

THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / C

MASS DURING THE NIGHT / DAY MASS

25 DECEMBER 2024

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

95:1-3.11-13 R.v. Lk 2:11

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

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**



3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself

for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Lk 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:

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$609.15 Presbytery: \$643.15

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: S Bettoni

Lector - Sunday: P Donohue

Counters: No counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$386.25 Presbytery: \$371.25

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: A Powell

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 25 Dec: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Thu 26 Dec: St Stephen, The First Martyr

Fri 27 Dec: St John, Apostle & Evangelist

Sat 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyr

Sun 29 Dec: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 25 December 2024 and re-open on Thursday 9 January 2025.

For urgent matters, please leave a voice message or send us an email. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (John 1:14)

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Fr Varghese Kattikattu

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Audrey Sheehy

**Wishing each and everyone
A Happy Christmas and lots of blessings
from the New Born Baby Jesus**



Christmas 2024 & New Year 2025

**St Joseph's, Elsternwick
Holy Cross, Caulfield South**

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December

Holy Cross	Mass 9:00am
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St Joseph's	Mass 10:30am
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New Year's Day - Wednesday 1 January

Holy Cross	Mass 9:00am
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St Joseph's	Mass 10:30am
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Merry Christmas & Blessings in the New Year

The Christmas Travelling Crib

In receiving a traveling crib into our homes Jesus promised a blessing on our families. Reflecting on the prayers and thoughts in the diary I hope it deepens our love for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

May the Holy Family be a source of blessings for all our families! Best wishes from Fr Pat.

Update: Proposed Amalgamation of St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South



1. Information Session

The 2nd Information Session was held at Holy Cross Hall immediately after the 9am Mass last Sunday, 15 December 2024.

Parishioners are invited to come together to discuss the proposed amalgamation, and ask any questions they may have regarding the process.

We had a total of 10 attendees which included parishioners, members of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Fr Leenus.

2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We have now updated the list of FAQs with some new queries received. You can find a copy on our notice boards or on the wall at the back of the church. Copies are also available at the church foyer for you to take home to read.

3. Next Steps

Fr Leenus had a meeting with the Proclaim Team from the Archdiocese on Wednesday, 18 December 2024 to discuss the next steps of our proposed amalgamation. He was given a checklist of documentation to prepare and will then write to the Archbishop to formally request the amalgamation of the parishes.

As we move through this process, we will continue to engage with all of you and provide important updates.

Please feel free to speak with Fr Leenus, the Parish Office or any of our PPC and PFC members if you have any questions. Additionally, you may send us an email or continue to use the 'Questions / Concerns' boxes.

Children's Liturgy

We officially started our Children's Liturgy Programme on the 1st Sunday of Advent at St Joseph's Church. The Gospel of the day is read and explained at a level that the children can understand.

Please feel free to accompany your child/ren to the session. If you would like to assist in the programme, kindly contact the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA sessions at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Rd, Elsternwick, will resume on 9th January 2025.

Please share with those may be interested in becoming Catholics.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

Dear brothers and sisters in Baby Jesus

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas!

May the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who took birth 2024 years ago at Bethlehem, once again take birth today in our own midst, in our families and parishes.



As a symbolic gesture of his birth among us, we place a little figure of the newborn Jesus in our Christmas Cribs. At the same time, it's more important that Jesus be allowed to be born in our hearts and lives to lead and guide us, and most of all to be our Saviour!

With all the negativities happening in and around us, and in the world of today, can we still feel at peace? There are many hearts today that are much troubled for various reasons. The uncertainties that we face, make us feel restless and unsettled!

The mere thought that 'God is with us' should give us the Peace that no one else can give. May everyone feel the presence of the Prince of Peace here and now. His humble birth in a stable, rather than in a royal palace declares to everyone that Jesus is not looking for any great setting for his birth. The only setting he wants is "People of good-will."

God comes knocking at the doors of our hearts. Let us whole-heartedly invite him into our joys and sorrows. Let us invite him into our every celebration and into our every moment. If we do not really make space for Jesus in our hearts, it would be better not to celebrate Christmas at all. It's the true Joy of Christmas that we wish for each and every one of you!

With Christmas Greetings from

Br. Lindsay, Fr Pat and Fr Leenus.

I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas.

She told me, "Nothing would make her happier than a diamond necklace."

So I bought her nothing.



Jubilee Year of Hope 2025

A jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years or during other years as called for by the Pope.

The 2025 Jubilee will open with the 11am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Comensoli at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 29 December 2024. At our parishes, we will light the Jubilee Candle at all Masses on the same weekend and together, say the Jubilee Prayer from Pope Francis.

This will culminate in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, which will take place in Melbourne, with young pilgrims from across Australia visiting Melbourne for three days of faith, fun, food, friendship and formation in November & December 2025.

The Archdiocese is offering two pilgrimages to Rome next year to experience walking through Holy Doors. There are also local Pilgrim Places we can visit during the Jubilee Year. Please scan the QR-code for more info.



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.

DAY MASS

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM 97:1-6.R.v.3

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

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Jn 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 his 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.

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