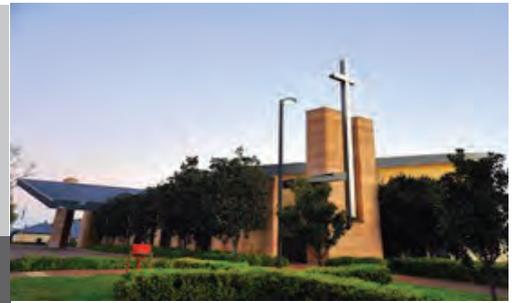


WELCOME

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—6 DECEMBER 2020



"The Love of Christ must come before all else." (Rule of St Benedict)

WEEKLY SERVICES

Mass Times:

Mon: Communion - Service @ 7am
Wed/Fri: 7.00am
Tues/Thurs: 9.00am
Sat: 7.30am & Vigil @ 6pm
Sun: 7.30am, 9.30am & 6.00pm

Reconciliation:

Sat: 4.30PM-5.30PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon: 7.30am—5pm
Tues/Thurs: 9.30am— 5pm
Wed/Fri: 7.30am—5pm
Sat: 8am—12noon

Rosary Groups:

STOPPED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Prayer Group:

Mary Mother of Sorrows: Meetings on Thursdays @ 1.00pm

Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the Month in the Fr Albert Lynch Room @ 1.30pm

Baptisms: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Marriages: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BENEDICTCARE CO-ORDINATORS

Anne - 0477 284 906 (Meals)
Lourdes - 0402 929 391 (Visiting)
Margaret - 9364 8146 (Transport & Home Help/Garden/Handyman)
Elizabeth - 9364 9386 (New Parishioners)

PREP CO-ORDINATOR: Maureen Bright

Email: applecrossrelgedu@gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR: Rosa Ranieri

Email: stbenedicts.sacraments@gmail.com

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP: Emily Hardbottle

Email: stbenesyouth@gmail.com

**HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION
FRIDAYS @ 7.30AM**



115 Ardross Street, Ardross WA 6153

Tel: 9364 1120

E: admin@stbenedicts.net.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StBenesApplecross/>

Parish Priest: Fr Nelson Po

PO Box 1831, Applecross, 6953

Fax: 9316 9587

www.stbenedicts.net.au

Admin Officer: Colleen Geldenhuys

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:

Karl Brown, Marina Ciccarelli, Frances Meyerkort, Alana Coffey, Ondine Komnick, Rodney Dowling

Email contact:

applecross.safeguarding@gmail.com



READINGS FOR THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon Cf. *Is 30:19,30*

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of our heart.

First Reading: *Is 40:1-5. 9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8*

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading: *2 Pt 3:8-14*

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 3:4. 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mk 1:1-8*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, 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.’

Communion Antiphon *Bar 5:5; 4:36*

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - 12 & 13 DECEMBER 2020

	SAT 6PM	SUN 7.30AM	SUN 9.30AM	SUN 6PM
ACOLYTE	T MEO	S ROBERTSON	P SUPPIAH	D LONGO
ALTAR SERVERS	J CARDOSO D FERNANDES	C & L KILROE	I & A BARFIELD K TAN	T & S PRETORIUS
COMMENTATORS	E DIAS	A PARSONS	C HACKETT	M BRIGHT
COLLECTORS	T GARBIN B NEWMAN	G DOYLE	TW BOWLAND RM BUNN	A DARGIE K JEFFERIES
READERS	S CHEN G CLAY	M ANDERSON M LAU	M CICCARELLI P CICCARELLI	C COSTIN A D'SOUZA
EMOCH	Y GARBIN M HILL	J LEE A SCOTT	T BROCKWAY M TARANTO	P DORAY J NORTON
ALTAR SOCIETY: MRS H MCNAUGHT & MRS A SEQUEIRA			PILGRIM STATUE: L FRANCHINA	
COUNTERS: BARRY, S & A SALDANHA			CHILDREN'S LITURGY: NO LITURGY DURING COVID-19	



Birthday *Presents for* *Jesus?*

Dear Friends,

As Christmas approaches I'd like to share with you a simple story that came up for discussion at a recent Alpha meeting in the parish under the theme 'Listening to God' called 'Mary's Dream':

Mary's Dream

'I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son.

The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts.

It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name.

I had the strangest feeling that, if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!

(Author Unknown)

Moved by the story, the group suggested we circulate it in the parish along with a birthday 'Presents for Jesus' Christmas list. My hope and theirs is that you will read the list that follows and give one or more of the suggested presents to Jesus this Christmas along with your other gifts. Or you may think of another present that He would enjoy. I'm sure that if you chose any one of the presents listed, or gave something similar, Jesus would be delighted. And I'm also sure, given the delight Jesus enjoys in receiving His birthday gifts, Mary and Joseph would smile with satisfaction knowing her dream was in fact just that, a dream.

God bless

Father Nelson Po

Suggested 'Presents for Jesus'

Gifts

1. Make a Christmas donation to Caritas.
www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal
2. If asked 'What would you like for Christmas?' include one or two 'Presents for Jesus' in your wish list.
3. Give Columban Calendars as a Christmas Gift.
4. Purchase a MAMI Gift Card and give it to someone who would prefer to support needy young people by donating a Chook, a Tool Box, or a Goat or something similar in support of the Oblate Fathers missionary work, rather than receive another pair of socks.
www.oblates.com.au/christmas-cards
5. Babysit young children so a couple can celebrate a special occasion.

Outreach

6. Apart from Aboriginal Australians, we are in a very real sense 'boat people'. Joseph and his little family were political refugees in Egypt, maybe for several years. Find some practical way to be a welcoming Australian.
7. Invite someone who may be on their own to join you for a Christmas meal.
8. Don't hide your Christianity at Christmas (e.g. write 'Christmas' not 'Xmas'; send 'Christmas' not 'Season's' greetings).

Personal

9. Send a Christmas card to someone you may have deliberately or inadvertently hurt together with a note or letter of apology/reconciliation.
10. Every day, try and pay someone a compliment, particularly for Christian acts of kindness.
11. Send a card, letter or email of gratitude to those who have helped you along your life's journey who you have not specifically thanked in the past. Or, even better, phone them.
12. Reconcile with a family member or former close friend.
13. Share this 'Mary's Dream' handout with others who may not have received it.

Prayers and Reflections

14. You might enjoy participating in a ten week Alpha discussion group run through the parish. Email enquiries to:
stbenesfaith@gmail.com
15. Promise Jesus that every day or every week you will go to Google or the telephone directory, look up 'Catholic Church WA', find a different organisation or institution and ask the Lord to bless it, the people working in it, and the people they serve.
16. Set aside a regular time in your day to listen to God.
17. Pray for past parish clergy, special ministers, volunteers and benefactors.
18. Perhaps you could take the time to reconnect with your favourite saint.
19. Include the unknown person who wrote the Mary's Dream story in your prayers.
20. Load the 'Bible in one year' app onto your phone and listen to a bible reading each day.

Promises and Commitments

21. Is now the time to increase your parish planned giving contribution by 10% to help cover the inevitable cost increases the parish faces, especially in this COVID afflicted year?
22. Resolve to say 'thank you' to God on a regular basis for His help and blessings.
23. Help nature heal by recommitting to COVID safe practices (e.g. by installing the 'SafeWA' app on your phone).
24. Now might be a time to re-connect with our God-children.
25. Commit to make special time for prayer or reflection (e.g. a weekday mass, join a meditation group or go on a retreat).

Donations

26. Provide a meal for the homeless by a donation to St Pat's care centre.
www.stpats.com.au
27. Support the Diocesan 'Life Link' appeal or one of its programmes.
www.LifeLink.com.au.

Time and Talents

28. Lookup the parish web site under 'parish groups' to see if you might find satisfaction in joining one or other, or letting them know that you would be available, if or when needed, to assist with their activities.
29. Become a letter writer for Jesus (e.g. write a gentle letter objecting to offensive advertisements or promotions; or write to the editor of a paper or TV station when an issue that would offend Jesus gets reported).
30. Send a Christmas card with a 'What can I do for you this Christmas?' offer of help (e.g. to the Parish Office, a family member, local hospital or charity).
31. Become a hospital, nursing home, juvenile detention or prison visitor.
32. Contact hospital chaplains and offer short term 'home stay' help for country folk visiting seriously ill family and needing short term accommodation.
33. Volunteer to give some time to work in a Vinnies shop or other Vinnie activity.
34. Offer to help with the 9.30 mass children's liturgy.

Family

35. Make a list of community service acts your family could do and see how many of them can be achieved during advent (e.g. shopping for an elderly neighbour, babysitting for a harassed mother, providing a meal for a family in need etc.).
36. Commit as a family to say the rosary together (say) once a week.
37. Make the nativity scene the focus of Christmas decorations (i.e. the roof, dining table etc.).
38. Include in our Christmas dinner grace a reminder that we give each other a Christmas gift as a symbol, to celebrate the greatest gift that we have received, Christ, our Saviour.
39. Join the busy bee team as a family when announced to give practical help to the parish and renew, or make some new, acquaintances.

Young Children - If you have young children or grandchildren you might:

40. At year end, have them take a labelled (girl/boy age) Christmas gift to school for distribution to the needy, as if the child receiving it were Jesus.
41. Help them devise their own 'Present for Jesus'.

Parish Initiatives

42. Recruit new members for the craft group with the items created being donated to an appropriate charity or sold to raise funds for a worthy cause.
43. Organise 'hosts/greeters' with name badges to ensure all are welcomed at parish social events and to help with COVID tracing requirements.
44. Establish a 'talent register' where parishioners could register their willingness to offer their time and skills if and when needed for a parish project.
45. List the parish ministries and groups along with the contacts person's details on the notice board.
46. Organise a variation of the original 'boxing day' tradition and have parishioners bring in duplicate or otherwise unneeded Christmas presents or gift cards for re-distribution to the needy.

Teenagers and young people

47. Some 80 students at a Catholic high school have committed through their RE teachers to say a rosary for Our Lady's birthday - could your school do something similar?
48. Leavers, try and think of a way to thank your parents for their love and support during your school years.
49. Set good example by the appropriate and respectful use of social media.

Other

50. Can you think of other 'presents' for Jesus along these lines as you see Him in your prayer life?



*We invite you and your family to come and celebrate Christmas with us at the
Catholic Parish of Applecross, St Benedict's Church
Cnr Canning Hwy & Ardross St, Ardross*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:	Outdoor Mass	-	6.00pm
	Vigil Mass	-	8.00pm
	Christmas Carols	-	11.15pm
	Midnight Mass	-	12.00am
CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:	7.30am & 9.30am <i>No Evening Mass</i>		

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Confession)

1ST RITE: Thursday, 17 December @ 7pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS TIME

1st January 2021 – Morning Mass - 9am

*Fr Nelson Po and the Parish Community would like to wish you a Holy and Blessed Christmas
and may God's love be with you always*

*'May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope and the peace of HIS LOVE,
at CHRISTMAS and always'*

PARISH NOTICES

EVENTS

- ◆ 12 DEC—CHRISTMAS CAROLS NIGHT
- ◆ 19 DEC—PARISH BUSY BEE
- ◆ 20 DEC—PARISH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS
- ◆ CHRISTMAS DAY MASS—SEE NOTICE
- ◆ 1 JAN 2020—MASS @ 9AM

PARISH BUSY BEE



SATURDAY, 19 DECEMBER @ 8AM—12PM
PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parishioners of St Benedict's for your kindness and support over the years that I have worked with you. I will miss so many friendly faces and all the laughter we have shared. May you all have a blessed Christmas. Thank you—Colleen.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

Outdoor Mass	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Christmas Carols	11.15pm	Midnight Mass	12.00am

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: 7.30am & 9.30am
No Evening Mass

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSION):

1ST RITE: Thursday, 17 December 2020 @7pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: 9am

Applecross Catholic Women's League wishes to thank parishioners for their support of the recent Raffle to raise funds for the Lebanon Disaster Relief. The \$1050 raised has been forwarded to Aid to the Church in Need for this purpose. Results - **1st prize:** Apricot Q81-M Crossley, **2nd prize:** Yellow B37-M Welsh, **3rd prize:** Orange A48-M Perrott.
Thank you for all your support and donations.

CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA INVITATION



SUNDAY,
20 DECEMBER
@10.30AM

HOSTED BY
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

PLEASE BRING ALONG A
PLATE TO SHARE

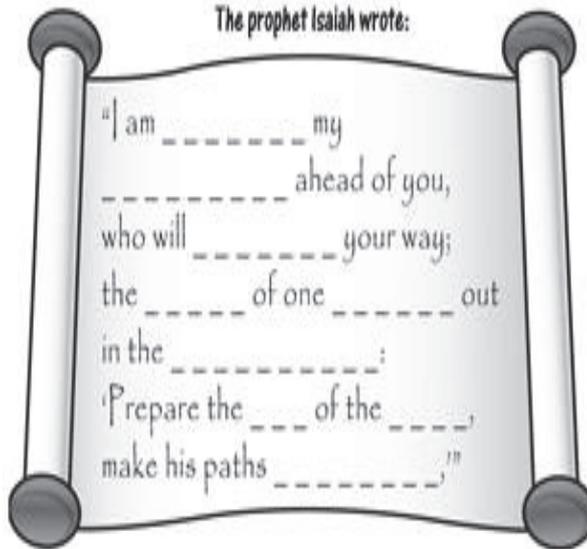
FAREWELL MORNING TEA

This morning tea is to farewell and thank Colleen for her years of service to St Benedict's. Please come along and join us.



What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this second week of Advent?

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 _____'"

crying
 straight
 way
 voice
 sending
 prepare
 wilderness
 messenger
 Lord

PRAY FOR THE SICK

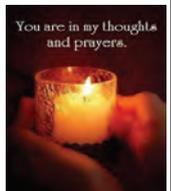
Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Tom Lyons, Myrtle Nimmo, Winifred Trinidad, Sr Carla, Beryl Kerman, Truus Botman, Eric Walsh, Sim Tan, Norman Thomas, Ng Chai Hong, Beatrice Leong and all others who are not included in this list.

PLEASE PRAY FOR RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES: Ama Alba, Lucy MacCleod, Robert D Malone, Thomas Spalding, Melvyn Douglas Bryne, all deceased benefactors of the parish and all departed family and friends.

Thank You.



09 Dec THE SLAVE IS MY SISTER, THE SLAVE IS MY BROTHER – CHRISTMAS REFLECTION IN WORD AND MUSIC

A beautiful and inspiring evening of readings and music with Eva-Marie Middleton (soprano); Paul O'Neill (tenor); Schola Choir (from Aquinas College); Hugh Lydon (conductor); Paul Wright (violin) and Dominic Perissinotto (pipe organ). Meditation by Professor Francis Campbell (Vice Chancellor, UNDA). All are welcome. Wednesday, 9 December from 6.30pm – 8.30pm, St Patrick's Basilica, 47 Adelaide St, Fremantle. Cost: by donation - Text GIVE on your smartphone to 0488 854 436 and select 'Christmas'. Proceeds support the Good Shepherd Sisters' girl-child education and protection projects. Bookings essential. For tickets visit www.trybooking.com/BNAMI. (Also Live-streamed by Merus on www.catholicmission.org.au/perth2020). Further info: Lydia, Istanley@catholicmission.org.au or 08 9422 7933.

12 Dec THANKSGIVING MASS - PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE

We warmly invite you to attend our Thanksgiving Mass on Saturday 12 December 10am, St Mary's Cathedral, Perth. Please join us in giving thanks to God for all the wonders poured out for our Ministry. Refreshments are provided downstairs after Mass. Further info; Carmel or Lisette 08 9328 2929.

ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL—YEAR 7 CLASS OF 2000 REUNION

Please join us at Dome, Deep Water Point on Saturday, 12 December between 2pm-5pm. Would be great to see you

CHRISTMAS OUTDOOR VIGIL MASS

Please remember to bring along your own chairs or rugs to sit on and a wrap to keep yourselves warm if the weather turns cool.

All children are invited to dress as shepherds, kings or angels appropriate for the Christmas theme.

If your child would like to participate in the re-actment of the gospel, please the Parish office or email clare.doutch@wanews.com.au before Tuesday, 15 December. Thank You

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS

These are now available at the back of the Church, for parishioners to volunteer for the different duties which make the Christmas celebrations a wonderful experience for all. Please write your name on the sheet for the Mass that you will be attending. Many hands make light work. Your help and support is much appreciated. Thank You.

Weekly Reflections and Prayers with Norma Woodcock

Weekly Reflections—Sunday Readings with Norma Woodcock. <https://normawoodcock.com/sundayreading>

Weekly Prayers—Prayers & Teachings with Norma Woodcock. <https://normawoodcock.com/youtube>

[approx. 4-6 mins each—Cost—Free of charge]

Google—Norma Woodcock YouTube Channel

www.normawoodcock.com or [Visit Norma on Facebook](#)

The Centre for Catholic Spiritual Development and

Prayer - Phone: (08) 9487 1772

PO Box 696, Applecross, WA, 6153

Email: norma@normawoodcock.com

Website: www.normawoodcock.com

Sunday Readings with Norma Woodcock

Prayers & Teachings with Norma Woodcock

Purchase Norma's CDs on iTunes or Norma's Website

Visit Norma on Facebook

Presence

Jesus waits silent and unseen to come into my heart. I will respond to His call. He comes with His infinite power and love May I be filled with joy in His presence.

Freedom

I will ask God's help, to be free from my own preoccupations, to be open to God in this time of prayer, to come to know, love and serve God more.

Consciousness

Where do I sense hope, encouragement, and growth areas in my life? By looking back over the last few months, I may be able to see which activities and occasions have produced rich fruit. If I do notice such areas, I will determine to give those areas both time and space in the future.

The Word of God



Phase #4 of the WA COVID 19 Roadmap SafeWA

From 5 December anyone coming into the Church will either have to scan the QR code with their SafeWA app or write their contact details on the available forms. This is in compliance with State Government Regulations. For more information you can find out more at <https://safewa.health.wa.gov.au/> To download the app please go to the appropriate store for your phone.

Christmas Gift Drive

MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

SPREAD SOME CHEER & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are collecting christmas gifts and non perishable foods for St Vincent de Paul Society. Please place items in the box provided. Thank You.

Please do not leave bottles of wine, used items/toys or expired non perishable foods. We really appreciated your kindness.

This weekend is the last weekend of collections.

Hampers will be collated the following week.

Thank you

2021 COLUMBAN CALENDAR - ON SALE

The Columban Art Calendar, a Catholic Calendar is well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information. It is the main fundraiser for the Missions. **COST: \$10.00ea**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st: Is 61:1-2, 10-11
 2nd: 1 Thess 5:16-24
 Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

