



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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Our Christmas Masses 2022

"May the peace and joy, and the love of God be with you and your family at this Holy Season of Christmas, and throughout the coming New Year."

Vigil/Childrens' Mass Saturday 24th December 2022

At this Mass, we celebrate the angel's prophecy to Joseph: "Mary will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus."

Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25

The ancestry and birth of Jesus Christ, the son of David

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac 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.



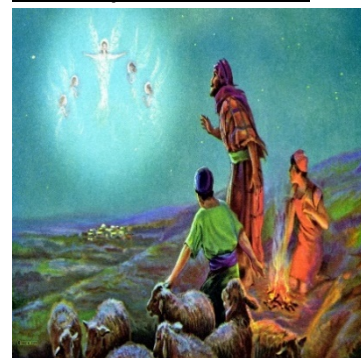
This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made 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 had 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.

Christmas "Early Midnight" Mass 24th December 2022

At this Mass, we share the joy of the angels and the shepherds as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world: "I bring you news of great joy."

The Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14



Today 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.'*

Commentary

Jesus is born as one of the poor. Laid in a manger in a stable, **because there was no room at the inn.** Jesus comes into the world through surprising circumstances (it is through Caesar Augustus' edict for a census, that the words of the prophets in the Old Testament are fulfilled – **the Virgin will conceive and the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem**). The angel proclaims the good news to the shepherds: **"a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."**

Christmas Morning Mass Sunday 25th December 2022

At this Mass, the people who heard the shepherds' testimony were astonished at what they had to say.



Gospel: Luke 2: 15-20

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for

Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, it was exactly as they had been told.

May we never take Christmas for granted, but continue to be filled with wonder and gratitude, as we contemplate what God has done for us, by becoming one of us.

Friday 30th December, is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
A home is a place of love, memories, joys and pains, births and deaths. On this feast day we pray for God to bless our home and family.



The feast of the Holy Family is a relatively new one in the Church's calendar, having only been introduced in 1920. **While this feast day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on human families and their importance for our love and growth, that is not its only strength.** Coming as it does within the Christmas cycle, it is an opportunity to continue reflecting on the reality of God's "human story" - Jesus was born into a human family. His "human" parents Mary and Joseph, are examples of faith, love and service to God. **We are not only members of our human family but also members of God's family, and this brings obligations and responsibilities.**

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 Vanwieringan, 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

Jose Dias (22 Dec), Theresa Cordeiro (23 Dec), Irene Barry (24 Dec), Deryck Woodford (25 Dec), Edelmira Molinares (27 Dec), Neville Rodricks (28 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@bigpond.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.

Next Weekend is to be Our Next Parish St Vincent de Paul Donations



Our friends at the St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) group at Riverton, have informed us that the need for provisions to help the needy, is greater this time than previously. For parishioners who may wish to contribute to this worthy program, any non-perishable food in tins, packets or boxes will do (but no glass please). In addition to a food hamper, recipients usually receive a \$30 Woolworths voucher, to enable the purchase of essentials like; fresh fruit and vegetables, baby food and more. **Cash donations may be deposited in our SVDP/poor donation box, at the entrance of the church** (the wood box on your right at the door), to enable the purchase of cash vouchers. **Food donations may be left at the rear of the church, or at our parish centre.**



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' 'Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' (Matthew 25: 40-45).

Parishioners who may need a "helping hand," may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: Penny D'Souza (mob: 0421 215 620), or, Michael Hardless (mob: 0419 421 122), at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

