

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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 SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited.
Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.
Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025.
No 2121. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

GOD WITH US

With Christmas only days away, today's Gospel announces Jesus' birth. Unlike the perhaps more familiar story from Luke's Gospel, with the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, Matthew's focus is on Joseph, a heroic character for the Gospel's Jewish audience, reminiscent of the Old Testament patriarch, Joseph. Matthew's story is different from Luke's. In Matthew's Jewish world marriage occurred in two stages. The first was engagement; the second, cohabitation. Mary and Joseph are married according to Jewish law, though not living together. We must remember, too, that the Gospel in general and this story in particular is a *theological* narrative. Matthew is not concerned with gynaecology, but *theology*. It is about God and the Holy Spirit. Mary's pregnancy is the fruit of God's action. As this becomes known to Joseph, he wants to step out of the scene and divorce her quietly without bringing her shame—an option open to him from Jewish law.

Through an angel in a dream—reminiscent again of the Old Testament patriarch, 'the dreamer'—Joseph comes to a profound theological truth. Mary's conception is the work of God's Spirit. This is God's act. Joseph is then instructed to name the child, an important Israelite convention that incorporates the one to be born into Joseph's kinship group. Matthew concludes the scene with a second naming, now provided by the prophet Isaiah. The child will be 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', a theme that will continue throughout Matthew even to the Gospel's concluding scene on Easter day. We celebrate and affirm God 'being-with-us' this Christmas. We want this God to 'be with us' for the year ahead.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

21 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

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 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 Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP 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

Rom 1:1–7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

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.



ST PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PARISH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Claretian Missionaries

848 Ballarat Road, Deer Park 3023
Parish Priest: Fr. Felimon Libot, CMF
Asst. Priests: Fr. John Pham, CMF; Fr. Luis F. Rey, CMF
Parish Secretary - Rosemarie Mendoza
Bookkeeper - Rosa Millan
Tel: 93633132 Email: deerpark@cam.org.au
Website: www.cam.org.au/deerpark
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



DEATH REMEMBRANCE: Joseph Grima, Nicostrato Milan Sr, Tony Cordina & family, Roko & Anica Koprivanac, Stephen Stolinik, Carlito dela Cruz, Alfredo Correia, Emanuel Attard, Juanito Mendez, Jr, Nelly Reyes del Rosario, Lorenzo Aseo, Santiago Loyola, Bienvenido Lai, Baenarino Monticello, Giuse Do Van Duong, Leticia Salvador, Alexander Villareal Sr & Jr, Lorentza Aseo, Nicanor J San Lorenzo, Emilio Sessarego, Yolanda Mara Valencia, Josefina Sing, Aida Bosa Caneda, Marie Neldi Nascimento, Valeria Descallar, Joey Debrincat, Buenaventura Bargamento, All Souls in Purgatory
RECENT DEATH: Tricia Celestial, Nolasco Mirafelix, Quim-Sem Leon, Nena Bustukil, Josefina Fajardo
SPECIAL INTENTION: Crystel & Adam, Veronica & Kane, Mushda, Mariza Maarambon Mark, Mikaila, Nicholai, Markuz, Omar Bataluna, Mary John, John, Amador & Edgar Ramiro, Michael Juhasz, Don Kempster, Peter Zammit, Veronica & Kane, Monica & Rob & family, Dwain & Natasha Lemaire
HEALING: Pauline Gatt, Tony & Agatha Saliba, Arlyn, Charlie & Helen Aquilina, Marie E, Gauci family, Lan Ing Sin, Mu Tiung Sing, Nick Manugas, Jennifer Sofia, Luci Li, Amador Ramiro, Anna, Kathleen, Anne Marie Nunnis, Luisa Mirafelix-Cruz
THANKSGIVING: Amador Binuya Jr, Kaylah, Nicky Milan, Rino Precilla, Llewellyn, Justin Kadrapally, Linus & family, Nick & Grace San Lorenzo, Kamelita Sil, Wilfredo Villareal, William & Cheska Reid, Kristina Roldan, Arbotante family, Edward & Irma Lavides, Lavides family, Romeo & Nornita Herrera

THIS WEEK: 21 December 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator 1st Reader 2nd Reader	Della J R Dantas R Rego	NO 7AM MASS	Perly C Wynna D Gynn D	Julie Ann M Nonie G Grezah P	Flora S Diana T Kirk D G R	Vernon A Shereen Q Mel O
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Marie E Grace S L Nick S L Antonietta C	NO 7AM MASS	Cedric B Hilda D S Roland D Teo C	Joe M Lidia Lay Nelissa D Maria Mizzi	Jacqueline R Tami M Emman C Ian H	Joe C Gloria T Oliver T Ric M
Altar Servers	George E	----	Adrian D A	Henry Fawaz	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Alm	Jericho, Jude Jherzielle
Choirs	Excelsis Choir	----	MWF with LHM Sisters	Emmaus	Lea Lapid	Exxemoz

NEXT WEEK 28 December 2025 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator 1st Reader	George E Maria Miletic Colleen D B	Richelle M Telmo E Susan C	Hilda D S Mario N Rukmal M	Eva O Theresa Tan Maria Mizzi	Tami M Gloria T Marvin D	Perly C Maria Sulpho Gynn D
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Marie E Antonietta C Paul M	Richelle M	Ronald D Wynna D Shirley T Thi Pham	Anna C Joe M Cathryn D Don C	Ian H Jacqueline R Kirk D G R	Roland D Joe C Teo C Ric M
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Alm	Jericho, Jude Jherzielle
Choirs	Harmonico Filipino	AHFI	Butch Eleazar	CFCA	Exxemoz	MWF with LHM Sisters



ADORATION CHAPEL
"The Master is here and wants
to see you." John 11:28

Adorers are needed for these hours:

Tuesday: 3am, 4am, 11pm

Wednesday: 4pm

Saturday: 4pm

Contact: Lucy Sgro 0424056823

7am Mass will resume on 26

December

**No Mother of Perpetual
Help Novena on Wednesday, 24
December.**

Christmas Vigil/Family Mass.
Families with small children are
encouraged to dress up as angels,
shepherds, Three kings, Mary, Joseph,
etc. during the Vigil/Family mass on
Wednesday, 24 December at 7:00pm.
Let us welcome the birth of our Lord
Jesus Christ with joy, peace and love
among mankind.

EFTPOS facility available in the
foyer the church for those who wish to
generously donate to the church. We
thank you for your generosity and
support. May God bless you and your
Family

Next Week. 28 December 2025
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &
Joseph - A**

Christmas Mass Times:

24 December

8:30am; 12:00 pm

7:00pm Mass for the Family
10:00pm

12:00 MN Christmas Eve mass
Christmas Carol at 11:30pm

25 December - Christmas Day

8:30am; 10:00am; 12:00pm; 7pm

31 December

8:30am; 12:00pm; 7:00pm
10:00pm

12:00 MN - New Year's Eve Mass

1 January 2026 - New Year's Day

8:30am; 10:00am; 12pm & 7pm

SPC Sunday School & SPC Youth
Group meetings will resume next year
in Term 1. Thank you.

Piety Store. Christmas cards,
Calendars, Bible Diaries 2026 now
available at the Piety store.

Parish Office is closed

from 23 December and will re-open on
6 January 2026

A VOCATION VIEW

Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel
appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."