

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us..  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 1:18-24**

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

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.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

**Loyola Press**

*An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.*

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

**Parish Office Closure: Christmas & New Year**

Please note that the **Parish Office will close at 12:30pm on Friday, 19 December 2025**, and will **reopen on Tuesday, 6 January 2026**. During the closure of the office, **regular Masses on Saturdays, Sundays, and weekdays will continue as usual. (except on Thur 24th Dec, it will be no mass in the morning)**



# Parish Bulletin

St Joseph's Catholic Church Tranmere Parish, 484 Magill Rd, Kensington Gardens, SA 5068  
www.stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au (08) 8431 6932

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A**

**20/21 Dec 2025**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 7:10-14**

*The virgin will conceive.*

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."

**The word of the Lord**

*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.

**PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS**

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary.

Bless our Ministers here present today-our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 23:1-6**

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

1. 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**

2. 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**

3. 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**

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

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.

**The word of the Lord**

**Special Invitation**  
To the New Year Masses

<b>New Year Vigil</b> 7:00pm Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025 followed by Community Gathering with Drinks & Nibbles	<b>New Year Morning</b> 9:15am Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
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*All parishiners are welcome*

St Joseph's Catholic Church  
Tranmere Parish

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Anthoni Adimai SdM  
parishpriest@stjosephsparish  
tranmere.org.au

**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Benny Lawrance SdM

**Parish Secretary**  
Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri  
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

**Finance Officer**  
Christine Sullivan—Mon, Tue  
finance@stjosephsparish  
tranmere.org.au

**Sacristan**  
Sundays: Terence Yeow  
& Roger Worth

**Parish Office Hours**  
Tue 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: 8217 8300

**Knights of the Southern Cross**  
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
Chair – Alan Tyson Ph: 0412 389 875

**Parish Finance Council**  
Chair— Brendan Moran

**Safeguarding Contact Person**  
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

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

ROSTERS— 27/28 Dec 2025 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Anne Marie Platten Chris Platten Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Stephanie Roach Grace Yeow Maureen Fernando
Children's Liturgy	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Count team	Frank Mazzarolo Sandy Mazzarolo Terry Pickering Christine Holmes
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	13/14 Dec 2025
Open Plate	\$413.60
Planned Giving	\$353.00
<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$766.60</b>
<b>Contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund</b>	<b>\$1,134.15</b>

**Christmas**  
MASS TIMES 2025

**24 December 2025**  
Wednesday 6:30pm  
Vigil – Family Mass

**24 December 2025**  
Wednesday 11:30pm  
Christmas Carols and  
Midnight Mass

**25 December 2025**  
Thursday 9:30am  
Christmas Mass

St Joseph's Church, Tranmere Parish  
484 Magill Road, Kensington Gardens

*Let's pray together*

**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:  
**Ambrosio Villiamino**  
Death Anniversary:  
**Angela Laudato  
Crescenzo Laudato  
Vince Laudato  
Antonio Laudato**

*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.**

**DEFIBRILLATOR**  
An Automated External defibrillator (AED) has been installed in the church near the main entrance door for use in case of emergency. A clear sign has been placed and instructions are posted next to the device.

**FIRST AID KIT**  
The parish First aid kit is located in the Sacristy, inside the cabinet. A sign has been placed on the cabinet door to make it easy to locate when needed.

**ARCHDIOCESE EVENTS**

**An Advent Zoom Retreat**  
Advent is a special time to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Saviour. On the two Saturdays before Christmas, December 20, for one hour, 11am to 12 noon, Fr Michael Trainor invites you to join others via ZOOM for an Advent 'retreat'. The focus on the first session will be on Luke's story of Jesus' birth and for the second on Matthew's story of Jesus' birth. Both sessions will offer a spiritual path into these two Gospel stories, quietly meditative and without discussion. If you would like to register for these sessions and receive the ZOOM link to join the retreat, please register with [info@lockleysparish.com](mailto:info@lockleysparish.com) Please note: the retreat will start at precisely 11am and not go beyond the hour. When you enter the ZOOM room, please do so with microphones muted and cameras turned off. The retreat will also be recorded.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends 2026**  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a worldwide synodal Movement dedicated to the renewal of our Catholic Church through empowering couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships. Our Church today has the belief that Marriage and Holy Orders are Sacraments of relationship and that we are called as couples and priests to be a living sign of God's love to the world, and to love one another as Jesus loves us all. This takes hard work, and a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend gives married couples and priests the tools and support they need to live this sign in today's busy life. Worldwide Marriage Encounter has three weekends planned for 2026 - February 20-22, Lyndoch Motel; July 3-5 Royal Coach Motel; and a live-out weekend at Antonio School, November 7-8. More details are available on the website at <https://www.wvme.org.au/>. Please consider booking into a weekend to nurture and grow your relationship with your spouse.

**New Online Adult Formation Program**  
Monica Brown, the renowned Australian liturgical composer, teacher, facilitator, storyteller and community animator, has recently worked with a team to produce of new online adult formation program, which they have called *Thresholds of Transformation for Seekers and Searchers (TTSS)*. TTSS is a unique and timely integration of Laudato Si, the Universe Story, our Catholic/Christian Story and the Gospel values of Jesus. Its objective is to offer personal and communal spiritual enrichment and transformation. Please see the flyer for more information.

**Birthline Pregnancy Support - Volunteer Opportunities**  
Birthline is seeking a friendly retiree to join our team as an Office Support Companion. The role involves light tasks such as folding and sorting baby clothes, preparing baby bundles, or simple admin jobs like receiving and recording donations of baby goods and organising our baby cupboard. Volunteers always work in pairs, creating a safe, social and supportive environment. If you have a few hours to spare and would enjoy offering practical help to local families, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [birthline@birthline.org.au](mailto:birthline@birthline.org.au) or 08 8331 1223 to register your interest. Thank you.

**The Kids' Bulletin**  
[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

*Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.*

*An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!*

**Jesus' Birthday is almost here!**  
Now there is less than 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.

*Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 2: Sheep 6: Immigrant 7: deep 8: the 10: virgin 12: child. Down: 1: name 3: house 4: name 5: flowers 7: David 9: high 11: food*