Angel Tree

Please take an "angel" from the tree and buy an appropriate gift for the age and gender indicated gifts to be no more than $30 each for child $50 an adult.. Warehouse Gift Cards are also acceptable because the recipient can then buy clothes, toys, school stationery or even food. De Paul House is providing meat and vegetable vouchers, for families living in De Paul House, and their outreach families. Please return your gift (unwrapped) and "Angel" no later than Sunday 13th December.

May God Bless All Our Efforts this Advent

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS TIME TABLE

12 Dec.	Anointing Mass	5.30pm
13 Dec.	Anointing Mass	10.30am
16 Dec.	Reconciliation Rite II	7.00pm
24 Dec.	Usual Thursday morning Mass	9.15am
	Children's Nativity Play	6.00pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	6.30pm
	Carols	11.20pm
25 Dec.	Midnight Mass	12.00am
	Children's Nativity Play	8.15am
	Family Mass	8.30am
	Christmas Mass	10.30am

December 26th and thereafter we revert to the normal Mass timetable
Monday Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion 9.15am
Tuesday to Saturday Mass 9.15am
Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm
Sunday 8.30am - 10.30am - 5.00pm





"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.'" (Mt 1:23)

Celebrating Advent and Christmas
at St Mary's Parish Northcote

My Dear Faithful Parishioners of St Mary's Northcote,

As we begin our journey through Advent, the Church invites us to prepare not only our homes for Christmas, but, more importantly our hearts for the coming of Christ. Christmas can easily become a busy season of shopping, celebrations and family activities. These are good things, but Advent reminds us that the greatest preparation we can make is spiritual.

Let us therefore make this Advent a time of payer, reconciliation and generosity.

Let us make Advent visible in our home

I encourage every family to consider having an Advent wreath in your home. Each Sunday, gather around the wreath, light the appropriate candle, and take a few moments to pray together. Let this simple tradition become a reminder that we are journeying towards the birth of Christ.

The four candles of the Advent wreath can help us reflect on our journey:

- **First Candle - Hope:** As the candle is lit, we place our hope in God's promise and look forward to the coming of Christ.
- **Second Candle - Peace:** We pray that the peace of Christ may fill our hearts, our families and our troubled world.
- **Third Candle - Joy:** We rejoice because the coming of the Lord is near and God's love is always with us.
- **Fourth Candle - Love:** We remember the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ and are called to share that love with others.

As the light grows brighter each week, may it remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, is drawing near.

Let us make time for prayer.

Set aside a special time each day to be with the Lord. If possible, create a simple space for prayer in your home. Let families pray together, even if only for a few minutes. Parents, be examples of prayer for your children, and children, encourage your parents and one another to pray. Let us also make a renewed effort to participate faithfully in the celebration of Mass, where we encounter Christ and receive His grace.

Let us pray for peace.

Our world continues to experience conflict, suffering and uncertainty. Let us not forget those who are poor, lonely, sick, persecuted or caught in war and conflict. During Advent, let us offer prayers and small sacrifices for them. May our prayer begin with our own hearts and families and extend to the wider community and our troubled world.

Let us seek Reconciliation

Advent is an opportunity to prepare our hearts by returning to God. I encourage you to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during ths season. Here at St Mary's we will be offering Rite II Reconciliation. All are invited. There will also be Deanery wide opportunities for Reconciliation. The dates, time and places are listed in our newsletter.
Also let us think of those with whom relationships have become strained or distant. Perhaps a phone call, a message, a visit or a simple act of forgiveness can begin to heal a relationship. If Christ is to find room in our hearts, we must also make room for one another,

Let us give generously.

The coming of Christ calls us to become more attentive to those in need. Let us share what we have with the poor and vulnerable, and involve our children in acts of generosity so that they learn that the blessings we receive are meant to be shared. This Advent, let us look at practical ways to support those who are struggling and to bring some light into their lives. Give generously to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, De Paul House, Mary's Pantry, or to which ever charitable organisation you identify with.

This is our Advent Prayer.

May the Advent wreath in our homes, the prayers we offer, the Masses we celebrate, the forgiveness we seek and the generosity we show all help us to prepare a true dwelling place for Christ.
May this Advent lead each of us and our families more deeply into the hope, peace, joy and love of the Lord, so that when Christmas comes, we may celebrate not merely the birth of Christ, but His presence in our lives.

With every blessing for a holy Advent and a joyful Christmas.
from: Fr Lio, Fr Lalith and the Pastoral Team of St Mary's Northcote

Each week, reflect on the Sunday Gospel for Advent

First Sunday of Advent - 29th November
Gospel Mark 13:31-37

Second Sunday of Advent - 06th December
Gospel Mark: 1- 1- 8

Third Sunday of Advent - 13th December
Gospel John 1: 6- 8, 19-28

Fourth Sunday in Advent - 20th December
Gospel Luke 1:26-38



Pray the Rosary



Reflecting on the JOYFUL MYSTERIES:
The Annunciation - The Visitation
The Birth of Jesus - The Presentation
The finding of Jesus in the Temple

(we have a group in the church who pray the Rosary every morning Monday to Thursday after the 9.15am Mass)

Make an Advent Wreath



The wreath is a circle of evergreens, a reminder of the everlasting power and eternity of God. A circle has no beginning or end, green is the colour of hope and expectation - the spirit of Advent. The four candles can be white, but coloured ones help to convey the message better. The first and second candles are purple - a royal Colour symbolising humility and penance, a reminder that now is the time to mend broken relationships. The third candle is pink (rose) signifying joy, happiness and hope. (We are now half way through the season!) The fourth candle is purple to remind us that the time is almost here, though not quite yet. One candle is lit each week and could be accompanied with a prayer each day.

Make an effort to attend an extra Mass during the four weeks Weekday Masses for Advent

Tuesday to Saturday - 9.15am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Each Friday after the 9.15am Mass all day concluding with Benediction at 4.00pm

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Rite II Reconciliation 7.00pm16th December

Rite I Reconciliation each Saturday after the 9.15am at 9.45am

or by appointment

In addition, Rite II Reconciliation Celebrations for the North Shore Deanery are published in our weekly newsletter and on the website

St Vincent de Paul

When doing the "Christmas" shopping an extra item or two could be purchased for St Vincent de Paul to distribute in their Christmas Food Parcels.