

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND 2017



Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

Thanks to all those who wished me Christmas with gifts, cards, prayers, and personal greetings. It is practically impossible for me to personally thank each of you. Therefore please accept this as a personal thank you to you all. There are a lot of people who helped to make Christmas a celebration. The Choirs who are on roster to sing at various Masses, Liturgical Ministers, Liturgy Planners, God's House Keepers, The catechists who helped with Sacramental Programs and Public School Catechism, so many volunteers who helped with cleaning and setting up for various occasions, people helping with Christmas Luncheon, Donors of Christmas gifts for the poor, The financial contributors, the prayer teams like Legion of Mary and Rosary groups, Christmas Carols, setting up the cribs – in the church, on the parapet of the church, in the Jubilee Hall, the advisory bodies like Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee, and many others who work behind the scene. To all of you, thank you very much. May God's blessing abound in your lives!

~Fr Thomas



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, **Ph:** 96447787 **E:** info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, **facebook:** stpeterstjoseph

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Wednesday to Friday 9.15am, Saturday 8.00am, Saturday 9.00am Adoration & Novena. **Holy Mass at Auburn South:** Tuesday 9.00am (during school term only)
Lord's Day Mass Berala: Saturday 5.00am (Vigil) Sunday 10.00am **Lord's Day Mass Auburn South:** Sunday 8.00am
Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am. Or contact the parish office for any other time.
For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

24 December 2017

First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

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. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

Second Reading

Rom 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 .

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

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.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 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.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through 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.)**

2. '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 through all ages.' **(R.)**

3. 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.)**

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next Week's Readings:

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:22-40

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
T. (02) 9644 7787

Priest in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop
T. (02) 8723 9192
M. 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm
T. (02) 9644 7787

Pastoral Council

To be reconstituted in the New Year.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham (Secretary)
0422 939 342
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel,
Brendon Nazareth (Finance
Controller)

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. (02) 9644 9083
Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
T. (02) 9646 1434
Principal - Gai Melville
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

CatholicCare: Ph:13 18 19

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey
Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/
retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville -
www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
Ph: 8795 3400

Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby -
www.divineretreatcentre.org.au
Ph: 4372 1598

Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or
grieving after abortion visit
www.sarasplace.org.au

Parish Diary This Week

Monday	6.45am 8.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Mass Christmas Mass (SJW) Christmas Mass (SPC) Christmas Luncheon (Jubilee Hall)
Tuesday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Wednesday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Thursday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Friday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Saturday	8.00am 8.30am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC)
Sunday	8.00am 10.00am	Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC)

Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE



FROM ST PETER CHANEL

at Facer Home

2/65 Regent St, Berala

Please join them any evening at
7.30pm for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue and
Rosary prayer please contact Mona
on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

FROM ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

at the Moore Home

To host the Rosary Statue from St
Joseph the Worker contact the
Legion of Mary.

Roster Next Week

31 DECEMBER 2017		THE HOLY FAMILY	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Roland Javier
ACCOMPANIST	Maureen HYNES		
CANTOR	C HYNES & PARISH CHOIR		S EAMIGUEL
LECTOR/S	Roshan SEBASTIAN	Karim KASSIS	Carmel MARTIN
	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Jenny MICHAEL	Maureen Hynes
COMMENTATOR	Katrina YIP	Joe MOSES	Anna FACER
GIFTS	Graham TOBY Family		Children's Liturgy
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Mai VU
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Angela TANG
CHURCH SHOP			Anna MANGANARO
GREETERS	Roshan SEBASTIAN Sharon SEBASTIAN	Loutoa OLIE	Merv & Rhia VICTORINO
HOSPITALITY			Alexander BALDORIA

Hospital Visitation Sat: Jann Rockliff & Phil
Lopez

Altar: Group 3 Helen Le Mottee; Jann
Rockliff

Hospital Communion Sun: : Charlie Scully & Kay Scully

Cleaners SPC : N & G SITCHON

Children's liturgy: : School Holidays

Saturday

30 DECEMBER

LECTOR FOR MASS

Jann ROCKLIFF

Mass Intentions

Sick: Anne Nguyen

Deceased: F Shinta Widjaja, Ted Duffy, Felicisimo Amores, Fe Amores - Allarde, Tarcila
Amores - Figueras, Cristina Figueras, Pacita Allarde

Recently Deceased: Giuseppina Vartuli, Maria Pagarno, Shinta Widjaja, Harry
Willoughby

Anniversary: Siobhain Morris, Glordia & Astrid Bolonia,
Consuelo Ibardolaza

Deceased Members and Friends of: Amores & Domingo
Families.



Christmas Gift



A couple of people took a Christmas hamper to a family. The man of the family refused to accept the gift and shut the door at the face the visitors. We do not know whether it was because the man was frightened of the visitors or simply to show his disapproval. In any case the result is the same, that family missed out on a Christmas hamper.

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving gifts. The real happiness is found in giving and receiving gifts. Because the gifts exchanged represent the giver as loving and caring person. The material things we exchange represent the person of love and care of the giver. It is the depth of the personal relationship that measures the joy generated through the gifts giving. The more intimate we are with one another the greater is the value of the gift, irrespective of the price tag shops put on them.

I have found that harmony of the givers who themselves become gifts as gifts generates peace; and such peace is wrapped in joy. They produce the best fruits life can have, Peace and Joy.

God's love for us is so much that he gave his son as a gift to us. We are so glad to receive this gift, which is the greatest of all. Our intimacy with our God makes us realise the greater value of this special gift from God. In gratitude, therefore, we make our lives a gift to God. The ability to accept God's gift of his own Son and to make a gift of one's life to God provides such a joy and peace that we say 'it is Christmas.

I want to be a gift to God and to you my parishioners specially. I cherish your acceptance of me as your pastor and friend. May the joy and peace we share abound in this Christmas time permeate in the New Year 2018. "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to people of good will." May this greeting of the angel become very true in our life.

Reflections on Luke 1:26-38 & Jn 1:1-18

Scriptural Context of

Luke 1:26-38

Throughout the gospel of Luke, great importance is placed on the people in society who were regarded as the 'lesser ones'. The mission of Jesus, as described in Luke's gospel, is directed towards those who were unimportant in the eyes of society. In first century society, women were regarded as much less in status than men. So it is significant that the first revelation of Jesus is made to a woman, Mary. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary has won God's favour. For a woman to win God's favour would have been unimaginable to many Jews at the time, yet, through this woman God was revealed in human form.

Scriptural Context of Jn 1:1-18

Ask a child (or even most adults) to describe the scene at the birth of Jesus and you will hear a confused combination of the two scriptural accounts with several non-scriptural additions. It is a shame that the two versions have merged into one as each is deserving of its own integrity. The Matthew account emphasises Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy and has Wise Men as the witnesses to his birth in a house. It is from Luke that we have the much humbler birth in a manger witnessed by the lowly shepherds. Each has something different and distinct to say about Jesus and his mission.

Origin of Crib making

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.

Thanks to the Parish Choir

A big thank you to the Parish Choir for your dedication in preparing for the Sunday Vigils of Advent and special church celebrations and events throughout the year! Please keep up your efforts and we will take a break from Thursday evening practices from 28th Dec to 18th Jan 2018. Rostered psalmists however, will need to arrange a suitable time to come for your Psalm Practice.

Music Ministry Planning Meeting for Lent will take place at 10.30am on Tue 23 Jan at Maureen's House. Many thanks!
~Maureen Hynes

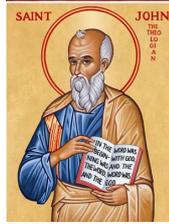
Feasts & Memorials of the Week



Tuesday - St Stephen, the first martyr

Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

Wednesday— St John, apostle



First-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.

Thursday—The Holy Innocents, martyrs

In an attempt to kill the child Jesus, Herod ordered the massacre of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents have been honoured as martyrs for Christ since the fourth century and their feast has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century. In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence



Parish News

The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

invite all who wish to share the joy of Christmas with others to a Christmas Lunch.

Food, drink, entertainment and face painting provided

Date: 25 December 2017

Place: Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Rd Berala (next to church)

Time: 11am to 3pm

Do not let anyone be alone on Christmas Day!

Invite them to the Parish Christmas Lunch on 25 December at the Jubilee Hall.

SPREADING

BERALA KIDS CAMP

11-13 January 2018

Joy



BERALA KIDS CAMP 11-13 January 2018

To be held over three amazing days over the summer holidays, this will be a day camp (10am - 4pm) on the grounds of St Peter Chanel for all 6-12 year olds.

Filled with fun activity and teaching based on our Catholic faith, it is an event not to be missed.

Cost is \$25 per child (with concessions for siblings - \$35 for two children and \$40 for three children).

Please register your interest now as places are limited.

Please contact Rhia Victorino on 0420 966 463 / Angela Finnane on 0425 312 302
angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au

2018 Year of Youth: Open new horizons for spreading joy

FAITH makes things possible,
HOPE makes things work,
LOVE makes things beautiful.
May you have all three this **CHRISTMAS!** God bless!



Christmas Message from our Archbishop

First and foremost, I want to express my respect for the survivors of child sexual abuse by Church personnel, who have lived with the consequences of abuse for a lifetime and will continue to do so. Many told their stories with great courage, even at great personal cost, revisiting traumatic experiences. I say again how sorry I am that you were hurt in this way by people you should have been able to trust.

I hope the release of this report provides some comfort to you, your family and friends with the determination that what has been revealed in the pages of this report can never be repeated. To the Commissioners and staff my thanks for your dedication to listening to the survivors patiently and compassionately, analysing the causes of this terrible scourge, and proposing ways of preventing any recurrence.

The final report comprises 17 volumes, covering nearly five years of hearings. It will take time to digest but it will not sit on any shelf. I will study the findings and recommendations carefully, and then provide a detailed response as we discern, with the rest of the community, the best way forward.

Many of the findings and recommendations will come as no surprise, as they have been touched upon during the life of the Royal Commission; others will require further examination. But what I can say is that I'm appalled by the sinful and criminal activity of some clergy, religious and lay church-workers, that I'm ashamed of the failure to respond by some church leaders, and that I stand ready to address any systemic issues behind this.

I recognise and understand how this has damaged the credibility of the Church in the broader community, and shocked many of our own faithful. If we are to be worthy of people's trust we must demonstrate that the rights of children to be safe, heard and responded to appropriately are always respected.

The final report of the Royal Commission will have much to say to us and we will have much to learn. But I want to assure you we have begun the work.

For at least the past two decades, the Church in Australia has been trying to respond to these concerns. We've come a long way from where we were when most of these terrible crimes occurred in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. But there is always more to be done to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the young and vulnerable.

We are far more focused on the selection, preparation and professional development of Church personnel; on boundaries, warning signs, appropriate interventions and complaint handling. Laypeople, especially women, are now involved on many levels in shaping and running these activities. Nationally, the Church has established Catholic Professional Standards Ltd with the expertise and independence to develop credible new standards in safeguarding children and vulnerable people, and audit compliance.

Locally, I've established an Office for Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity to focus on preventative strategies and Sydney Catholic Schools have been similarly proactive. We also now have parish safeguarding officers and other initiatives.

I can assure you I will not rest there and I commit myself and the Catholic Church in Sydney to do our best for survivors of abuse to ensure this terrible chapter is never repeated.

We will, I pray, be a humbler, purer, more compassionate Church as a result of the Commission's work and the scrutiny we have received.

I continue to pray for justice and healing of survivors; for wisdom and compassion for leaders and carers; for repentance by perpetrators; for grace for those tempted to lose faith or hope; for safety for all young people; and for consolation for all those affected. I ask all people of faith to join me in that prayer.

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LLB BTheol DPhil
Archbishop of Sydney



The Nativity of the Lord - Year B

7PM VIGIL MASS

24 December 2017

First Reading

Is 62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

Second Reading

Acts 13:16-17. 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of

repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".

Gospel

Mt 1:1-25

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother, Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother, Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother, Obed was the father of Jesse; and Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Azariah, Azariah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah; and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers. Then the deportation to Babylon took place. After the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob; and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ. 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 told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ex 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. '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

through all ages.' **(R.)**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**
 3. '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.)**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Cf. Is 40:5

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.



The Nativity of the Lord - Year B

MIDNIGHT MASS

25 December 2017

First Reading

Is 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.

Second Reading

Ti 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.

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.'



Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon Ps 2:7

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

3. 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.)**

4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Jn 1:14

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



The Nativity of the Lord - Year B

10AM MASS

25 December 2017

First Reading

Is 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Second Reading

Heb 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel

Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his

salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.' **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Grace at Christmas Dinner

God of Christmas and of every day, giver of all good gifts,
we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us.
We are grateful for each person gathered around this table.

Bless us, our food and our company today.

Bless those we love who are not with us.

With gratitude and love, we remember
your humble birth into our lives
and so pray for those without food or family
or friendship at this time.

We remember the stable in which you were born
and so pray for those with no place to live.

We remember your flight into Egypt
and so pray for persecuted Christians
and for refugees at this time.

We join your angels in giving glory to God in the highest
and so pray for peace and goodwill on earth.

Help us to see what really matters
and to respond with faith, hope and love.

Make our hearts a crib in which to place the Christ child.

Keep us safe and close to you in the year ahead.

For you are our Christmas Lord, now and forever. Amen.

~Written by Most Rev. Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney

The Legend of St Nicholas

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and travelled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best known of the St. Nicholas stories is that he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas's popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6. This was traditionally considered a lucky day to make large purchases or to get married. By the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe. Even after the Protestant Reformation, when the veneration of saints began to be discouraged, St. Nicholas maintained a positive reputation, especially in Holland.



Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of

holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. Altogether, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The father then lights all of the candles of the wreath. Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate.

Your Name:.....

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Yes, please organise a set of envelopes. Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent)