



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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4th Sunday of Advent. Year A. 18th December 2022

The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We are disciples of Jesus!

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

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.

Summary

The child Jesus is the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy that the maiden will conceive a child and, **they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'** He will be our saviour – **"he is the one who is to save his people from their sins."** The second important point in this gospel reading is Joseph's response. The anguish and turmoil he must have felt is overcome by **his trust in God, and he obeys.** Through his trust and acceptance of God's will, human history will never be the same because Jesus, the son of God, comes to us as the Saviour.

In Conclusion

This gospel reading tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. The message of the angel of the Lord given to

Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and His role in God's plan for our salvation. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . *The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God-is-with us].*" Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. **They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.**

"when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream"



One of the common ways for God to communicate with human beings, as related in the Hebrew Scriptures, is through dreams—Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Hannah are famous examples. In this text, God communicates the importance of this child and the integrity of His mother to Joseph, using this favoured method. **Being intuitive to the voice of God is an important aspect of our faith.** (Ref: *Melbourne Archdiocese – the Summit*)



Advent Reconciliation at Nearby Parishes

We respond to John the Baptist's message, by repenting for our sins.

We can follow the example of St Dismas (the "good" thief who was crucified with Jesus). Dismas was contrite and repentant (he admitted his sins and accepted his suffering). Dismas had hope and faith in the Lord's mercy - **"remember me when you come into your kingdom."** Jesus is merciful and forgiving, and assured Dismas of his salvation – **"today you will be with me in paradise."**

*At Reconciliation, we acknowledge our sins before God. We express our sorrow/contrition, receive the forgiveness of Christ and make reparation for what we have done (penance) – this is what Dismas did on his cross and Jesus was merciful and forgiving. **We too can be like Dismas, and receive God's mercy and forgiveness, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation!***

Second Rite of Reconciliation will be Celebrated at the Following Nearby Parishes:

St Jude Church, Langford Parish, Tue 20th December, 7.00pm.

Sacred Heart Church, Thornlie Parish, Tue 20th December, 7.00pm.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, We Light the Third Purple Advent Candle



Advent is a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus. Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we begin to contemplate **how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.**

Come Lord Jesus!

Note: *In our prayers and our "Advent wreath and candle-lighting ritual," we honour Mary and Joseph, for the way they cooperated with God's plan for our salvation.*

Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to “live the Gospel.” **We are a community of Jesus’ disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

Mass Times	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri	8.00 am (the Rosary after)
Mass Time	Saturday	6.00 pm
Mass Time	Sunday	9.30 am
Reconciliation	Saturday night	5.15 – 5.45 pm
Anointing of the Sick	Liaise with Fr Greg	
Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Liaise with Fr Greg	

Our Prayers of the Faithful

The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass. In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

Lorna Johnstone, Fr Francisco, Heron Sharpe, Antoinette De Silva, Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, Gerry and Maisie Prendergast, James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Fr Andre, Sheila Vanwiering, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Denis Critchley and Cleone Stephenson.

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort” (Matthew 5:4).

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Vic Munt (19 Dec), Rocco Colasante (21 Dec), Christina Diaz (21 Dec), Tony Dowsett (21 Dec), Clementina Sequeira (21 Dec), Mavis Joseph (21 Dec) and all our departed relatives and friends.

Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: “I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies” (John 11: 25-26).

Note: Parishioners may email Cliff at: cliffordqerard@biapond.com, for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our “Prayers of the Faithful.”

Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.

We Welcome “God’s Little Children” to Our Mass



People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mk 10: 13-14.

Our Parish Christmas Masses

Sat 24th December. **Childrens’/Vigil Mass.** Carols from 5.45pm with Mass commencing at 6pm.

Sat 24th December. **“Early” Midnight Mass.** Carols from 7.45pm with Mass commencing at 8pm.

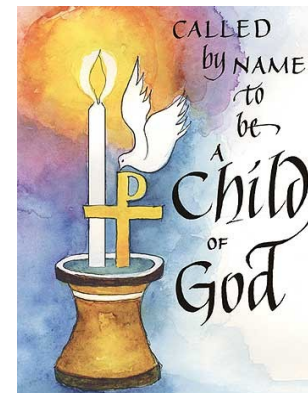
Sun 25th December. **Christmas Morning Mass.** Carols from 9.15am with **Mass commencing at 9.30am.**



At Baptism

Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18: 16

At baptism we are cleansed and the Holy Spirit comes upon the newly initiated Christian. The bestowal of the Spirit brings certain gifts and these gifts bear particular fruits. The **seven gifts of the Holy Spirit** are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and love of the Lord (CCC 1831). The Church lists **twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit**: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity (CCC 1832).



*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, welcomes the family and friends of **Mackenzie Anne Clemons**. Mackenzie is here today with her **parents Tristan and Claire**, and her **sister Matilda**, to be baptised into the Family of Christ, on this **Tuesday 20th December 2022**. We pray for you MacKenzie, that God will bless you on your spiritual journey and may the Lord give His angels charge over you, to guide you in all your ways.*

The Gospels at Our Christmas Masses

Each of the Christmas Masses are given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ’s birth. The **gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve** is taken from the Gospel of Matthew, on *how Jesus came to be born*. The **gospel at the Mass during the night/midnight Mass**, proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke (*Jesus is born in a manger in Bethlehem as the angel of the Lord appears to the shepherds*). The **gospel at the Mass on Christmas morning** continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke’s Gospel, *ending with the shepherds’ visit to the infant Jesus*. **In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the Christmas narratives with which we are familiar.**

