

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (1:18-24)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM

Saint Joseph truly is the silent figure of the New Testament: There are no direct quotes of Saint Joseph recorded in the Bible. In a way, the silence of Saint Joseph teaches us a fundamental attitude to enter into deep prayer: silence. If we are constantly bombarded by noises then it is impossible to hear the Word of God, because the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the gentle breeze of silence. Also, the silence of Saint Joseph teaches us that we must prove our authenticity not only by words, but also by our actions. What he did in his life for God speaks volumes. To appreciate him and his role in salvation, we need to examine today's gospel passage.

Mary was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit: Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

Joseph believed the angel's message "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit": Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

A model of faith for us: Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work.



Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent

17/18 December 2022

*Jesus was born of
Mary, the betrothed of
Joseph, a son of David.*



A MAN OF HONOUR.

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God's plan of salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God's word to him. He is an example for us all.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above,
you heavens, and let the
clouds rain down the Just
One; let the earth be opened
and bring forth a Saviour



Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

PSALM 23:1-6

**R: Let the Lord enter; he is
king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its
fullness, the world and all its
peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

R

Who shall climb the mountain
of the Lord? Who shall stand
in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and
pure heart, who desires not
worthless things. **R**

He shall receive blessings
from the Lord and reward
from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek
him, seek the face of the God
of Jacob. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

St Joseph's Catholic Church
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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

Roster for Christmas Masses			
ROLE	24th December 6:30pm	24th December Carols / Mass 11:30pm	25th December 9:30am
Commentator	Jim Litchfield	Carols: Stephanie Roach Mass: Alan Tyson	Edward Konieczny
Readers	Natalie Beattie Grace Yeow	Sandy Mazzarolo	
Extraordinary Ministers	Terence Yeow Dominic Yeow Peter Rees		
Servers			
Collectors / Ushers	Terence Yeow Pat Giuliani John Muscat	Leo Priem	Pat Giuliani Leo Priem Andrew Gaal

All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	10/11 DECEMBER
First Collection	\$ 524.15
Planned Giving (Envelopes & Electronic)	\$ 1,294.50
Open Plate	\$ 401.55
TOTAL	\$ 2,220.20



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

I invite you to pray, before the creche, that the Nativity of the Lord will bring a ray of peace to children all over the world, especially those forced to live the terrible and dark days of war.

December 12th 2022



Please remember in your prayers

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

Recently Deceased: Raphael Ngoc

Anniversary of death:

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:



Jesus' Birthday is almost here!



Now there is only a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.



Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE	1	2	3							
VIRGIN				4						5
HIGH										
SHEOL	6									
CHILD										
THE										
DAVID						7				
HEAVEN										
NAME	8	9								
DEEP							10		11	
IMMANUEL										
GOD										
MAN										
	12									

8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your 11D; let it be 7A as 2A or 9D as 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O 3D of 7D! Is it too little for you to weary 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the 10A shall be with 12A, and bear a son, and shall 1D him 6A.



Parish Announcements



Special thanks to all volunteers who came to the Working Bee on Saturday 17th December. Thank you for your effort and dedication!

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



Special Collection for Ukraine

Thank you for your generous help. Our parish donated \$761.30



Christmas Special Collection - 24th and 25th December Appeal for Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

The Otherway Centre is the home of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) and the cultural hub of Centacare. Money raised from the appeal will fund activities that bring the community together and provide vital healing and yarning opportunities to strengthen cultural and spiritual connections. Located at Stepney, the Centre has been supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community for more than 30 years.

ADORATION - Saturday 31st December 2022

We will have an hour of Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament to thank for the Year 2022 and welcome the New Year 2023. Adoration will start at 5:30pm followed by Holy Mass at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

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



NO BULLETIN ON WEEKEND 31 DEC 2022 / 1 JAN 2023

NO HOLY MASS ON TUESDAY 27 AND WEDNESDAY 28

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**