

CHRISTMAS 2018



Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas. Some of you may be travelling or joining some other parish for Christmas due to family celebrations. My special wishes and prayers for them too.

There were a lot of people working on making this Christmas a true and meaningful celebrations. The Liturgy Planners, Altar Decorators and Florists who have been helping all through Advent and Christmas time, the Musicians and singers, Liturgical Ministers, and Altar Servers, they all have been instrumental in making the Church celebrations beautiful. Then there were people helping with Parish Carols and other carols, Organisers and helpers of Christmas Lunch. The credit list is too long to mention any names. Therefore I just want to say thank you for all your faith commitment, donation of time, talent, and your treasure.

~Fr Thomas



The Nativity of the Lord - Year B

7PM VIGIL MASS

24 December 2018

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 2018

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

8AM & 10AM MASS

25 December 2018

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.

Christmas Message

Christmas is a time of meeting people. It could be through Christmas gatherings, or family visits, or thorough video chats, or offering a helping hand, or congratulating someone for their achievement, or showing our gratitude for their goodness. Many families took Vinnies Christmas Hampers to some of the less fortunate ones. They wanted to include their children in the process of delivering the hampers. They wanted their children to experience for themselves the joy of giving to the less advantaged. They wanted the children to hear other people's stories. Many children wrote Christmas cards to be given out at the Parish Christmas Luncheon. In all these the parents and teachers could see the children growing in wisdom and confidence through these listening of other people's stories and telling Jesus story to others.

Luke says, "Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people" (Luke 2:52). Jesus, from childhood to adulthood, did this by listening to and talking with others. Following this pattern, you and me as Church also grows confident through our talking and listening to one another. That is why the more we engage in fellowship with one another the more we show signs of God's favour and people's approval.

Christmas joy is wonderful not with people who think less of themselves, but with mature adults who does less thinking of themselves. The people who are other centred and able to marvel at God operating in our human world make Christmas a great celebration. Let there be joy to the whole world and glory to God in the highest.



Christian, remember your dignity

A sermon of Pope St Leo the Great

Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim *peace to men of good will* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and *when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

"Christmas celebrations are often full of sound. It would be good for us to make room for silence, to hear the voice of Love".

~ Pope Francis

OTHER NOTICES

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

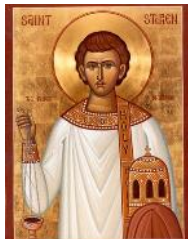
Pro-Life Training Day with Brendan Malone: Workshops on how to effectively participate in campaigns to defeat anti-life parliamentary bills and how to spread the pro-life message with clarity & compassion. \$30 per head includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Saturday **February 16**, 9am to 5pm at St Paul of the Cross Parish, 532 New Canterbury Rd. Dulwich Hill. www.trybooking.com/ZZAZ

MISCELLANEOUS

An Advent App for Christmas! – Meet Me in the Silence. Walk the journey to Advent on your mobile device. The Advent Calendar App is free and available on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent

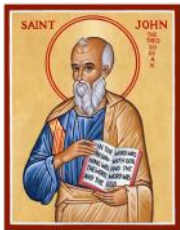
FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 26 December - St Stephen (Feast)



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).

Thursday, 27 December - St John, apostle (Feast)



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.

Friday, 28 December - The Holy Innocents (Feast)



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.

Today is the Last Parish Mass at St Joseph the Worker Church Auburn South. Thereafter all parish Masses will be at Berala.

Do you need help connecting with professional care services?

CCareline helps Sydneysiders navigate the maze of social services and makes referrals to counsellors, therapists and case managers across Sydney.

Call CCareline to find out more

CCareline 131819

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 8pm Monday – Friday

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

The Church Store has been stocked with beautiful Nativity scenes, Christmas cards, Columbian calendars, Daily devotionals, Bibles, coloured glass Rosary beads and a host of other gift ideas.

Drop by, have a browse and give someone you love a gift with meaning this Christmas. After all, JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!



Please note there will only be 9.00am mass on Wednesday, 26 December.