THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 4 Dec (St John Damascene, PrD)

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5-11

Out of a desire to grow closer to God many think that they have to earn their way into God's heart. That they need to be worthy. Yet it is only when we open our lives to God's free gift of grace that God enters our lives.

Tue 5 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Luke 10:21-24

Isaiah calls us to live in genuine hope: to act out an unshakable conviction that sin and death will not have the final word, that an altenative worldview grounded in compassion, welcome and acceptance is possble.

Wed 6 Dec (St Nicholas, B)

Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29-37

Many of us don't offer our gifts and abilities to God because we have convinced ourselves that whatever little we have is just not good enough. Yet, Jesus chose the little gift that someone had to offer. That's the miracle.

Thu 7 Dec St Ambrose, BD

Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21.24-27

Nothing is made to last a lifetime. Things wear out and come to an end. Fortunately for us, this is not the case with God's mercy. The psalmist reminds us today that God's compassionate care surrounds us forever.

Fri 8 Dec **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Genesis 3:9-15.20; Psalm 98; Luke 1:26-38

Humans do not get to choose their parents, but God was able to choose the mother of Jesus. And God picked the very best. Today let us reflect true sanctity in our own lives in the warmth and love we show to others.

Sat 9 Dec (St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin)

Isaiah 30:19-21.23-26; Psalm 147; Matt. 9:35–10:1.5-8

All cultures seem to reach for the heights: temples on hills; monasteries on mountains; towers stretching to the sky. We look up, we reach, we lift our eyes. We yearn for God, waiting beyond us in love.

Sun 10 Dec **2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11; Psalm 85; Mark 1:1-8

Optimism can be learned, and will lead to a happier, healthier life. Believe in the midst of great pain that you can see God's good gifts all around you and you shall indeed see them. Look for good in all places.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (*Optional Memorial*) Pr=Priest; D=Doctor; B=Bishop

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 80.

RESPONSE:
O God, bring us back; let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
   enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
   Rouse up your might and come to save us. ℟
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
   look down from heaven and see.
   Visit this vine and protect it,
   the vine your right hand has planted. ℟
3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
   the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
   And we shall never forsake you again,
   give us life that we may call upon your name. ℟

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:33-37.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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Catholic Link

Advent Hope
1st Sunday of Advent • Year B
Divine Office: Week I • 3 December 2017

TODAY WE begin the season of Advent. For many people Advent means end of year parties, buying presents for friends and family, preparing food and drink for a Christmas like no other.

For Christians, of course, Advent is an important liturgical season. It is a time of religious preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. But Advent has a deeper significance: it is also a time of spiritual preparation for the final coming of Christ in glory. Advent looks back to an event which has left an indelible footprint in history – the birth of the Messiah, God-with-us. It also looks forward to the "Last Things" and to the "End Times" in which the full glory of Christ as Son of God will be revealed.

In the Catholic Link this Advent we will pause over the classical "Four Last Things" as a small element in our prayerful preparation for Christmas 2017.

There are two (at least) undeniable facts about death: every living being dies and we all try to interpret death. Although there is a popular denial of death in the sense of refusing to face up to death, none of us escapes the reality of death. Yet we all try to deal with it in one way or another. Some refuse to give death any significance whatever; others have the humility to pause before the mystery of life and death – and to ask why?

For the Christian of course the key to death is the death of Jesus. In the Book of Revelation we read, "Do not be afraid, it is I, *the First and the Last*; I am the Living One, I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death..." (1:17,18). Jesus tasted death for everyone; the Father did not save Jesus from death but glorified him in his death.

"Dying he destroyed our death": the death of Jesus has drawn the sting out of death so that it now becomes for us a gift drawing us into the fullness of life in God. "Rising he restored our life": through death we are introduced to a totally new kind of life, for which we cannot have any adequate description this side of death.

This pattern of entering into the dying and rising of Jesus marks all Christian lives from their very baptism; hence all Christian lives are marked by hope. We are made for that new kind of existence we call "Resurrection Life" and throughout our daily lives, little by little, we hand ourselves over to that New Life. Death is the final and enduring self-surrender to the love that brought us into existence in the first place.

Christmas is therefore both a celebration of the birth in the flesh of our Messiah and also an anticipation of our definitive birth into God through our death.

CATHOLIC CHURCH GRASSY PARK

(Our Lady Queen of Peace /St. Gerard's /St. Clement's)

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Face book page: I love Grassy Park Parish; **Church website:** www.catholicchurchgrassypark.co.za

Fr. Baiju Mundackal MSFS
Fr. Noble Jose Nakathingal MSFS

Priests' Day Off: Monday

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS

Bank: Standard Bank Grassy Park. **Account Name:** Catholic Church Grassy Park
Account No. 270346368 **Branch Code:** 026209

Died: We pray for the repose of the soul of Mervyn Fredericks. May he rest in peace. His funeral will be on Tuesday (5th December at 10.30 am) at Queen of Peace.

QUEEN OF PEACE

a) **Praise & Worship** - Every Monday evening at 7.30pm.
b) **Saint Vincent de Paul** - Kindly continue being generous in bringing non-perishables for the poor. We wish to thank parishioners and the First Holy Communion children for their generous donation of food items for the poor and less fortunate.
c) **Mass Offered:** **Sunday: 9.30 - Chris Jaftha - birthday**
- Ronald Dick - RIP

ST. GERARD'S

a) **For Shelter Seeking:** Please add your details on the list on the notice board.
Advent Candle Lighting: Individuals, couples or families celebrating a special occasion, in the coming week, to add their names to the list.
b) **Mass Offered:** **Sunday: 8.00am - For the Parish**

ST. CLEMENT'S

a) **Saint Vincent De Paul** - Kindly continue being generous in bringing non-perishables for the poor.
b) **Catechism Children** - will be presenting a short Advent play at the church today at 3.30pm at St. Clement's. All are invited to attend as we enter into and reflect on the spirit of Advent.
c) **Mass Offered:** **Sunday: 10.00am - Lance Williams - 16th birthday**

Weekly Pledge Payments - 26th October 2017

Queen of Peace
1568,7351,3584,1055,7734,5279,7660,7733,0001,1684,3093,1462,3092,3586,7011,6921,1917,1339,3438,504, 2485,1217,6673,1087

St. Gerard's
5411,6327,6901,3577,2462,7355,3499,244

St. Clement's
6795,6859,6955,7597,4461,627,4315

Kindly Note: From the 13th December there will be no Novena at all 3 churches. Novena will resume on the 17th January 2018.
From the 13th December there will be daily Mass only at Queen of Peace. Daily Mass will resume at St. Clement's and St. Gerard's from the 17th and 18th January 2018, respectively.

Birthday Wish: Fr. Noble celebrates his birthday on 2nd December. We wish him a very happy birthday. May God continue to bless him in his priesthood and ministry.

PARISH DIARY

DAY & DATE	*MEETINGS & EVENTS*	*TIME & VENUE*
Tues.5th Dec.	PPC meeting	@ 7.00pm @ Q.O. Peace
Wed. 6th Dec.	St. Gerard's Proclaimers' meeting	@ 6.00pm
Fri. 8th Dec.	Parish Ministry Thanksgiving Mass	@ 7.30pm @ St. Gerard's
Tues. 12th Dec.	Finance Council meeting	@ 7.30pm @ presbytery
Wed. 13th Dec.	**Penitential Service**	@ 7.00pm @ Q.O. Peace
Sun. 24th Dec.	**Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)**	**@ 10.00pm Carols Holy Mass @ 11.00pm @ 3 churches**
Mon. 25th Dec.	**Christmas Day**	**Mass as usual as on a Sunday**
Tues. 26th Dec.	**Feast of St. Stephen - Holy Mass**	**@ Q.O. Peace @ 9am**
Sun. 31st Dec.	**Holy Hour** **Year End Mass**	**@ 5.00pm @ Q.O. Peace** **@ 6.00pm @ Q.O. Peace**
Mon. 1st Jan.	News Years Day - Holy Mass	@ 9.00am @ Q.O. Peace

Liturgical Calendars 2018: These calendars will be on sale at R20.00 per calendar. There are a limited amount so please buy one now. St. Gerard's & Queen of Peace parishioners contact the repository and at St. Clement's contact Patrick Abrahams.

Parish Ministry Thanksgiving Mass:
All are invited to join the Mass and the social on Friday 8th December at 7.30pm at St Gerard's. Very special invitation to all involved in various ministries. If you are willing to donate towards the social contact Denise Klassen @ St. Gerard's, Gerry Stevens @ Queen Of Peace and Beryl Moodley @ St. Clement's.

Men in Christ: will be hosting a Charity Auction in aid of building funds on Saturday 9th December in the parking area opposite Queen of Peace church from 9.00am. Donations of household items and effects are most welcome. Contact David April on 076 152 0312.

Marriages: Those couples who are planning to get married in 2018 kindly register for the marriage instruction classes. Strictly 6 months notification prior to marriage is essential. Instructions will begin on 21st February 2018. Before attending these classes meet with the priest on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm to register for classes.

Artscape Show: Regretfully it incurred a loss to the parish. Nonetheless thanks to those who supported and to the Fundraising Committee.