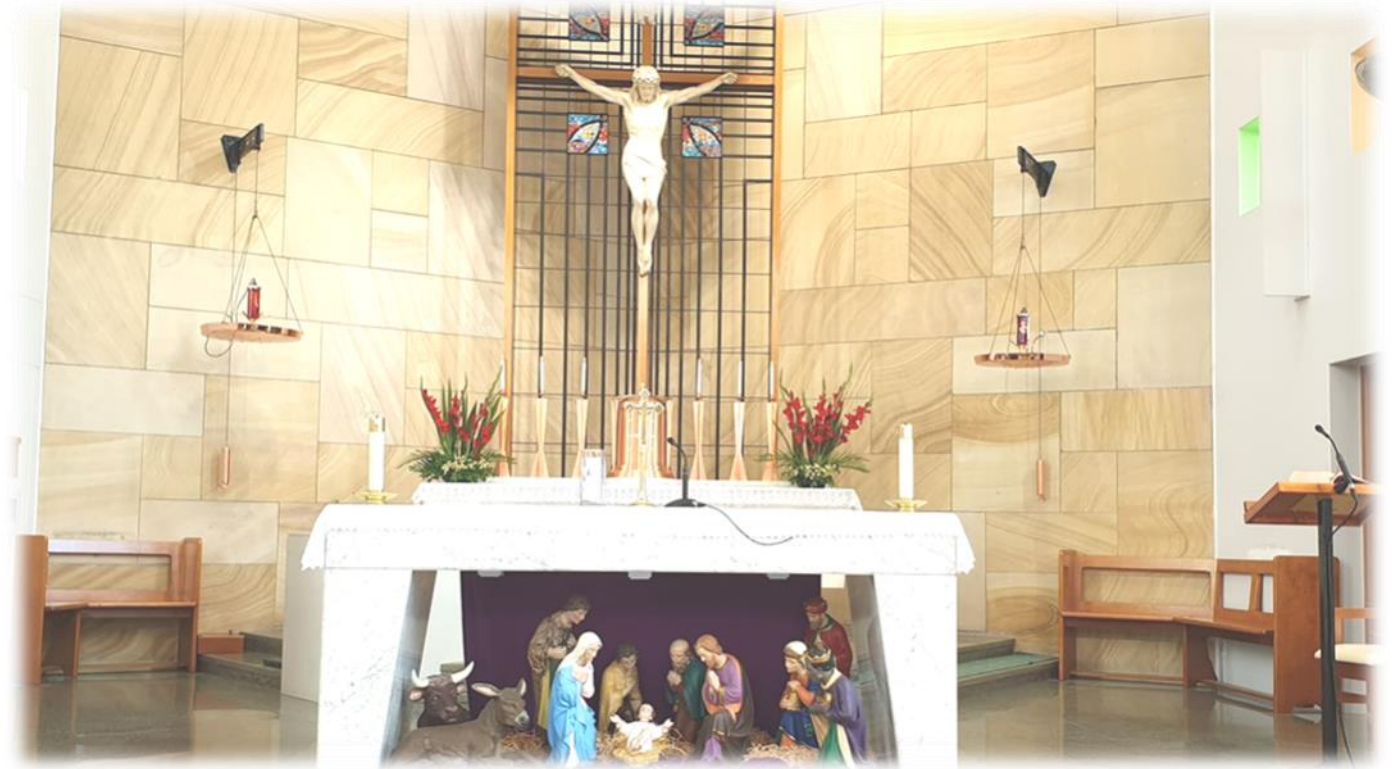


## CHRISTMAS 2019



*Wishing you a blessed Christmas!*

*This year, we are faced with unprecedented bush fire tragedies and terrible drought. Our hearts go out to the victims of these disasters. Our prayers are with them. In such a depressing situation it might look a little awkward to speak of Christmas Joy. But the Word of God encourages us to rejoice. Christmas is all about finding God and joy in the most unlikely situations. In the very first Christmas, Baby Jesus was homeless. The homeless baby and his family were with the homeless in a place called Bethlehem, literally meaning 'house of bread'. But at the time of Jesus' birth Bethlehem was anything but 'The House of Bread'. Paradoxically, the poverty of Bethlehem became the birthplace of Jesus who is to become the spiritual food for his disciples. The irony does not stop there. The birth of Jesus was understood as the birth of the true King by the wise people even from the pagan world. But the magi had to come to the poor manger, not a crib in any palace, to find the divine King. It is not the highly reputed elite in Jerusalem who heard the rejoicing song of the angels who sang 'Glory to God in the Highest', but the ill-reputed shepherds in the Valley of Bet Sahur, literally meaning 'the valley of gossips'. Our God broke into the human world in a situation most unintelligible to human logic. That is Christmas. The joy and peace of Christmas is beyond human logic.*

*Bushfires can burn up material wealth and comfort. But the camaraderie of the fire fighters will have many stories of courage, hope and service for many generations to cherish. The joy that brings is beyond anything money can buy. When a truck was organised to collect the donations for the drought affected country NSW, they underestimated the generosity of our parish and sent a van. Then they had to send a bigger truck to take the remaining gifts to our brothers and sisters in the parched land outside our city. So great is the generosity of our parish that I see God breaking into our human story through his disciples. The donation to and participation in the Christmas Luncheon is another example of fellowship and generosity. Therefore, rejoice that Christ is born. Jesus is the reason for this joy. Rejoice with him. Do not exclude him from your celebrations. Let him not just peep into your life, but fill it with divine peace and joy.*

*~Fr Thomas*



*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*  
*Matthew 2: 10*

The Nativity of the Lord - Year A

7PM VIGIL MASS

24 December 2019

**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 angel said to them: 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'*  
~ Luke 2: 10

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.





*For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord.*

*~ Luke 2: 11*

The Nativity of the Lord - Year A

8AM & 10AM MASS

25 December 2019

**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.

**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.

## 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.

ST PETER CHANEL AND ST JOSEPH PARISH PRESENTS

## BERALA KIDS CAMP

19-21 January 2020 (10am-3pm daily) | St Peter Chanel Jubilee Hall



**'Be brave! I have defeated the world!'**

Come join us for THREE fun faith-filled days over the SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.  
For children aged 6 - 14 YEARS OLD, this day camp is not to be missed!

Cost includes food and drink - great value for money!

**One child \$30 | Second child \$20 | Third child \$10**

We are also calling young people in or starting high school next year to be  
CAMP LEADERS.

Book online to secure your spot [www.trybooking.com/580441](http://www.trybooking.com/580441)

For more info - ANGELA FINNANE [angela.finnanesyd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:angela.finnanesyd.catholic.edu.au) |

BARBARA MUCHA [barbara.muchaesydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:barbara.muchaesydney.catholic.edu.au) | PARISH OFFICE 9644 7787 [info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

## Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr Thomas

Dates will be between Mid September – mid October 2020 (including school holidays).

DAY 01: DEPART FOR THE HOLY LAND

DAY 02: ARRIVE AMMAN

DAY 03: MT NEBO & MADABA

DAY 04: EIN KAREM - BETHLEHEM

DAY 05: JERICHO

DAY 06: NAZARETH

DAY 07: GALILEE

DAY 08: JERUSALEM

DAY 09: JERUSALEM

DAY 10: JERUSALEM

DAY 11: DEPART JORDAN

DAY 12: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

OPTIONAL ADD-ON 2 Nights Amman Stay with Petra Day Tour (Approx AUD 750)

**COST: From AUD 3890 PP (All Inclusive Land Package) | \$150 per person tips & gratuities for guides and drivers additional (pre-collected) | Costing is based on a minimum of 25 pilgrims.**

**OPTIONAL COSTS:** Single room supplement: AUD 1050  
Return Economy Airfare#: Approx. \$1900 – \$ 2200 (To be confirmed.) | Cover More Travel Insurance: Quote provided based on D.O.B and Medical History disclosure. Please contact Parish Office to enquire more information about inclusions.

## Pilgrimage of The Relics of Saints Therese, Louis & Zélie Martin

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular Saints of modern times, will visit Australia on a four-month pilgrimage along with the major relics of her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin.

From February to May 2020, the family's relics will travel across the country to 17 dioceses in city and rural areas, with major opportunities for devotees in Sydney. The pilgrimage is being coordinated by Catholic Mission, in partnership with InvoCare, and will link with InvoCare's funeral homes, including WN Bull Funerals and Guardian Funerals in Sydney. As part of the National Pilgrimage of The Relics of Saints Therese, Louis & Zélie Martin, we are privileged to have them visit our Church on Monday 16 March. We shall solemnly welcome the relics at 8.30 AM and they will be available for our veneration till 12.30 PM.

We require volunteers to carry the Reliquaries, sing at the prayer services and liturgies, set up place for the Relics, public relations and so on. I am looking forward to hearing from available volunteers. I have a Parish Guide to help the volunteers.



### *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*

Generations of Catholics have admired this Saint, referred to as the "Little Flower", and found in her short life more inspiration for their own lives than in volumes by theologians.

Thérèse was born in France in 1873, and died when she was 24, after having lived as a cloistered Carmelite for less than 10 years. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, and never performed any explicitly great works.

The only book of hers, published after her death, was a brief edited version of her journal *Story of a Soul*. Collections of her letters and restored versions of her journals have been recently re-published. Within just 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonised.

### *Saint Zélie Martin*

Zélie Guérin (1831 - 1877) was a lace maker. Born into a military family, Zélie described her childhood and youth as "dismal". Her mother and father showed her little affection.

As a young lady, she sought unsuccessfully to enter the religious life. Zélie then learned the Alençon lace-making technique and soon mastered this painstaking craft. Richly talented, creative, eager and endowed with common sense, she started her own business and became quite successful.



Notable as these achievements were, Zélie was yet to reveal the depths of the strength, faith and courage she possessed until she wholeheartedly undertook her life as a wife and mother.



### *Saint Louis Martin*

Louis Martin (1823 - 1894) was a watchmaker by trade. He also skilfully managed his wife's lace business and was born too into a family of soldiers. Louis absorbed the sense of order and discipline that army life engenders, but his temperament tended toward things of the spirit.

At age 22, young Louis sought to enter religious life at the monastery of the Augustinian Canons of the Great St Bernard Hospice in the Alps. The Abbot insisted the young candidate learn Latin, which he found extremely challenging, and he eventually had to leave the monastery due to illness.

Fortunately, Louis' desire for holiness was realised through his love for his wife, his redemptive suffering, and his later years as a single father following Zélie's death. He is now venerated as a Patron Saint of mental health issues due to his struggles with dementia toward the end of his life.