

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

Today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them.

They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Young Adult Summer Eco Camp – February 7-12 2024

This four-day event is for students and any young adults (18-35) who have a concern for the care of Earth.

Participants will engage with the local natural environment, hear inspiring speakers and have time to reflect and share. Through attentiveness to Earth and each other, it is envisaged that participants will feel empowered to act for the care of our planet with hope.

For more details see <https://jisa.org.au/2024-young-adult-summer-eco-camp/>

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

During the Christmas season, our liturgy invites us to consider the birth of the Lord from many vantage points. As we begin this season, it is useful to remember that the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood are found in only two of our Gospels, Matthew and Luke. Throughout this season, we will hear stories from both Gospels. Those Gospels tell different but complementary stories about Jesus' birth, highlighting items of theological importance about the Incarnation and the salvation that Jesus brings.

On this day, the Feast of Christmas, we are given the details of Christ's birth as found in the Gospel of Luke. Here we learn about the census that brings Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born. We also hear about the angel's announcement of this good news to the shepherds. In these details, we find two of Luke's particular concerns: (1) to locate the coming of Christ in the wider framework of salvation history as good news for all people, Gentiles and Jews, and (2) to show the Lord's favor upon the poor and lowly.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is born as one of the poor. Laid in a manger in a stable, because there was no room at the inn, he comes into the world through obscure and surprising means. Yet, as the angel proclaims this good news to the shepherds, this infant is announced as the Messiah and Lord. In the song of the angels, all are invited to give glory to God for this miraculous birth, in which God comes to share our humanity.

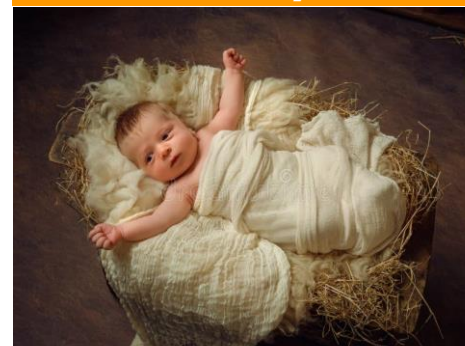
The angels sing that Jesus' coming brings peace. Yet there is little in the details of this Gospel that gives evidence of peace. Jesus is born as a traveler away from home, born in a stable in a crowded city under the occupation of foreigners. The appearance of the angel to the shepherds frightens them. When the angels proclaim Jesus' birth as the harbinger of "peace on earth," the evangelist Luke clearly wants us to take the long view. The shepherds are invited to claim a faith that will enable them to see this infant as a sign God's promise of a messiah. It is through such faith that one finds the peace of which the angels sing.



Parish Bulletin

The Nativity of the Lord (CHRISTMAS)

24/25 Dec 2023



Today a Saviour has been born for you

I BRING YOU NEWS OF GREAT JOY.

We share the joy of the angels and the shepherds as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. He is one with us, in time of darkness and hardship, in joy and celebration.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

"John instead is luminous insofar as he testifies to the light. But what is his light? He himself responds when he states clearly to the crowds who had flocked to hear him that he was not the light, that he was not the Messiah (cf. vv. 19-20). The light is Jesus, the Lamb of God, "God who saves". Only He redeems, frees, heals and enlightens."
Pope Francis

First reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm

Ps: 95:1-3

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
Sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. R

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy'
At the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. R

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.
R

Second reading Titus 2: 11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

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
<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	23-24 Dec 2023
Planned Giving	Not counted
Open Plate	„
PARISH TOTAL	„
This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund	„

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:

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.

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 worshipping Him.

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.

A Christmas Message

Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM

My brothers and sisters,
 May the message of Christmas fill your life with love, joy, and peace, and may God's grace be with you during this special season.

“The Light of ‘Love’ has come to earth. It's time for us to pause to see this Light and feel its warmth and celebrate its cause”. I wish a Holy and Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year 2024 to all my dear parishioners. May the Love, Joy and Peace of Baby Jesus be in your hearts and your homes.

As we will celebrate Christmas Masses as one big parish family, each one of you can be sure and certain that you are all remembered at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in the Liturgy of the Office. All the readings for all the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery. God not only authors life and pours out grace in the midst of it, he chooses to join us in our lives by becoming one of us. Jesus enters into life that we might do the same. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt, Jesus has lived it himself, and he longs to live it with you. Choose life with Jesus! Let Him be born again in your heart. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank all of our parishioners for your commitment to our parish this past year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all who worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful. Thanks to all who were involved in decorating our churches and setting up for the different liturgies, this season and throughout the liturgical year. And a special thank you to the devoted members of the various ministry's in our parish and especially to those who work quietly, behind the scenes.

Maybe the Christmas message this year should be a challenge for all of us to become more involved? It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. After all, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas. Christmas belongs to believers, to those who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. This is why He came. God will fill us with His peace if there is room in our lives for Him.

In closing, my only prayer today, that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. At the same time, I thank you all sincerely for your thoughtful prayers, Christmas greetings and gifts. May all my dear parishioners be overshadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus. I am sure with intention I have not offended anyone during the year. However, through my word and deed if any one felt offended or unhappy, I sincerely beg your pardon and forgiveness. Let us love one another because love comes from God. With my Christmas Blessings, May I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024.



Sincerely thank you for all the support and service to St. Joseph's Community Tranmere in the year 2023. With much love and Prayer, Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy prosperous new year 2024.
 Fr. Roy John (Parish Priest)

