



THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 2025. CHRISTMAS DAY REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL – LUKE 2:1-14

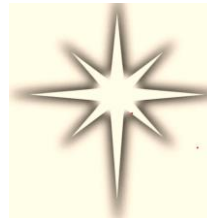
The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary. In the prologue to Matthew's Gospel the first two words for the Gospel of the Vigil Mass evoke the first words of the Book of Genesis and thus locate the child to be born within the broad sweep of the birth of the cosmos.

At the same time, the child Jesus is identified as Messiah or Christos (the anointed of God) and descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for "his people".

The Gospel for Midnight Mass (Luke 2:1-14) comes from the great story-teller, Luke, as does the Gospel for the early morning Mass (Luke 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit by violent means.

Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus rather than Caesar Augustus as the face of God, as saviour of the world, and as bringer of the good news of peace.

Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought the "peace" of the Caesars to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we come together to celebrate the feast of Christmas at the end of another year, we take time to pause and look back at the year that has been. In stopping and looking back let us be grateful for the love and joy that we have shared with family and friends.

Christmas marks the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and I am painfully aware this year of the lack of peace in parts of our world. Tensions and divisions exist between nations. Suspicion, hatred and an uncertain future are the reality for many of our neighbours. Rifts and quarrels in families often rise to the surface as we are drawn together at Christmas. For some this is not an easy time of the year as they come to terms with loss and grief.

But somehow into the often bleak and dark uncertainty of the future, the light of Christ shines as a bright star and beacon of hope. Jesus our Prince of Peace, that baby born in a stable in Bethlehem offers us hope, hope that our world can be different, hope that we can be different, hope that there can and will be Peace, In our world, in our nation and in our hearts.

May the Peace of the Christ Child be with you all this Christmas season and remain with you and your loved one throughout the New Year.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

Fr. Werner

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 2:7

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.

First Reading Isaiah 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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. 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 Luke 2:10-11

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

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.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon John 1:14

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

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.

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 afterwards.

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 especially with the supper afterwards.

BULLETINS

There will be no bulletins during the month of January for St. Augustine's, Corpus Christi and Annunciation churches.

PARISH OFFICE

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

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 annual Lourdes Mass is an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm, particularly those who are unable to visit Lourdes.

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.

"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.



Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas.

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 COLLECTION (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

ROSTER FOR CHRISTMAS**24th & 25th December****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Rose Thomas

Midnight..... Phillip Marques

9.30am Pat McLaughlin

Sam Polzella

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK**27th & 28th December****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Peter Matheson

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Anna Messina

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

11.00am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Joseph De Bono

9.30am.....Pat Mc Laughlin

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Joe Fusca

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

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.