



*A weekly lantern of grace guiding our parish through the days ahead.*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A**

**7TH DECEMBER 2025**

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11).

In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

*Source: Loyola Press*



**John the Baptist**

Painted by Alexandre Cabanel (1823-1889)  
Painted in 1849, Oil on canvas, © Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France  
See art reflection here: <https://tinyurl.com/tzsfvd9y>

**ADVENT 2025**



Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

This Second Sunday of Advent, we light the second of four candles: the Candle of **PEACE**. As we enter this sacred season, we prepare our hearts to remember Christ's coming at Christmas and the hope His presence brings to our world.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

*God himself will come and save us.*

**Responsorial Psalm - 145:6-10 R. Lord, come and save us.**

**Second Reading - 5:7-10**

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

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 11:2-11** *Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

## MASSES & MEETINGS

### Cannon Hill - St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 6:00pm; Sunday - 9:30am

### Tingalpa - Holy Family Catholic Church:

Thursday - 9:00am; Sunday - 8:00am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 5:00pm - 5:30pm - St Oliver Plunkett Church

**Prayer Intentions Prayer Group:** Every Friday at 9.30am - St Oliver Plunkett Church (exc. during Lent).

**Eucharistic Adoration:** 1st Friday of the month following 9:00am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett Church (except during Lent).

**Baptisms:** 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month held after the 9:30am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett Church. (*Welcoming Mass combined with the Baptism Mass.*)

**Little Lanterns Liturgy:** 1st Sunday of the month (except January) during the 9:30am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett Church. All primary school-aged children are welcome to attend.

**Parish Morning Tea:** 1st Sunday of the month following Mass at both Churches; Every Wednesday after 9:00am Mass in the Parish Hall.

## THIS WEEKEND.

**06/07 DEC - SAT/SUN: St Vincent de Paul Christmas App**

**07 DEC - SUN:** Little Lanterns Liturgy, SOP (during Mass); Hospitality (after Mass).

## COMING UP...

**08 DEC - MON: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity) - Mass at 9am at SOP.**

**10 DEC - WED:** Healing & Anointing Mass, 9.00am, SOP.

**11 DEC - THU:** Adore Program, 6:00pm, Parish Hall.

**13 DEC - SAT:** St Lucy (Memorial)

**14 DEC - SUN:** Baptisms.

**17 DEC - WED:** Advent 2nd Rite Reconciliation, 6pm, SOP

**18 DEC - THU:** Adore Programme, 6:00pm, Parish Hall.

**20 DEC - SAT:** Christmas dinner, 6:00pm, Parish Hall.

**24 DEC - WED:** Office closes for 3 weeks.

**25 DEC - THU: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DAY (SOL)**

**26 DEC - FRI:** Boxing Day - Public Holiday.

## REGULAR MEETINGS

**MON: Cannon Hill St Vincent de Paul Conference**

Fortnightly at 6:15pm

Next meeting: **Monday, 8th December**

Contact: Paul 0418 750 367

**TUE: Parish Leadership Team**

Fortnightly at 6:00pm

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, 9th December**

**WED: Parish Liturgy Meeting**

Monthly at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, 10th December**

**THU: Parish Finance Council Meeting**

Bi-monthly at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: **Thursday, 12th February**

### Plate Collections - 30th November

1st Collection (Oblates): **\$557.85** | 2nd Collection (Parish): **\$434.55**

*Thank you for your ongoing support.*

## THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - MATT 3:1-12

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**First Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10**

*He judges the poor with justice.*

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 71**

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

**Second Reading - Romans 15:4-9**

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 3:1-12**

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*



*"Our lives find their ultimate purpose in becoming who God made us to be, by living out his will. You are not the result of a random process. Each of you is willed, each of you is loved, each of you is necessary."*

Pope Leo XIV, addressing the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Melbourne, November 2025  
(Originated by Pope Benedict XVI)

### Mass Intentions

**Week beginning 7th December - 9 am**

09/12 Tuesday: Chaplaincies

10/12 Wednesday: Mary Immaculate, Eagle Vale

11/12 Thursday: Oblate Families

12/12 Friday: Sick and Elderly OMIs

*Weekend Masses offered for the intentions of all in the Parish*

### OBLATES ADVENT ADORE PROGRAMME

Continuing on **Thursday, 11th December**, the Oblates Adore Programme will be held in the parish hall. Join us for dinner at 6pm, followed by a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Please bring a plate to share. If you can't attend the meal, you are welcome to the reflection at join at 7pm.

# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### OUR SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is sick and would appreciate a home visit.

**We pray for those in the community who are sick. May the healing spirit of Christ bring them comfort and hope.**

Marina Gilbert, Edgar Tan, Vincy Law Tan, Sam Swann, Athol Young, Ken Drego, Karen Marrinan, Carol-Ann Marrinan, Jeanette Hill, Lucia Giaccio, Rob Connolly, Ashley Anthony, Daniel Normyle, Jo Lorsch, Lani Clow, Carol Flannigan, Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika, Harry Lynas, Michael Simpson, John la Spina, Von Leeman, Imelda Khoo, Lorretta Stephenson, Brian Crimmins, Angela White, Mary Stevenson, Veronica Roberts, Melisa Duffy.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Rita Vardanega

*Names will remain on Our Sick list until advised otherwise. Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by Thursday morning at the latest (preferably via email). Thank you.*



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL THIS WEEKEND



This year's **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** will take place this weekend. Every contribution will go directly towards supporting local families who are doing it tough, offering much-needed help and hope at this time of year. Your support is greatly appreciated. You can also donate directly: BSB: **064-786**, Account: **100026570**

Account Name: SVDP St Oliver Plunkett Conference Cannon Hill.



## TINNIES FOR VINNIES - CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to those who have given so generously over the last few weeks. A special thank you also to St Ollie's school children and families for the toys and gift-card donations. An estimated 45 to 50 hampers will be packed and delivered during the week of 15th to 19th December.

*This week, we are seeking **chips, corn chips, popcorn and anything festive.***

This will be our last request for the year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

*Donations can be left in the yellow bin at St Oliver Plunkett Church and in the basket at Holy Family Church.*

*N.B. other non-perishable items can be dropped off at any time at SOP Church.*



### PARISH OFFICE - CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Parish Office will close from **Christmas Eve** and will reopen on **Tuesday, 20th January**. Father Vasanthan will be available at all times via the Parish mobile phone on 0493 096 073.

### CHP CHRISTMAS DINNER

You are invited to share the fun and fellowship of Christmas over dinner following the **6pm Vigil Mass** on **Saturday, 20th December**.



Join your fellow Parishioners for a simple meal of baked ham, roast turkey and vegetables as we look back on 2025 and look forward to the season of Christmas. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to attend.

### ANOINTING AND HEALING

*The last Anointing and Healing Mass will be held on **Wednesday, 10th December at 9:00am** at St Oliver Plunkett Church. At this mass, we pray for physical, spiritual and emotional healing for the sick and elderly. M'tea will follow in the Parish Hall.*

### Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you for your donations to the **MAMI Hearts for Mission Appeal** last weekend. Money raised was \$747.75. Donations are still welcome (see back page). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Wednesday, 24th December: Christmas Eve Vigil**

6pm at St Oliver Plunkett - Christmas Carols at 5.30pm.

**Thursday, 25th December: Christmas Day**

7.30am at Holy Family Church; 9am at St Oliver Plunkett

**Saturday, 27th December & Sunday, 28th December:**

*Feast of The Holy Family, normal Mass times.*

**Thursday, 1st January: New Year's Day Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

9am at St Oliver Plunkett Church. **NB. NO 9AM MASSES ON 24TH, 25TH & 26TH DEC**

## CANNON HILL CATHOLIC PARISH



### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 9.00am - 2.30pm

### ADDRESS

**St Oliver Plunkett Church & Parish Centre**

21 Beauvardia St, Cannon Hill Q 4170

### Church of the Holy Family

41 Belmont Rd, Tingalpa Q 4173  
(enter via 56 Palgrave St)

### CONTACT

**Phone: (07) 3853 7490 (NEW)**

Mobile: 0493 096 073 (after hours)

WhatsApp: 0493 096 073

### EMAIL

cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au

### WEBSITE

www.cannonhillparish.org.au

### FACEBOOK

Cannon Hill Catholic Parish

### PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest:** Fr Vasanthan Anthonipillai

OMI [pp.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pp.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Norma Martiri

[cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Administration Support:** Ronda Vorrasi

[sc.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au) (NEW)

**Local Safeguarding Rep:** Ronda Vorrasi

Mobile: 0494 166 815

**Parish Leadership Team:**

Sachin Rasquinha, Ronda Vorrasi, Guy Elliot, Aaron Tippetts, Michael Hill



MISSIONARY  
OBLATES  
of MARY IMMACULATE

From the moment the Oblates arrived in Fremantle in 1894, they have dedicated themselves to the mission of the Church in Australia. They dedicate themselves to serving the poor in parishes, schools, prisons, among the youth and with those on the streets. The Oblates preach Christ to the poor and the most abandoned and have served them in Australia for more than 100 years.

To learn more go to [www.omi.com.au](http://www.omi.com.au)

### DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Thank you for your generous support, which impacts the lives of those we serve. Your donations directly foster the growth and prosperity of our community and sustain our ministries. Donations can be made via the EFTPOS terminal at the church entrance (split between 1st and 2nd collections) or through our secure online direct debit system (call the Parish Office to organise). Please consider including our *Perpetual Endowment Fund* in your Will to help continue our mission for future generations. For more Bequest info. contact the Catholic Foundation on 3324 3200 or call the Parish Office. Donate using the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/parish-donate>



# OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS




Heartwarming Christmas shows, inspiring talks, joyful music, and stories of hope — for every age.



SCAN TO WATCH FOR FREE!

[shalomworld.org/christmas](https://shalomworld.org/christmas)

No pay walls. No ads.  
Just Christmas with Jesus


*Celebration of the*

*Blessing of the Pauline Fathers Monastery & Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians 'Marian Valley'*

*with*

*A Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by*

*Most Reverend Krzysztof Nykiel, Bishop Regent of The Apostolic Penitentiary, Rome & Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes*

*on*

*Saturday 13th December 2025 at 11:00 am.*

*Followed by festivities.*

*Let us give thanks to God for His many blessings.*



## HEARTS FOR MISSION APPEAL

**TURN FAITH INTO ACTION**

We invite you to make a difference to our Missions which provide food, shelter and education to communities in need.

WEBSITE



[bit.ly/mamiomi](http://bit.ly/mamiomi)

SIGN UP TO NEWSLETTER



[bit.ly/MAMINewsletter](http://bit.ly/MAMINewsletter)

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION



[bit.ly/mamidonate](http://bit.ly/mamidonate)

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate (03) 9805 8888  
mami@oblates.com.au



A GIANT MUSICAL EVENT

# DAVID

**ONLY IN CINEMAS**

Beyond the giant's shadow, the shepherd boy embarks on a journey to show his people that true power lies not in kingship, but in faith and freedom. In Cinemas on 18th December 2025.

ANGEL  
[angel.com/david](http://angel.com/david)