

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 61:1(Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Pope Francis invites us to learn 2 values from Christmas tree and crib

Let us live a Christmas that is different from the consumerist and commercial Christmas!

He invited the faithful to two "human and Christian attitudes" that we can learn from the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene. Here's what he said:

The tree and Nativity display are two signs that continue to charm young and old. The tree, with its lights, reminds us of **Jesus who comes to illuminate our darkness**, our existence often closed up in the shadow of sin, fear and pain. And it suggests to us a further reflection: **Like trees, people too need roots**. Because only if it is rooted in good soil can it stay firm, grow, "mature," and resist the winds that shake it, becoming a point of reference to those who look at it. But, dear friends, without roots none of this can happen; without firm foundation it remains unstable. **It is important to safeguard the roots, in life as well as faith**. In this regard, the apostle Paul reminds us of the foundation in which to root our lives in order to remain firm: he says to remain "rooted in Jesus Christ" (Col 2:7). **This is what the Christmas tree reminds us of: to be rooted in Jesus Christ.**

And so we come to the Nativity scene, which speaks to us of the birth of the Son of God who became man to be close to each one of us. In its genuine poverty, the Nativity scene helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas, and to **purify ourselves of so many aspects that pollute the Christmas landscape**. Simple and familiar, the Nativity scene recalls a Christmas that is different from the consumerist and commercial Christmas: it is something else; it reminds us how good it is for us to cherish moments of silence and prayer in our days, often overwhelmed by frenzy. Silence fosters contemplation of the Child Jesus, helps us to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a tiny newborn baby, with the meekness of his being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that envelop him.

Roots and contemplation: The tree teaches us about roots, the Nativity scene invites us to contemplation. Let us not forget these two human and Christian attitudes. And if we truly want to celebrate Christmas, let us rediscover through the Nativity scene the surprise and amazement of smallness, the smallness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendour of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable.

And to meet Him one must reach Him there, where He is; one must lower oneself, one must make oneself small, leave all vanity behind, to arrive where He is. And prayer is the best way to say thank you before this gift of free love, to say thank you to Jesus who wishes to enter our homes and our hearts. Yes, God loves us so much that he shares our humanity and our lives. He never leaves us by ourselves, He is at our side in all circumstances, in joy as in sorrow. Even in the worst moments, He is there, because He is the Emmanuel, the God with us, the light that illuminates the darkness and the tender presence that accompanies us on our journey.



Parish Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent

10/11 December 2022

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

THE BLIND SEE AGAIN.

Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: 'Are you the one who is to come?'

Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.



Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

PSALM 145:6-10

R: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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Parish Secretary
Melissa Hernandez – Tue-Fri
Police Checks Unit
Hiacinta Msomi – Sunday
Planned Giving Coordinator
Helen Mysak – Monday
WHS Officer
Angela Girolamo – Thursday
Sacristan
Weekdays: Michael Pierce
Sundays: Terence Yeow & Roger Worth


Mass Times
Sunday 9:30 am
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am
Confessions
Saturday 6:00 pm
Rosary
Tues to Fri 8:45am
Adoration of the Eucharist
Friday before Mass 8:30am
Novena to St. Joseph
Wednesday after Mass

St. Joseph's Primary School
Principal - Adrian Grbin
Ph: 8431 2834
Knights of the Southern Cross
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270
Parish Pastoral Council
Chairperson – Alan Tyson
Ph: 0412 389 875
Youth Representative
Nancy Ngure Ph: 0431 896 610
Child Safety & REC
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

LOVE HEALS

Rosters for 17/18 December 2022 4th Sunday of Advent	
Time	Commentator / Readers
6:30pm	Edward Konieczny Chris Platten, Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Stephanie Roach Henry D'Assumpcao, Clare Boyle
Children's Liturgy	-
Count team	Julie Priem Leo Priem Anne Dudzinski George Dudzinski
Altar	27th Nov to 18th Dec Dolores Arboit Christina Wong
<i>All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that mass</i>	

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	3/4 DECEMBER
First Collection	\$ 543.30
Planned Giving (Envelopes & Electronic)	\$ 676.00
Open Plate	\$ 298.80
TOTAL	\$ 1,518.10



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

I wish you all a good Advent journey made up of many small gestures of peace every day: welcoming gestures, gestures of understanding, closeness, forgiveness, and service. Gestures from the heart, like steps towards Bethlehem, towards Jesus, the King of peace.



Please remember in your prayers

We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

Recently Deceased: Angelo Salomone

Anniversary of death: Eileen Brady

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.

Sick: We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.

Special Intention: Santina (she is in an induced coma after surgery)



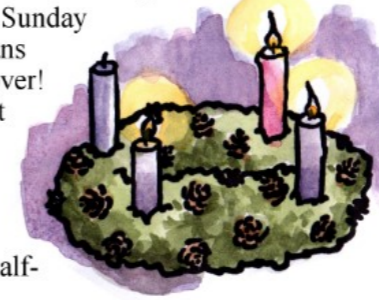
Prayer for the Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania Fiji, 5-10 February 2023

O God, you revealed yourself in Christ Jesus as loving, merciful and just. Guide our Bishops of Oceania as they meet together to further Pope Francis' call to become a listening Church. Open their hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit, that they might truly discern and faithfully serve the needs of your People and your World. Colour our way of life and give witness to your presence among us. You who live and reign, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol of the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



What Happens When Jesus Comes?

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples to tell John the Baptist what He does. What happens to whom? Match up the people with what happens to them.

- the blind • are raised up
- and the lame • have good news preached to them
- lepers • hear
- the deaf • are cleansed
- the dead • receive their sight
- and the poor • walk



Parish Announcements

Bible Diary 2023

Readings for each day, reflections, Saint of the day, prayers and more. If you wish to purchase there are a limited stock available at the office at \$10 each



VINNIES Christmas Hampers

We invite parishioners to donate items for hampers to alleviate cost of living for those in dire need. Please leave your items in shopping bags at the main entrance. Details of suitable items are on posters at the side doors. The last date for contributions is Sunday 11 December.

Blessing of Cribs and decorating the Christmas Tree

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 11th, we can bring our family Nativity sets to church and arrange them along the altar rails to be blessed. On the same day, all children are invited to put the ornaments on the sanctuary Christmas tree, a time of excitement and enjoyment for all of us.



CWL Christmas Raffle - Tickets \$1.

Tickets available on weekend Masses on 3rd Sunday of Advent 10/11th December and drawn during **Morning Tea on Sunday 11th December**. 6 prizes to be won! Proceeds to be donated to Vinnies.

Working Bee

Calling all helping hands! On Saturday 17 December we will have a working bee to clean the Church and surroundings from 9:30am. We work together to take care of our parish.



Christmas
MASS TIMES

24 December
Saturday 6:30pm
Vigil – Family Mass

24 December
Saturday 11:30pm
Christmas Carols and
Midnight Mass

25 December
Sunday 9:30am
Christmas Mass

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tranmere

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023

Parish Office will be closed for Christmas Holidays on 23 December 2022 and reopen 5 January 2023

Mask Mandates have been lifted by the State Government. Although the mandates have been lifted, we highly recommend you continue to wear a mask while inside the Church.
Our Parish is committed to Health and Safety