



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



T: 4637 1500 F: 4637 1511
Email: admin@stpats.org.au
www.stpats.org.au

Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Administrator/Priest Director STM: Fr. Michael O'Brien
Associate Pastors: Fr Hal Ranger & Fr. Thomas Duncan

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)

St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A Saturday 21 December/Sunday 22 December 2019

Readings this weekend:

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. [Psalm 23]

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation: 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 [The Birth of Christ]

2019 Bishop's Christmas Message: Hope in our world

Without hope, our days are like a shadow
1 Chronicles 29:15

We have witnessed continually throughout this year the innate goodness that resides within each of us, as people have responded to those most in need and most at risk. Images of volunteer rural fire-fighters battling blazes whilst their own homes are at risk; school children assisting in drought appeals; fleets of trucks bringing food for cattle; ordinary mums and dads providing temporary accommodation for those fleeing for their lives have been accompanied by stories of compassion and love.

It is only through working together that we can create communities where people can find their identity, feel they belong and are safe. Strengthening relationships amongst our communities is the key. If we can give of ourselves to each other, we can build communities which are integrated and strong. I know that churches across this diocese will take the lead.

What makes Christmas memorable for children is the sharing of gifts. Gifts have the power to change relationships. Gifts are the measure of who we are. It is in our capacity to give of ourselves that we find ourselves. God gave of himself in Jesus Christ, he made himself vulnerable and changed his relationship with us, with the community and with the world.

The gifts that have the most significant impact are not those brought at a great financial cost; it is the gift of our time, attention, encouragement, respect, grace, kindness and compassion, or love and trust.

We live in a world which encourages us to put a price on everything, and yet we increasingly find it hard to know the value of things. We are what we give, and some gifts are much more valuable than others. Kindness, gentleness, respect, openness, love and honesty are in a different league of value to the kinds of possessions we will spend our time gratefully gathering this Christmas. The most pressing area of concern across the entire diocese is the difficulties affecting people due to the ongoing drought situation. Even with widespread rain in the near future, the turnaround will take many years to occur. With this situation in mind, the Christmas collection this year will be divided between CatholicCare which provides counselling and support services and Drought Angels who offer personalised and discrete support for families.

I am very grateful for the gifts you give, of your time to support our young people, to reach out to those who seem isolated and lonely, the time you take to get to know your neighbor, to build communities and to speak of the love of Christ Jesus. As we journey towards the great celebration of the birth of Jesus, may we be open to the power of the Holy Spirit who transforms and renews. Let us be a beacon of love to all we encounter, and may Christ's mercy and compassion be evident in the way we generously respond to those around us.

May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you and your loved ones now and throughout 2020.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba



Remain in my love
In 1999

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE: The NATIVITY of the LORD

Tuesday 24th Dec: 6.00pm Childrens Mass
8.30pm Family Mass
Midnight Vigil



CHRISTMAS DAY: The NATIVITY of the LORD

Wednesday 25th Dec: 7.00am and 9.00am

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Solemnity of MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday 1st Jan 9.00am Mass (no 7.00am)

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Molly Stevens, Fr Bill Grundy, Theresa Vaughan. *May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Jessie Roach, Ray Power, Morrie and Hazel Betros.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially,** Fr Hal Ranger (recovering from a back injury and remaining in Melbourne unable to travel), Rita Collins (Fr Jamie's mother), Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Annie Makim, Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Leo Ryan, Tina Hobson, Michael Cuskelly, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Morgan O'Brien, Teresita Pamulaklakin.

✠ **Congratulations to these newly weds: Jessica Smoothy and Thomas Nelson.** *May the Holy Spirit bless their lives together.*

✠ **For all those recently baptised: William Isaac Hannant** son of Sam and Tamara and **Vincent Alexander Hannant** son of Timothy and Felicity. *May the gift of the Holy Spirit grow throughout their lives.*

Reconciliation: 1st Rite available this Saturday, 9.00am – **10.30am** at St Patrick's Cathedral.


Holy Hour at the Cathedral: Each third Wednesday between 5pm and 5pm there will be adoration at St Patrick's Cathedral. Consider some quiet time each month to reflect on life and faith. **Next time: 15/01/20**

At church without any change for the plate? You will now find a **Pay Point** located on the table at the Neil Street entrance. Simply tap your card – credit or debit – and you will donate \$10.00 to St. Patrick's Parish Community. Please consider an ongoing donation to assist us in our good works as a community.

Limited copies of the **2020 Columban Calendar** are available in the Parish Office at a cost of \$10 each.

Church Cleaning: There is a need to dust the seats in the Cathedral. You will find some dusters and cloths on the pew in the Choir area. If you have 5 minutes before Mass, please dust off a couple of seats and anything else you see that is a little dusty! Thank you for your help, it is much appreciated!

Singers required for Midnight and 9am Christmas Masses: Practices will be 9, 16 and 23 December from 5.30pm until 7pm. Any queries, contact Vicky on 0428 781 209.

Sunday 22 Dec	7am and 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	11am Baptism of Lillian Thompson [FM] 4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Monday 23 Dec	9am Mass STM	5.30-7pm Choir Practice
Tuesday 24 Dec	7am Mass 6pm Vigil Mass 6pm Vigil Mass at STM 8pm Vigil Mass at STM 8.30pm Vigil Mass Midnight Mass	
Wed 25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY	7am Mass 8.30am Mass STM 9am Mass	
Thursday 26 Dec	7am Mass	
Friday 27 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass STM	
Saturday 28 Dec	7am Mass 6pm Vigil	9am-10.30am First Rite of Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism of Carly-Jane Widgell, Saxon and Jaylen Robinson [PD]
Sunday 29 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	11am Baptism of Isaac Hamilton, Madison Patch and Logan Brosnan [FM] 4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1752; Loose \$2393 : Jenny Hurd, Helen Hoddle and Mick Cuskelly		

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS

The liturgy for today, the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent, is characterized by the theme of closeness, God's closeness to humanity. The Gospel passage shows us two people, the two people who, more than anyone else, were involved in this mystery of love: the Virgin Mary and her husband, Joseph. A mystery of love, the mystery of God's closeness to humanity.

Mary is presented in the light of the prophet who says: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son". Matthew the Evangelist recognizes that this happened in Mary, who conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The Son of God "comes" into her womb in order to become man, and she welcomes him. Thus, in a unique way, God drew near to mankind, taking on flesh through a woman: God drew near to us and took on flesh through a woman. To us too, in a different way, God draws near with his grace in order to enter our life and offer us the gift of his Son. What do we do?

Do we welcome him, let him draw near, or do we reject him, push him away? As Mary, freely offering herself to the Lord of history, allowed him to change the destiny of mankind, so too can we, by welcoming Jesus and seeking to follow him each day, cooperate in his salvific plan for us and for the world. Mary thus appears to us as a model to look to and upon whose support we can count in our search for God, in our closeness to God, in thus allowing God to draw close to us and in our commitment to build the culture of love.

The other protagonist of today's Gospel is Saint Joseph. The Evangelist highlights that alone, Joseph cannot explain to himself the event which he sees taking place before his eyes, namely, Mary's pregnancy. Just then, in that moment of doubt, even anguish, God approaches him — him too — through his messenger and [Joseph] is enlightened about the nature of this maternity: "the child conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit". Thus, in facing this extraordinary event, which surely gave rise to many questions in his heart, he trusts totally in God who has drawn near to him, and after his invitation, does not repudiate his betrothed, but takes her to him and takes Mary to wife. In accepting Mary, Joseph knowingly and lovingly receives Him who has been conceived in her through the wondrous work of God, for whom nothing is impossible. Joseph, a just and humble man, teaches us to always trust in God, who draws near to us: when God approaches us, we must entrust ourselves to him. Joseph teaches us to allow ourselves to be guided by Him with willing obedience.

These two figures, Mary and Joseph, who were the first to welcome Jesus through faith, introduce us to the mystery of Christmas. Mary helps us to assume an attitude of openness in order to welcome the Son of God into our concrete life, in our flesh. Joseph spurs us to always seek God's will and to follow it with full trust. Both allow God to draw near to them.

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel', which means, God-with-us". Thus the angel says: "the child shall be

called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us", in other words, God near to us. And to God who draws near, do I open the door — to the Lord — when I sense an interior inspiration, when I hear him ask me to do something more for others, when he calls me to pray?

God-with-us, God who draws near. This message of hope, which is fulfilled at Christmas, leads to fulfilment of the expectation of God in each one of us too, in all the Church, and in the many little ones whom the world scorns, but whom God also loves and to whom God draws near.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What doubts and fears do you struggle with in believing and understanding God's work and presence in your life?
2. When and how have you felt God draw beside you to guide or change your mind about a decision? How did you recognise that it was God's voice and direction?
3. How do you feel about the idea of God desiring 'to be with you' to 'walk with you' personally and guide you in every moment of the day?

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another

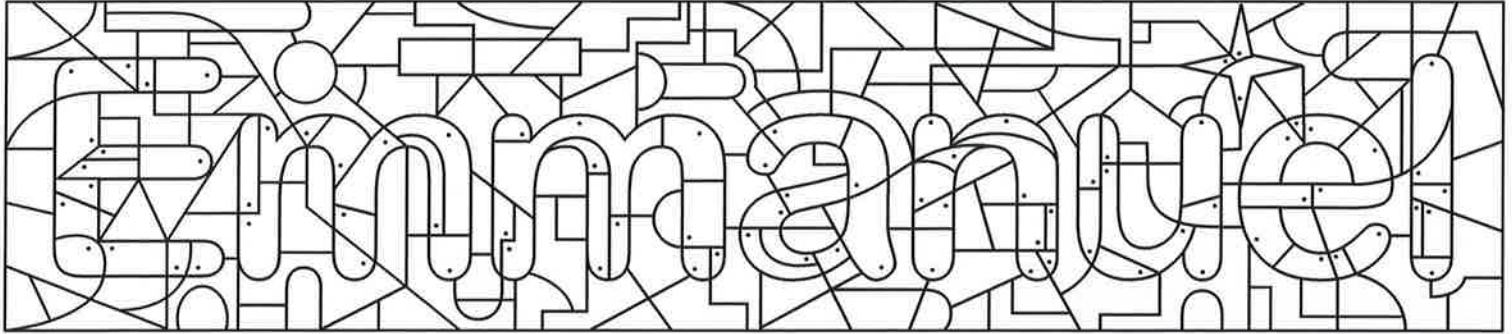
1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/ describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
3. Move to prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others' prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps reciting the 'Glory Be' or similar prayer.

He will be called
Emmanuel



4th Sunday of Advent, Year A

Colour in the shapes with dots to reveal a special name.



One night, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream.
What were some of the things the angel told Joseph?



Follow the branch that extends from
King David to the birth of Jesus.