



SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 2025. **4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 1:18-24

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. “Nothing”, was my immediate response. “I just want to spend time with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone”. And that's what I'll be doing, simply “being with”.

Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that “being-with” is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are “with-us” even in our absence and “being-with” in spirit or in person is closely allied with “being-for”.

Today's Gospel affirms “being-with” as God's Christmas gift to us. The first chapter of Matthew's Gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is “God-with-us”, Emmanuel. The Gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt 28:20).

As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the Gospel story of God with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives. There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's Gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau.

Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams.

The angelic announcement in today's Gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different Gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or “being-with” as a precious Christmas gift.

Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **John Mc Mahon** and **Patricia Andersen** who died recently and for **Maria Jelinic, Nicola Romano** and **Rufus Nettar** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

ADVENT MEDITATION SHEETS

The 4th week of Advent meditation sheets are available for Parishioners to take home for use individually or as a family group.

ADVENT WREATH

FOURTH CANDLE ----THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Today we light the four candles.



Today, as we gather on the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the fourth of the candles, remembering how God's love was manifested to the world through the generosity and courage of the Virgin Mary.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 1:23

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
And his name will be called Emmanuel.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed
from after Christmas for all of January 2026.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL

The choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne
presents its 51st Advent Carol Service (music,
readings and prayers) in the Cathedral on Sunday 21
December 2025 from 3pm – 4.15pm

LOURDES DAY MASS

Saturday 14 February 2026 from 10.30am – 11.30am
at St. Patrick's Cathedral with Archbishop Peter A
Comensoli as the principal celebrant. The Mass is an
opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm,
particularly those who are unable to visit Lourdes.

CELEBRATING THE CLOSURE OF JUBILEE 2025

On Sunday 28 December 2025 at 10.00am –
12.00pm, Archbishop A Comensoli will be leading a
Mass at Our Lady of Lavang Shrine, 225 Hutton Road
Keysborough. Mass will also be celebrated in
Vietnamese. Tea and coffee will be provided.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for the wonderful support from
parishioners who left Christmas food items under the
trees at each of the churches. Hampers have been
made up and distributed to families in the local area.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve	Wednesday 24 December
5.00pm Mass	St. Augustine's Yarraville
8.00pm Mass.....	Corpus Christi Kingsville
10.00pm Polish Mass....	St. Augustine's Yarraville
Midnight Mass.....	St. Augustine's Yarraville

Christmas Day	Thursday 25 December
8.00am Mass.....	Annunciation Brooklyn
9.30am Mass.....	St. Augustine's Yarraville
11.00am Mass.....	Corpus Christi Kingsville
11.30am Polish Mass ...	St. Augustine's Yarraville

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S

We thank all involved in preparing for our Christmas
Carols this Saturday evening, especially those
performing for offering their time and talents:

**The True North Young Adults' Group,
Sr. Geraldine Larkins RSJ
and The Melbourne Vocal Ensemble**

We also thank everyone in attendance and the
parishioners who have helped in any way with the
supper afterwards.

HOSPITALITY

This Sunday **after the 9.30am Mass**, all are invited to
stay awhile after Mass to meet and enjoy the
company of fellow parishioners.

"TAP AND GO" CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

After numerous requests from parishioners
and extended delays from the providers,
our Parish has finally been able to source
and install "Tap and Go" Contactless
donation terminals.

These you will find either in the foyer or at
the back of our three churches.

Please follow the prompts and choose your
nominated amount to donate.

Many thanks,
Fr. Werner and the Parish Finance
Committee.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE &**ANNUNCIATION BROOKLYN**

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

QR Codes for one off donations.

This QR code is unique to the **Parish of St. Augustine's** and gives you access to giving a donation via **Credit card**.



This QR code is unique to the **Parish of Corpus Christi Kingsville**

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate at Mass or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(20th & 21st December)**4th Sunday of Advent Year A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Anna Messina

COUNTING.....Val Taylor**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Frank Galea

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Khanh Nguyen

ROSTER FOR CHRISTMAS**READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Rose Thomas

Midnight..... Phillip Marques

9.30am Pat McLaughlin

Sam Polzella

COUNTING.....Krystyna Biront**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....M. Vella, K. Baker

G. Buhagiar

Midnight.....Nic Fusca

9.30am.....Gerald, Agnes, Pina

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Imelda Gibson

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre

St. Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown

16 Esplanade Williamstown. 3016

(03) 9397 6012. mmsm.org.au