

RCIA: *The Advent spirit is marked by EXPECTATION, ANTICIPATION, PREPARATION and LONGING. There is a yearning for Christ. We look with joy at Jesus' birth and with anticipation towards Jesus' second coming. The Advent scriptures emphasise themes of accountability, faithfulness, our need for forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. Advent reflects the spiritual life of the faith community and individuals. Our community has journeyed over the past months with Marie, Elaine, Ray and Ron and we will celebrate their reception into this faith community next Sunday, 17th December. Let's keep each other in our prayers during this Advent season as we prepare our hearts and lives for Christ's coming.*

THANK YOU to all who contributed to George's funeral mass, especially, the Music Ministry. Also, to those who sent cards, flowers, made phone calls and visited me, my sincere and heartfelt thanks. *Maria Cora.*

Prayer for those suffering Drought

Loving God, whose Son, Jesus Christ called all who were thirsty to come to him, believe and drink;

look in mercy on your Australian people living in a dry land.

Forgive our selfishness in life and our misuse of our natural resources.

We commit ourselves to value and care for your gifts to us.

We ask you for the rain we need to replenish our reservoirs and artesian reserves.

May rivers of living water and practical compassion for all who suffer flow out from our hearts.

Refreshed by your Spirit, and following in the way of Jesus Christ,

we will continue to serve you in the people and creation entrusted to our care.

Amen.

COMMUNITY CAROLS TODAY

Blackheath Christmas Carols in the Community Hall from 6.30pm to 8.15pm. **Our Church group will be singing outside the Hall entrance from 6.00pm to 6.15pm.** Free family fun in the park from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.



St Patrick's School Lithgow

Vacancies exist for Kindergarten 2007. For more information please contact the school on 6351 3719.

How much does the Christmas Cake weigh? Do you know?

\$1.00 a guess. Give it a go!

Do you have an hour free to help us with our Working Bee?

If so, come along next Saturday morning, 16 December from 7am.

* Mowing lawns around the Church, Hall & House.
* Walls in Wentworth St.
* Continue with clean up of the Sturt St frontage block.

* Clean Church Windows.
* Continue general garden cleanup. (Pruning etc).

Advent Litany

Composer: Bernadette Farrell
(USED WITH PERMISSION,
WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Word of justice, Alleluia,
come to dwell here. Maranatha!

Word of mercy, Alleluia,
live among us, Maranatha!

Word of power, Alleluia,
live within us, Maranatha!

Word of freedom, Alleluia,
save your people, Maranatha!

Entrance Hymn:

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Brian Boniwell
(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE
INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

There was a man of God
whose name was John,
He came to speak for the Light.

The voice of one
in the wilderness,
Prepare the way of the Lord. (5x)

Mountains and hills shall be
brought to the ground.
The winding paths
be straightened,
And humankind shall see his face.
Prepare the way of the Lord. (5x)

He's the Lamb of God
and you must follow him
Who takes the sin of the world,
for he has come to give you life.
Prepare the way of the Lord. (5x)

Thanksgiving

Composer: Br Colin D. Smith cfc (USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Lord, we praise you. Lord we thank you for your gift of loving grace.
When our striving here is ended, may we see you face to face.

Thanks be to God. (Repeat 4x)

Preparation of the Gifts:

Star Child

Shirley Erena Murray / Carlton R. Young
(USED WITH PERMISSION,
WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Star Child, earth child,
go-between of God,
love child, Christ child,
heaven's lightning rod.

***This year, this year
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive.***

Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
sad child, used child,
no one wants to know.
This year, this year ...

Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears.
This year, this year ...

Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store.
This year, this year ...

Hope for peace Child
God's stupendous sign
down to earth Child,
Star of stars that shine.