desert to hear him and receive his baptism of repentance.

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that John is even “more than a prophet” (Matthew 11:9). He is the final messenger, “Elijah,” the one who would return and prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1).

John's appearance signalled a turning of the ages, the dawn of the long-awaited Messiah. We, too, are in our own turning of the ages as we await the coming of Jesus, our Messiah. So how can we make our hearts ready for him to come, both at Christmas and at the end of time?

One way, of course, is to confess our sins. But just as John was more than a prophet, God wants to do more for us than cleanse us of sin. He wants to go deeper into our hearts and heal our inner wounds and any attitudes that might be keeping us from fully welcoming Jesus.

For example, perhaps your life hasn't turned out the way you envisioned, and you feel disappointed with God's plan. Or you may blame the Lord for something bad that has happened in your life or for not answering a heartfelt prayer. Perhaps the burdens of life have weighed you down, and you've allowed yourself to become satisfied with superficial or rote prayer.

Whatever is burdening you, now is the time to cry out to the Lord for healing! He wants you to live in freedom, not under a cloud of grief or resentment or complacency. Remember John's message: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). God's grace is at hand for you—today!

“Lord, search my heart and set me free!”

*- from The Word Among Us*



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

### Special Intentions:

- For the intentions of our EMHC, acolytes, commentators, lectors, musicians, mass servers, sacristans, greeters, collectors;
- For the intentions of our PPC members, Parish Finance Committee members, bookkeeper, and bankers;
- For the intentions of our church and ground cleaners, morning tea

manpower and food donors;

- For the intentions of God's Farm & Bove Farm; and for all the residents of Cape Care Dunsborough;
- For the intentions of our RCIA candidates and our RCIA Team;
- We also pray for some members of our parish, and our families who are sick - we pray for their speedy recovery.

### We Pray for the Repose of Souls (Death Anniversaries):

18/12 - Amy Forster

19/12 - John Wallace; Robert Smitfoort

20/12 - Geoffrey David Arthur; Leonarldo Conti; Nellie Landini; Colin Mainds



## ADULT CATECHISM

The Catholic Church is Synodal Church

*[snippets from the Final Document of the Synod on Synodality]*

37. In addition, the synodal process highlighted the spiritual heritage of the local Churches, in which and from which the Catholic Church exists and the need to combine their experiences. By virtue of catholicity, “the individual parts bring their own gifts to the other parts and to the whole Church, in such a way that the whole and individual parts grow greater through the mutual communication of all and their united efforts towards fullness in unity” (LG 13). The ministry of the successor of Peter “safeguards legitimate differences while taking care that what is particular not only does no harm to unity but rather is conducive to it” (ibid., cf. AG 22).

38. The whole Church has always been comprised of a plurality of peoples and languages, of vocations, charisms and ministries at the service of the common good, as well as of local Churches. In turn, these local Churches have always possessed their own rites and disciplines as well as their own distinctive theological and spiritual heritage. The unity of this diversity is realised by Christ, the cornerstone, and the Holy Spirit, the source of all harmony. This unity in diversity is precisely what is meant by the catholicity of the Church. The richness of the plurality of the Churches *sui iuris* highlighted by the synodal process, is a sign of this very catholicity. The Assembly asks that we continue along the path of the encounter, mutual understanding and exchange of gifts that nourish the communion of a Church of Churches.

39. Synodal renewal fosters an appreciation of local contexts as the place where the universal call from God manifests and fulfils itself. It is a call to be part of God's People, to participate in that Reign of God, which is “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Rom 14:17). In this way, different cultures are enabled to grasp the unity that underlies their plurality and become open to the prospect of an exchange of gifts. “The unity of the Church is not uniformity, but an organic blending of legitimate diversities” (NMI 46). There is a variety of ways in which the message of salvation is expressed. This helps avoid reducing this message to a single understanding of the life of the Church and of the theological, liturgical, pastoral and disciplinary forms it takes. *[to be continued next week]*

## LITURGICAL ROSTERS

DECEMBER	Acolyte	EMHC	Greeter	Commentator	Reader	Altar Servers	Music
13th, Sat	TBA	TBA	Judy Malcolm	Amie Meyer	Kath Rooney	Manoa Coltrinari Makai Coltrinari	Fr. Archie
14th, Sun	Tony Smurthwaite	Angela Corrigan J Smurthwaite	Alice Kusal	Angela Corrigan	Mary Cooper	Xanthe Smart Lily Taylor	Richard Clark
20th, Sat	TBA	TBA	Jenny Huembs	Jude Kelly	Gerry Travers	TBA	Fr. Archie
21st, Sun	Tony Smurthwaite	Angela Corrigan Dian Richards	Joan Embry	Carmen McFaull	Loellen Clark	Ivy Hoang Andy Hoang	Richard Clark

## Mass Schedule



Monday 15th Dec	2:00 PM	NO MASS Group Meditation
Tuesday 16th Dec	9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Mass of the Day Bi-lingual Mass
Wednesday 17th Dec	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Rosary Mass of the Day Group Reflection
Thursday 18th Dec	9:00 AM	Mass of the Day
Friday 19th Dec	9:00 AM	Mass of the Day
Saturday 20th Dec	9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	Mass of the Day Mass @ God's Farm Confession Vigil Mass
Sunday 21st Dec	8:30 AM	Mass of the Day 3rd Sunday of Advent

## LITURGIES & DEVOTIONS

**Rosary:** You are invited to come and join in praying the Holy Rosary every Wednesday at 9 AM, just before the 9:30 AM Mass.

**First Friday Devotion:** We expose the Blessed Sacrament right after the 9 AM Mass; Adoration continues until 3 PM when we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We end this devotion with the Benediction.

**Healing Mass:** Mass on the First Tuesday of the month is a Healing Mass. You may receive the anointing oil at Mass.

**Group Meditation:** Every Monday at 2 PM.

**Group Prayer Session:** Every Wednesday after the 9:30 AM Mass.

**Second Friday of each Month:** Catholic Men's Prayer Fellowship at 9:30 AM.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** One hour of Adoration immediately after the 9 am Mass on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays.

## Meaning of the Four Candles in the Advent Wreath?

**FIRST CANDLE** [name: The Prophecy Candle; represents: Hope; colour: Purple] - Purple is the primary colour associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation. Are you ready to discover the hope Jesus is inviting you to experience this Advent? **SECOND CANDLE** [name: The Bethlehem Candle; Represents: Peace and Preparation; colour: Purple] -During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and focus on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. **THIRD CANDLE** [name: The Shepherd's Candle; represents: Joy; colour: Pink] -This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus. **FOURTH CANDLE** [name: The Angel's Candle; represents: Love; colour: Purple] -During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.



## OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS PARISH

36 Naturaliste Terrace, Dunsborough, Western Australia 6281  
P.O. Box 401, Dunsborough, WA 6281

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Wadandi people of the Noongar nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

**OUR PARISH VISION:** To be a thriving Catholic community, engaging and welcoming.

**OUR PARISH MISSION:** Journeying together with God; growing in FAITH, HOPE and LOVE, through fellowship, outreach and service.

Parish Pastoral Council: Angela Corrigan (Chair), Martin Bain, Steve Carmody (Secretary), Carmen McFaull, Joan Smurthwaite, Fran Lamotte, Amie Meyer, Angela Hegney, Father Archie.

Safeguarding Officer: Angela Corrigan Sacristans: Robyne de Garis, Mary Cooper, Rebecca Channing, Diane Richards

Parish Finance Committee: Tony Smurthwaite (Chair); Jack Robinson; Jim Triglone; Father Archie

Parish Bookkeeper: Kathleen Lim

Parish Priest: Fr. Roberto Archie R. Carampatan

## PARISH NOTICES

### Opening of Parish Christmas Lights

Everyone is invited to witness the official opening of our Parish Christmas Lights on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December:

6:30 PM - Holy Mass (bi-lingual: English-Filipino Mass)

7:30 PM - Dinner (bring-a-plate)

8:30 PM - Opening of Christmas Lights

### Mass at God's Farm on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

Come and celebrate God's Farm being saved! Saturday December 20th. Rosary 11am, Mass 11.30am, Benediction 12.15pm. Finger food lunch to follow. All welcome on this joyous occasion!! Please RSVP Mary 0438 054 199.

### Congratulations to OLC Graduates of 2025

Thirty-eight (38) Year 6 students of OLC culminated their formation years at our Catholic School with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on 11<sup>th</sup> December, and Graduate Rites followed after Mass. We keep the graduates in our prayers as they transition to high school.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage & Closing of Jubilee Year of Hope

Our parish was represented by Father Archie and two of our "parishioners", Miriam and Anne (who are actually from Busselton, but come to Dunsborough for Mass). Our representatives felt blessed with the experience.



## NEWS FROM OLC

School is out for the summer! School finished for students on Friday the 12th of December, but the office remains open until Wednesday 17th December.

The last week of school year was filled with lots of activities and celebrations, including the Pre-primary class visiting the residents at Cape Care to sing some Christmas songs and complete some craft activities together.

The Kindy kids worked with the Year 6 students to plant trees that will hopefully grow to be used as their journey sticks when they graduate in 2032!

The Kindy kids had a special concert for their families followed by Kindy Graduation.

The Year 6 students celebrated the end of their primary school years with an excursion to Yallingup Maze.

Our P&F organised a whole school Fun Day, with high ropes, climbing wall, water-play slip-n-slide, giant games, disco and icy poles. It was a great way to celebrate a year of fun and learning.

The Graduation Mass at OLOTSC, on Thursday night, was a meaningful evening where we gave thanks for our graduating class and wished them well as they continue their educational journey into high school.



## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### Christmas Message of Bishop George

Please feel free to get a copy of the Christmas Message from Bp George at the foyer.

### Invite from Kirup Spirituality Centre

On Tues 16th December we celebrate our end of year Mass and lunch after a reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe and "Building a Culture of Life". See flyers for details or contact Deborah 0419939864.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD



WEDDINGS | PARTIES | EVENTS

At Sweet Stylin we style, design and create couture cakes & sweets for any Special Occasion: cupcakes, naked cakes, Macarons, donuts, dessert bars, and ice cream bars. 0411 438 639 / love@sweetstylin.com.au or visit our Website: sweetsylin.com.au

WEDDINGS

PARTIES

EVENTS



"Discover God's gifts of the earth through pure doTERRA essential oils, natural supplements, and self-care products — gentle, safe wellness support for sleep, immunity, energy, & emotions. You're warmly invited to connect with Stacey Smart on 0418903658."

## CHURCH COLLECTION

6th—7th December 2025

Mass Collections	:	\$ 928.75
Direct Deposit	:	\$ 100; 10; 30
EFTPOS	:	\$ 170.00
Planned Giving	:	\$
Candles	:	\$ 98.75

A Tap & Donate machine is located in the foyer for the convenience of parishioners and visitors who may prefer to use the EFTPOS Machine.

If you wish to make a DONATION, please deposit it directly to our Parish Bank Account: BSB: 086-006 ACCT: 848054647

Acct. Name: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury Dunsborough Parish

Parish Bulletin Editorial Staff: Jude Kelly, Joan Smurthwaite, Fr. Archie

## FREE CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

free pregnancy tests

emotional support:

before, during and after pregnancy

material assistance:

maternity clothing, baby clothing, baby items (nappies & toiletries, prams, cots etc.)

pre-natal and post-natal information

assistance with access to other resources/services

## PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE BUNBURY

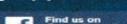
9792 4759

pregnant@westnet.com.au

151 Spencer Street, South Bunbury

Hours: 11am-5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

or by appointment



Find us on  
facebook

OLOTSC Parish supports Pregnancy Assistance Bunbury.

Please share the information above and donate any items for babies. God bless!