



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 B

23 & 24 DECEMBER 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

Fr Joseph Xuan Hieu Nguyen 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:** 8:45am, 10:00am,
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

SACRAMENTS:

There will be no sacraments in the month of January, the next Baptism will be on the 3rd of February 2024.

ANointing MASS:

There will be no Anointing Mass in January. Anointing Mass will start again on Friday the 2nd of February, 2024 at 9am.

CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATIONS

- ♦ **Christmas Eve – Sunday, 24th December 2023**
 - * 6:00pm in English
 - * 8:00pm in Vietnamese
 - * 12:00am in English (*midnight*)
- ♦ **Christmas Day – Monday, 25th December 2023**
 - * 10:00am - English
 - * 12:00pm - Vietnamese
 - * 2:00pm - South Sudanese
- ♦ **Dawn Masses**
 - * **16th – 24th December 5.00am**



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: 2 Samuel 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; if he does evil, I will punish him with the

rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88(89):2-5,27,29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘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.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘He will say to me: “You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.”
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.’

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages

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 Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

‘I am the handmaid of the Lord’

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We are all familiar with Luke’s story of the annunciation, a story that has inspired artists through the ages. God’s messenger, Gabriel, approaches a young Galilean Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth, and greets her as God’s graced one. The angel’s greeting to Mary is unique. No other person in the Christian scriptures is addressed as “favoured one” or “graced one”. The Greek form *kecharitōmenē* contains within it the notion of grace, *charis* in Greek. It can also mean “mercied one”.

Mary is troubled by the angel’s greeting, succinct as it is. After being addressed as “favoured or mercied one”, she is told only that God is with her. She knows the traditions of her people. She knows that those said to be the graced or favoured of God (Noah and Moses and Gideon and Samuel) are called to be agents of God’s saving action and to carry heavy responsibilities. Now a young woman is called to be God’s agent. In a formula that forms part of angelic announcements of birth, the angel tells Mary not to be afraid and reassures her by stating explicitly that she has been graced by God. The angel then proceeds to announce the conception and birth of the child she is to name “Jesus”. This child will reign forever. The prophecy of Nathan, recounted in today’s first reading, is to be fulfilled in the conception and birth of Mary’s son who is also, and especially, God’s son in the line of David who in his turn was first of many “sons of God” called to rule with the justice and the wisdom of God. In the face of almost constant failure on the part of the kings, later prophets projected Israel’s hope into the future and looked for one who would truly have the characteristics of God, who would truly be “son of God”.

Mary’s response to the angel, “How can this be...?” echoes the prayer of David in the

continuation of today's first reading: "Who am I... and who are we that you have brought us to this point?" (2 Sam 7:18). Mary learns that God's dwelling place is her own human flesh and that this extraordinary event will be accomplished through the grace of God and the power of God's Holy Spirit. Mary is also to learn that her cousin Elizabeth with conceive a child despite her age "for nothing will be impossible for God." The mysterious workings of God in our world invite the response of Mary: "How can this be...?" As we approach the celebration of the ongoing comings of the Christ into our world, we might pause to wonder at the goodness of God at work in all that incarnates the grace and mercy of God. Let us give thanks in the spirit of today's gospel for the deep incarnation we celebrate at this time, even if pandemic continues to place limits on our communal celebrations.

By Veronica Lawson RSM

THE FOURTH CANDLE



The fourth candle represents peace. The fifth White Candle, of course, represent Christ, the Prince of Peace. This candle is called the "Angel's Candle." In the countryside were shepherds minding sheep... The Angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified but the Angel said: Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy! And, suddenly, with the angel a great throng of the heavenly host singing:

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
AND PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS FA-
VOUR RESTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Pope Francis, who turns 87 on Dec. 17, is already one of the oldest popes in the church's 2,000-year history. Benedict XVI retired at 85. Francis has been Pope for more than ten years. Francis celebrated his birthday with a special cake during a festive audience with children from a Vatican hospital for poor children.



Later that day Pope Francis lamented: "I continue to receive very serious and painful news from Gaza. Defenceless civilians are the targets of bombings and shootings. A mother and her daughter (...) were killed and other people injured by sniper fire. This happened even inside the parish of the Holy Family where there are no terrorists but families, children, sick people or disabled",

Pope Francis' statement at the UN climate summit in Dubai asked a powerful question: **"Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death?"**

In his statement, Pope Francis reminds us that **"the destruction of the environment is an offense against God, a sin that endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable."**

He urges us to embrace a culture of life for our common home by working towards **"energy efficiency; renewable sources; the elimination of fossil fuels; and education in lifestyles."**

The Holy Father's determination encourages us all to act with urgency and purpose, because **"time is short."**

With the help of the Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, we can **"emerge from the dark night of wars and environmental devastation to turn our common future into the dawn of a new and radiant day."**

Let us make this our prayer this Christmas

By Fr. Patrick Corbett, CSsR

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed after Friday 24th December 2023 and will be opened again Tuesday 22nd January 2024.

FOODBANK CLOSURE:

Last day for was 15th December 2023.

It will reopen in February. Please contact the Parish Office when office reopens in January for the commencing date for 2024. Thank you for your cooperation. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SOCIAL OFFICE:

Office will be closed during the Christmas and New Year period. Contact 03 9366 1310 for available date and time for appointment when office reopens on 22nd January 2024.

PRECA CENTRE:

Dates to be confirmed.

HOLY EUCHARIST SCHOOL

Important Date:

- ⇒ Mon 1st Jan -New Year's Day
- ⇒ Fri 26th Jan -Australia Day
- ⇒ **Mon 29th Jan** -Staff return to school
- ⇒ **Tues 30th Jan** -Students in Prep to Year 6 return to school



Week starting 27 December 2023 Group 11 - Vietnamese Women's League - Teresa Dinh Thi Ngoan, Ms Maria Pham Thi Tuyen

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 26-12-23

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 27-12-23

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri

Thurs 9:00 AM, 28-12-23

Reader: Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 29-12-23

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 30-12-23

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard
Commentator: Anthony Naidu
Readers: Carmen Camilleri
Agatha Saliba
Eucharistic Min. Alastair Surrao

Violeta Montoro
Reno Attard

Sun 8.45 AM, 31-12-23

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

Sun 10:00AM, 31-12-23

Lit. Coordinator: Rita Martin
Commentator: Christine Pedroso
Reader: St Francis Choir
St Francis Choir
Eucharistic Min. Rita Martin
Saua Tufuga
Br. Anthony Gatt

Sun 6.00PM, 31-12-23

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

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 30th December 2023

- ◆ 6.00pm – Volunteer

Sunday 31st December 2023

- ◆ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
- ◆ 10.00am - St Francis Choir
- ◆ 6.00pm - Volunteer

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Kathleen Canning, Marlene Ferdinand, Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Amord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Death Anniversaries

Jan & Jovan Vala, Elizabet & Jan Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Marko Dorinko, Bruce McLean, Family Attard, Caruana, Grech, Schembri, Zammit, Ivica Krizmanic, George, Angela, Charles & Maria Bugeja, John, Rose & Georga Frendo, Carmen Cassar, Lucy & George Cauchi, Kouna, George & Angela Muscat, Tonna Borg, Ian Ness, William Millek, Maria Nguyen Thi Dao, Joseph Formosa, Henry, Carmelo & Mary Faraci, Hoang Family(Fanxico, Maria, Maria & Teresa) & Nguyen Family(Joseph, Anna & Maria), Nazareno & Josephine Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Cornelio Maddela, Grazio(Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, 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, Maria Tran Thi Huong, Mary Camilleri, Richard & Connie Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Duong Family, Do Family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Mollie Rice (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

Every person who has ever born a child, and every person who has freely vowed away this honour, helps in some mysterious way to bring Jesus Christ into this world again. Can you say: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"?

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