



Parish Priest: Fr Shabin Kaniampuram IVDei
Pastoral Associate: Mirella Pace (Wed/Thurs 9-2pm)
Financial Administrator: Margaret Harrington (Mon/Fri 9-2pm)

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Parish Secretary: Liza Powell (Tues 9-3pm /Thurs 1-4pm)
Email: adminANT@cam.org.au
Seminar Placement: Andrew Tran
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ST MARY'S THORNBURY

1 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury 3071
Email: adminant@cam.org.au
Italian Coordinator:
Maria Zaccardi (Thursday 9am-3pm)
Interim Principal: Kevin Gleeson | Ph: 9484 5333

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Reconciliation

Times

10.30am Saturdays — St Mary's
4.30pm Saturdays — Holy Spirit
5.00pm Saturdays — St Joseph's

MASS TIMES

St Mary's Thornbury

Sunday: 10:00am English/Italian
5:30pm
Weekday: Wednesday, 9:15am
English/Italian

St Joseph's Northcote

Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 11:00am
Weekday: Tuesday, 9:15am

Holy Spirit Thornbury East

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am
Weekday: Thursday, 9:15am
English/Italian

St Anthony's Alphington

Sunday: 9:00am Italian:
11:00am: English
Weekday: Friday, 9:15am

FEAST DAYS IN THE WEEK

23 Dec: St John of Kanty
25 Dec: the Nativity of the Lord
26 Dec: St Stephen, 1st Martyr
27 Dec: St John, Apostle & Evangelist
Dec 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

To update parish details, please visit
our official parish website:
www.melbatholic.org/s/hosan

ST JOSEPH'S NORTHCOTE

140 Westbourne Grove, Northcote 3070
Principal: Mary Kearney | Ph: 9481 7166

Partnership Parish Office Address

45 Railway Place Alphington
P.O.Box 85 Fairfield 3078
Office Number: 9484 2907
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm

PARISH OF HOLY SPIRIT AND ST ANTHONY'S

45 Railway Pl, Alphington VIC 3078
Supporting Priests: Monsignor Tom Doyle; Fr Brendan Hayes
Pastoral Worker: Pauline Egan
Principals: Rob Costin, Holy Spirit Primary School,
197 Clarendon Street, Thornbury East | Ph: 9480 0391
James Casey, Anthony's Primary School,
Tania Bennett, Acting Principal
52 Austin Street, Alphington | Ph: 9489 7936

www.melbatholic.org/s/hosan

CHRISTMAS DAY

24-25 December 2024

The annunciation story, one of the most beautiful narratives in the Gospels, is about the birth of Jesus, but it is proclaimed differently to Mary and Joseph. The annunciation stories in Matthew and Luke's Gospels differ in a few ways. In Mathew's gospel, we read about the annunciation by the Angel Gabriel to Joseph in a dream. In Luke's Gospel, the annunciation is made directly to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are many other differences in the two accounts, but it is something which they share that is the focus of my Christmas message for our community this year.

Both Mary and Joseph, after receiving the message from the angel, "set out on a journey". In Luke 1/39 we read, "with little delay Mary got ready and hurried to the hillside of Judaea". Again in Luke 2/5 we read "Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth of Galilee and travelled to Judaea". So, Judaea could be where Mary and Joseph met each other. Once Mary and Joseph were filled with the Holy Spirit and with the Word of God they set out for a common purpose. They both moved out of their comfort zone to a mission zone where God called them. We see in Mary, a woman favoured by God, and without any delay, heading off to a mission. Joseph, on the other hand, set out in search of Mary to take her to Bethlehem to be registered in the census. He knew that Mary was with child. At a certain point they became "companions on the journey".

When Mary and Joseph decided to move out of their comfort zones and respond to the call of God, something beautiful occurred - "the incarnation of the Son of God". Of course, as they set out, there were hurdles, challenges, hardships, and threats, but they could overcome all as they journeyed together. This year Christmas is sandwiched between the recently concluded synod on synodality and the opening of the jubilee year, which officially opens on 24th of December in the Vatican and concludes on 6th of January 2026 on the Feast of the Epiphany. All these events give a strong message that we are a church that is called to journey together as the people of God. Like Mary and Joseph, we are all invited to journey together as a community of faith, with the central theme of "communion, participation and mission". As people of God, we are not static; we are on the move, on a journey and called to walk together. In this journey we are all on the same footing: young, old, men, women, teenagers, children, lay people, priests, religious and bishops. Synodality enables the entire people of God to walk together, to participate in the common mission which Jesus gives us. The Jubilee year theme says "we are pilgrims of hope" another image of a journey. The theme is drawn from Romans 5/5 which says, "hope does not disappoint". Hope dwells in the heart of each person, and we share the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring. As Mary and Joseph travelled together on the rocky roads of Judaea, Egypt, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, both were pilgrims with great hope that what God had promised would be fulfilled in them. Two years ago, we began our journey together as members of the partnership parishes. The spirit of God is continually inviting us to continue this journey, to fulfill the mission and to make our communities more vibrant, vital, and viable.

Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our search for meaning in life. The Jubilee year of Jesus concludes with the closing of the holy door at St Peter's Basilica on January 6, 2026, on the feast day of the Magi, which marks another great journey - that of the three wise men from the east, who represent humanity's quest for the truth which they found in the baby born in a manger. Christmas this year reminds us that we are all on a journey, on a pilgrimage with great hope, to move closer to Jesus Christ. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!!!

Fr Shabin KANIAMPURAM



CHRISTMAS VIGIL

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day. R.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods. R.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. R.

Rejoice before the Lord;
for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. R.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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'.

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS DAY

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSLAM

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought him victory. R.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. R.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King,
the Lord. R.

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 1:1-6

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through

him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.
The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received—yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

