



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm
Phone: 9366 1310, Fax: 9366 9359
Email: stalbanssouth@cam.org.au
Website: www.holyeuchariststalban.org



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY YEAR A 24 & 25 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

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.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of the Parish Priest, Assistant Parish Priest and everyone here at the Parish Office, we would like to wish each and everyone in our Parish Community a very Merry Christmas. May our Christmas season be a time of reconciliation and peace, a time of healing, giving and sharing. Best wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity. **THANK YOU** and God bless.

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

A Son is given to us

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.95(96):1-3,11-13

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

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.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second reading Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race

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 Acclamation Lk2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

'In the town of David a saviour has been born to you'

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.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The prologue to Matthew's gospel provides the first part of the gospel for the Christmas Vigil Mass. The first two words of the gospel (biblos geneseōs) evoke the first words of the Book of Genesis and thus locate the child to be born within the broad sweep of the birth of the cosmos. At the same time, the child Jesus is identified as Messiah or Christos (the anointed of God) and descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for 'his people'. At this time of Earth's distress, we are conscious of our need to be saved from our "sins" which include our capacity to destroy God's world for selfish gain.

The gospel for Midnight Mass (Luke 2:1-14) comes from the great story-teller, Luke, as does the gospel for the early morning Mass (Luke 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit

by violent means. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus rather than Caesar Augustus as the face of God, as saviour of the world and as bringer of the good news of peace. Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought the "peace" of the Caesars to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts. On Christmas morning, we hear the words of John's prologue. Once more, Earth's genealogy in Genesis 1 is evoked: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God." The gospel then asserts that "all things came into being" through the Word and that "what has come into being was life and the life was the light of the people". These assertions prepare the way for the extraordinary statement that the Word was enfleshed and tented among us. John brings home to us the momentous nature of the incarnation, the deep incarnation that embraces all of God's creation.



Image Source: Creative Commons

Unto Us a Child is Born

IMMANUEL: GOD WITH US FOREVER

God didn't stay way off in Heaven, but came down to live among us. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Jesus promised his disciples, "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:3). Incredibly, that's how much he wants to live with us.

Revelation 21:3 says "God himself will be with his people." Why does it say God himself? Because God won't merely send us a delegate. He won't just send down the angel Gabriel to represent Him. He himself will actually come down from Heaven to live among us on the New Earth.

Immanuel does not mean "us with God." It means "God with us." Where will He be with us? In the eternal home he is preparing for us.

It's sometimes said, "This world is not our home." It's true, but it's a half truth. We should qualify it to say, "This world—as it now is, under the curse—is not our home." But we should also say, "This world—as it was originally was our home." And we should add, "This world—as it one day will be, delivered from the curse—will be our home."

When we die and go to live in the Present Heaven, we'll be

with Christ, and we'll be full of joy. But it won't be our permanent home. It will be a layover, not our final destination. Those now with the Lord are looking forward to their bodily resurrection and relocation to the New Earth, where Christ will reign forever.

The incarnation of Christmas isn't temporary; it's permanent. Christ rose in a glorified human body which he will have forever. It's not that Jesus became a baby at Christmas, and then 33 years later came the resurrection and ascension and then he suddenly stopped being a man. No, the second member of the triune God will be a human being for all eternity, reigning from a throne on the New Earth.

Often we think of Heaven as our going up into a disembodied angelic realm to live with God in his place. But the Bible says the ultimate Heaven will be God coming down from Heaven to live with us in our place—the New Earth. That's the place He's preparing for us.

We are made for a person and a place. Jesus is the person. Heaven is the place. And the resurrected Jesus will bring Heaven down to the resurrected earth.

One thing I love about Christmas is relaxing and celebrating and laughing with my family. Heaven will be the best of Christmas every day. We'll be able to relax and laugh and celebrate, with no tensions or arguments. The other shoe will never drop. No skeletons will fall out of our closets.

Christ paid the ultimate price so that we would be forever free from sin—and the fear of sin. All barriers between us and him will be forever gone. He will be our best friend. Jesus will be God with us, forever.

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to walk the earth with Jesus, as the disciples did? Have you ever wished you had that opportunity? You will—on the New Earth.

Jesus promised we would eat and drink with him in his Kingdom. To eat a meal with Jesus will be to eat a meal with God, because he is Immanuel, God with us.

The best part of Christmas is not the presents we receive, but the presence of God with us. Christmas can be a hint, a foretaste of the celebration God's family will enjoy together.

Christmas means that God loved us so much he came to live with us, and die for us so that we can live with Him forever.

Christ promises He will wipe away all our tears, and there will be no more death or suffering, no final goodbyes. If you know Jesus, the great reunion awaits you. God will live with you and your spiritual family forever. And that's the best Christmas present anyone could ever receive.

Merry Christmas to you, and all glory to Immanuel, the God who is with us, and will be with us forever.

By Randy Alcorn

THE JESUS OF CHRISTMAS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

By Debbie W. Wilson

"If you want to see your father alive, you must come now." Our young family had stopped at my sister's house on our way from Indiana to Georgia to see Daddy. My stepmother's call shook me. Were we too late?

An hour into our trip, two complete rainbows arched over our

highway. Despite my heavy heart, I marveled as we passed through the twin semi-circles of color. God was with us, no matter what lay ahead.

Daddy's shrunken body looked more like the poster child for a famine-relief group than the man who'd carried me as a child on his shoulders. He squeezed my hand, and I knew Daddy was still with us.

My father didn't volunteer for the cancer that robbed his strength and life. In contrast, my Savior willingly laid aside His life and glory to rescue us. The startling change in Daddy can't compare with what Jesus gave up when He left heaven to become the sacrifice that takes away our sin. Remembering Jesus's past, present, and future helps me better appreciate the Advent season.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

Where Was Jesus Before the First Christmas?

One of the most poignant Christmas cards I ever received depicted the Father looking down on tiny planet earth, waving goodbye to His Son. To better appreciate this, let's look at who Jesus was before the first Christmas.

Hundreds of years before the incarnation, Isaiah saw Jesus in His glory (John 12:41). This glimpse of Jesus before His incarnation helps us better appreciate what "though he was rich" means (2 Cor. 8:9).

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty'" (Isaiah 6:1-5).

Jesus of Christmas Past

Hundreds of years after Isaiah's vision, the glorious One "made himself nothing" and visited earth as a helpless baby. Paul describes Christ's humility in Philippians 2:5-11. The one who'd filled the universe limited Himself to one human body. The angels that had worshipped and served Jesus nine months earlier in heaven now announced His birth to shepherds.

Contrast Isaiah's description with this one of Jesus at the first Christmas:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keep-

ing watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests'" (Luke 2:4-14).

The thought of God entering the world as an infant is staggering. But that was only the beginning. Jesus's mission always included the cross (1 Peter 1:18-20). The baby in the manger was the lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Continued next Bulletin

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.

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 27-12-22

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Xuan Duong

Wed 9:00 AM, 28-12-22

Reader Pio-Marcellin Atonio
Eucharistic Min. Volunteer

Thur 9:00 AM, 29-12-22

Readers Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Min. Shirley Krizmanic

Fri: 9:00 AM, 30-12-22

Reader: Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 31-01-23

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard

Commentator: Miriam Vella

Readers: Joh Cablao
Anthony Naidu

Eucharistic Min. Alaistair Surrao
Violetta Montoro
Reno Attard

Sun 9.00 AM, 01-01-23

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen

Commentator Shirley Krizmanic

Readers: Wilma Marmur
Mini Eddy

Eucharistic Min: Helen Maddela
Shirley Krizmanic
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:30AM, 01-01-23

Lit. Coordinator: Saua Tufuga

Commentator: Rita Martin

Reader: Samoan Choir
Samoan Choir

Eucharistic Min. Br. Anthony Gatt
Christina Pedroso
Saua Tufuga

Sun 6.00PM, 01-01-23

Lit. Coordinator Lani Laririt

Commentator Xuan Duong

Reader Larnie Mendoza
Lorraine Ward

Eucharistic Min. Lani Laririt
Xuan Duong
Rod Lalunio

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 31st December 2022

- * **6pm** – Fernandez Family Choir
- * **Sunday 1st January 2023**
- * **9am** - Volunteer Choir
- * **10.30am** – Samoan Choir
- * **6pm** - Exxemos Choir

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 28 December 2022 -
Group 7 - Sudanese Community -
David & Peter Adiang

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.

Anniversaries

Jan & Elizabet Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Jan & Jovan Vala, Stefan Kolek, Tony Mizzi, Family Attard, Family Zammit, Family Caruana, Family Grech, Bruce McLean, Joseph Formosa, Carmelo, Mary, Henry, Giuzeppa Faraci, Sunta Germani, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Angelo Cassar, Mac-co Ngo Van Thinh, 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 Curmi, 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 are born in the family. The priests, sisters and brothers of tomorrow are being born in our local hospitals and playing in our own backyards.

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