



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021

Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

17 & 18 DECEMBER 2022

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Acting Mission Leader

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Assisting Priests

Fr Joseph Hieu Xuan Nguyen CSsR

Fr Oche Matutina CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P. Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ♦ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
7.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun. Sudanese Mass 3pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

DAWN MASS NOVENA: The Annual Christmas Novena will be held for 9 days daily at 5:00am from 16 December 2022 to 24 Dec 2022 inclusive. The mass will be in English and all parishioners are welcome.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed after Friday 23rd December 2022 and will be opened again Tuesday 17th January 2023.

SACRAMENTS: There will be no sacraments in the month of January, the next Baptism will be on the 4th of February 2022.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

♦ Reconciliation – Rite 2

* *English* - Wednesday 21 Dec. 2022 at 7.00pm

* *Vietnamese* - Thursday 22 December 2022 at 7.00pm

♦ Christmas Masses – Sat. 24th & Sun. 25th December 2022

Please note:

It is unusual for Christmas to fall on a Sunday. On previous years, on Christmas Day we had only one Mass at 10.30am. This year as it is Sunday we will have the normal three English Masses 9.00am, 10.30am and 6.00pm. Sadly this year it is not possible to also have the Midnight Mass. On Saturday, Christmas Eve there will be the normal Vigil Mass at 6.00pm. THIS WILL REPLACE OUR MIDNIGHT MASS.

* Vietnamese at 8.00pm

♦ Dawn Masses

* 16th – 24th December 5.00am

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The maiden is with child

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."'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.23(24):1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

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.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

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.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

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.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second reading Romans 1:1-7

Our apostolic mission is to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations

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.

Gospel Acclamation Matt 1:23

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

How Jesus Christ came to be born

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.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us. The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into

the gospel story of God-with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives. There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic announcement in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God. If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life .

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

WAYS TO CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH IN A SECULAR WORKPLACE

Let's be honest. Celebrating a religious holiday in the workplace has become more of a challenge. It's the whole don't talk religion or politics thing, and to a degree, it makes sense. However, for those of us passionate about our [faith](#) and the true meaning of Christmas, it's virtually impossible not to incorporate the birth of Christ into our celebrations at home and, yes, at work.

Different workplaces have varying degrees of tolerance for incorporating Christ into Christmas. Some places are particular that there are to be no religious elements to décor, music, etc., and even your greetings must be modified to eliminate the word "Christmas" in order to be neutral for all who hear and exchange greetings. Others aren't so discriminating and instead allow for a balanced mix between the two.

So how can you celebrate Jesus in a secular workplace? Especially if you've read the policy on how not to mention Jesus' birth?

There are so many opinions on how to handle this potential crisis of faith. From approaching HR to outright ignoring instructions, there are definitely more extreme avenues, and those are ones that this

article isn't equipped to address.

Instead, let's talk about ways that may not be as assertive but are ways that you can still be a witness without being comprising or watering down your faith and without being outright confrontative for change—although an argument that one must stand for one's convictions can still be easily made.

1. Look for ways to work around the bias.

This isn't always easy, but in some places where "Merry Christmas" is frowned upon, phrases such as "have a blessed holiday" or "have a beautiful Advent" can be more acceptable. While in many ways, it means the same thing, it's a way to skirt the outright verbiage you've been instructed not to say while still incorporating hints that you mean something more than just a "happy holiday"—which frankly, in any religion or background is a pretty blah way to greet someone for a festive occasion.

In other words, look for other words that you can say that also support an element of faith. Unless you've been given one specific, non-negotiable script to say, there are many ways to be more meaningful in your Christmas greeting to customers and co-workers.

That being said, I was greeted the other day by a cashier who told me, "Happy holidays! But I really mean the other thing I cannot say!" We both had a good laugh, and then I walked away, being firmly reminded of the words "Merry Christmas" without her ever actually saying them!

2. Personalize your workspace.

Many workplaces put a limit of tolerance on religious decorations when it comes to the public eye and or an employee-shared workspace. But these same companies will often offer leeway regarding your personal space—if you have that. For example, your cubicle or office is a place you probably already decorate with photographs of your children, spouse, family, or dog. There are perhaps pictures your kids colored on the wall or filing cabinet. You brought in a house plant. A painting. In other words, you're allowed some leniency to personalize your workspace.

This means you very well may be allowed to do the same if you incorporate personal Christmas décor. For example, I worked in an office space that exploded with Santa Clause, but I had a small nativity scene on my desk. So many co-workers noted it and commented on it—some blatantly stating they weren't fans of the nativity and didn't see the point, but it was nice I had something of my own to look at. Because it was my personal space, it was allowed. It also opened doors for conversation when asked about it.

3. Christmas cards.

This is a personal extension of holiday congeniality; oftentimes, cards are exchanged within the work-

place. Because it's something you're offering from yourself, the workplace more than likely will not censor your personal Christmas greeting.

You can be as subtle as giving a Christmas card with a general Christmas greeting or be more overt with a clear nativity message in your card. Perhaps your Christmas letter is filled with stories of how you and your family are celebrating the Christmas season and the remembrance of the birth of our Savior.

This could even be an outlet for you to put invites into your cards to your church's Christmas Eve service or Christmas morning service. Or perhaps a small tract that retells the Christmas story. Be creative. This is your opportunity to show your faith as a personal conviction but also an invitation to celebrate the birth of Christ with others. If nothing else, you may find more camaraderie within your workplace than you realized existed.

It's sad that what was once splayed in business window fronts, adorned the city square, was part of a simple and communal greeting, is now being carefully tip-toed around. Even fifty years ago, it was generally accepted that most had a religious background with some Christian roots. Therefore, the birth of Christ was a generalized part of Christmas, if not a belief.

This is no longer the case. The backgrounds of those around us are as diverse as they are critical, and finding ways to celebrate Christmas with the true intent of its historical importance to our faith, is difficult. So, while you go about this holiday season, keeping in mind the importance of not compromising on our faith, we must also keep in mind the effectiveness of sharing our faith and when and when not to speak out.

Sometimes these subtle ways are good opportunities to keep Christ in Christmas without going to combat over it. The time may come for you, but for some of us, we just want to recognize the soft simplicity of the quiet birth of Christ. His coming heralded much more turbulent times, and it wasn't long after His birth that that turbulence began to visit. But for now, in the silent night of his birth, perhaps we can find our own quiet ways to re-introduce Christ to a world that simply doesn't notice the importance of the manger in a stable in a small town.

In a way, it's not much different than the times in which Jesus was born. Herod sought his blood and slayed many infants in order to silence Jesus. The unwed mother, Mary, faced criticism and harsh judgment for a child she bore with an unbelievable tale of conception. An innkeeper offered a stable which was more than likely a cave filled with dirty straw and manure—not to mention contentious animals vying for space.

And yet, in the turmoil, the resistance, and the outright preference to ignore His coming—Jesus still

came. Quietly. For a moment. Into the stillness. A beacon of light and hope. May you spread that light and hope into your workplace this year, and may the Christ child give you the guidance and the voice with which to speak and with which to remain silent for another day.

By Jaime Jo Wright

PRECA COMMUNITY

Starting of Sacraments classes are available twice a week:

Tuesday 7th February 2023 - 7pm - 8pm.

Friday 10th February 2023 - 7pm - 9pm.

Preca Friday Youth group for families, youth and children of all ages Commencing on **Friday 10th February 2023 @ 7pm - 9pm.**

Sacrament Dates for 2023 for Preca Children and youth.

(Please note that further information will be provided early in the new school year)

Older grades - Reconciliation

TERM 1: Tuesday 14th March at 6.30pm

Gr 6 and older Confirmation

TERM 2: Friday 26th May at 7.00pm

Gr 4 and older First Holy Communion TERM 2: Sunday 11th June at the 10.30am Mass

Gr 3 grades - Reconciliation will be announced later in term 3.

PLEASE NOTE

LAST DAY FOR FOODBANK FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER 2022

REOPENING ON FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2023 TAKING THIS TIME TO WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 21 December 2022
- Group 6 - Legion of Mary (Vietnamese)

READERS/COMMENTATOR/COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 20-12-22

Reader School Teachers
Eucharistic Min. School Teachers

Wed 9:00 AM, 21-12-22

Reader Pio-Marcellin Atonio
Eucharistic Min. Volunteer

Thur 9:00 AM, 22-12-22

Readers Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Min. Shirley Krizmanic

Fri: 9:00 AM, 23-12-22

Reader: Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 24-12-22

Lit. Coordinator: Charlie Pace
Commentator: Violeta Montoro
Readers: Alastair Surrao
Wendy Forbes-Perera
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri
Anthony Naidu
Reno Attard

Sun 9.00 AM, 25-12-22

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen
Commentator Helen Maddela
Readers: Shirley Krizmanic
Wilma Marmur
Eucharistic Min: Mini Eddy
Helen Maddela
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:30AM, 25-12-22

Lit. Coordinator: Ed Cabla
Commentator: Christina Pedroso
Reader: Joh Cabla
Jinky Monteros
Eucharistic Min. Br. Noel Debono
Br. Anthony Gatt
Rita Martin

Sun 6.00PM, 25-12-22

Lit. Coordinator Xuan Duong
Commentator Lani Laririt
Reader HEY
HEY
Eucharistic Min. Lani Laririt
Xuan Duong
Rod Lalunio

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 24th December 2022

- * 6pm – St Francis Choir
- * **Sunday 25th December 2022**
- * 9am - Samoan Choir
- * 10.30am -Fernandez Family Choir
- * 6pm - Paul Fatai

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Manel Pandithakoralege, Dominica C., Wasana Fernando, Marko Dorinko, Arnord Fernandez, Ash Dominic Marguerite, Rachel Piskon, Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Passed

Maria Pham Ngoc Dung(Viet)

Anniversaries

Joseph & Connie Agius, France & Charlie Grima, Tadeo, Maria Inhaxio, Mary, Charlie, Ally, Peter Spiteri and Family, Ignatius, Esther, Joseph Borg and family, Laurance, Elizabeth Zarafa Aliso, Antonia Spiteri, Joseph Formosa, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Angelo Cassar, Mac-co Ngo Van Tinh, Lucia Huynh Thi Kim Hue, Phero Ngo Minh Truong, Maria Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le Nghia, Matta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le Quang Tuan, Theresa Nguyen Ngoc Giang Thu, Dominico Le Ngoc Son, Mary Camilleri, Richard Cummi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Peter Do Van Tri, Inne Maria Le Thi Bien, Mollie Rise (Marie), Raymond Abela and All Souls

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW

Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.