

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke: 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Christmas Mass times

Sunday 24 December 6.30 pm

Vigil- Family Mass

Sunday 24 December 11. 30 pm

Christmas Carols and Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December 9.30am

Christmas Mass



Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

23/24 Dec 2023



A SWELLING PLACE FOR GOD.

King David wanted to build a fine temple in which God would dwell among the people. But God did not choose a building made of stones and mortar for a dwelling place but the womb of the virgin Mary. God continues to dwell among us in Mary's son, Jesus Christ, whose body is the church. Let us pray for a deepening of faith this Christmas that we, like Mary, may continue to give Christ to the world.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
though all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R**

I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne though all ages. **R**

He will say to me: you are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.
I will keep my love for him always;
For him my covenant shall endure. **R**

6 Tips for Getting to Church on Time

With a little planning, we can arrive at church on time with genuine smiles on our faces because we've had pleasant mornings.

1. Start preparing the night before. ...
2. Get up earlier. ...
3. Eliminate distractions. ...
4. Keep breakfast simple. ...
5. Pray about it. ...
6. Model excitement about meeting with God's people and worshiping Him.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 484 Magill Rd, Kensington
 Gardens SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 5068

Parish Priest
 Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM
 Email:
 parishpriest@stjosephsparish
 tranmere.org.au

Parish Secretary
 Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri

Planned Giving Coordinator
 Helen Mysak – Monday

WHS Officer
 Angela Girolamo – Thursday

Sacristan
 Sundays: Terence Yeow
 & Roger Worth

Parish Office Hours
 Mon to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm Ph:
 (08) 8431 6932
 info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

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
 Chair – Alan Tyson Parish
Finance Council Chair -
 Edward Konieczny

Child Safe Contact Person
 Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

Vinnies Assistance Hotline
 1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

Rosters: 30-31 Dec 2023 Holy Family Sunday	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Josh Page Chris Platten Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Alan Tyson Sandy Mazzarolo Sheila Hoogland
Children's Liturgy	Holidays
Count team	Julie Priem Leo Priem Anne Dudzinski George Dudzinski
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers
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	16-17Dec 2023
Planned Giving	\$733.00
Open Plate	\$415.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$1148.00
This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund	\$575.95

PARISH OFFICE - CLOSURE OVER CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR PERIOD

The Parish office will be closed from 12 noon on Friday, 22 December 2023 and will recommence normal business hours on Friday, January 5, 2024.

NO HOLY MASS

There will not be Holy Mass here in St. Joseph's Church on 26-28 December 2023. We will have the Holy Mass as usual on Friday, 29 December 2023.

PLEASE NOTE THE MASS TIMES

Weekdays	09.15am
Saturday	06.30pm
Sunday	09.30am



Please remember in your prayers
 We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

For the Repose of the Soul:
Colleen Doran

Death Anniversary:

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.

If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are house-bound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.



"Brothers, sisters, let us all feel called, as baptized people, to witness and proclaim Jesus. And let us ask for the grace, as pastoral and missionary conversion."
 Pope Francis

Catholic charities – Special Appeal on 25 December Christmas

There will be a special third collection for Christmas. The Archbishop of Adelaide's Charity supporting special projects for Aboriginal Catholic ministry in South Australia, Hutt Street Centre, St. Patrick's special school, Our Lady of La Vang Special School and Centacare family services.

ADVENT WEEK 4: THE CANDLE OF LOVE
 Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," (candle of Love).

Asked to tell the Christmas story in their own words, a group of fifth graders at my church pretty much shared the basic version we all know from hymns and pageants: Joseph and Mary, a donkey, angels, star, stable, kings, shepherds, and, of course, baby Jesus.

As they talked about each character, one student noted that under normal conditions kings and shepherds would never hang out.

What that means for us, they said, is that from his birth, Jesus taught that we should love everyone: black, brown, or white; rich or poor; cool or nerdy; gay, straight, or questioning; Democrat or Republican.

At our core, they said, "We are one in God's love." It's a view of unconditional love that defines Christ consciousness quite succinctly

There is an incredible sense of power and freedom in both giving and receiving love without condition or expectation. The experience can be so profound that we lose track of whether we're the giver or receiver ... Mary has a natural motherly love for Jesus, and ultimately, we see God's love for everyone by sending his son for us (John 3:16).

Jesus focused on preaching love throughout his ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve love: Love God, love your neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40).

Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Role	24 December 6.30pm Vigil Family Mass	24 th December 11.30pm Carols & Midnight Mass	25 th December 9.30am Christmas Day Mass
Commentator	Trudy Keane	Stephanie Roach	Terence Yeow
Readers	Henry D'Assumpcao	Sandy Mazzarolo Richard Keane	Sheila Hoogland
Extraordinary Ministers	Hiacinta Msomi Pat Giuliani Peter Rees	Frank Mazzarolo	Paat Giuliani Roger
Servers	Michael Pierce	Roger	Roger
Collectors/ Ushers	Pat Giuliani Peter Rees	Leo Priem Joy George	Andrew Gaal Michael Boyle Pat Giuliani



Christmas is almost here! Isn't it exciting? It's like when it's getting really close to your birthday, except that people all over the world are going to be celebrating Christmas! We should help make Jesus' birthday as special as we can!



I CAN WASH THE SINK FOR MOM.

If your family has an Advent wreath, today all four of the candles will be lit. This represents the light of Jesus coming closer and getting brighter.



HERE, I'LL HELP YOU PICK UP THE TOYS.

Jesus is the light of the world. If we want to make Christmas beautiful, then we should make our own lives shine with the love of Jesus.



HI DAD! I VACUUMED UNDER YOUR DESK!

Does your family have a Christmas tree? Are there lights on it? Do you have Christmas lights on your house? All the little lights you see can represent all the people whose lives are lit up with the love of God. Or maybe they can represent all the good things you can do to brighten up other people's lives! Think of some things you can do to love God and bring His love to your family and your friends and neighbours this Christmas!

Answers to True or False: 1.false; 2.false; 3.true; 4.true; 5.false; 6.true; 7.true; 8.true; 9.true; 10.true; (the baby was John the Baptist)

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