

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

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.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass.

Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope. But *this* baby is unique. *This* Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. *This* baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. *This* baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant.

And *this* baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. *This* baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us.

Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by all peoples.'



ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 25 New Missal: 124



Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

25 December

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

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. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps95:1-3. 11-13 R.Lk2:11

*(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 to all people.

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. Thanks be to God.

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!

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

New Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
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Phone: 9337 4595

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Website: www.asimoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Elsa Salvacion; Vince Salemi; Peter Falzon; Monika Marland; Edmund Boileau; Giovanni; Brady Dizon; John Burns; Alex Mather; Hazel; Joseph Nguyen Ngoc Thi; Claudia & Thomas; Maria Nguyen Lam Quynh; Andreu & Marita; Emily & Grace; Nancy Green; Mellisa; Adamo; Rose; Robyn.

Recently Deceased:

Nazzareno Conidi; Nicola Loschiavo; Rosina Gangemi; Rocco Di Martino; Medelita Tan; Carmela Russo; Rosaria Cavallaro.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Gaetano & Angela Gangemi; Mary Tudor; Maree & Brian Redfern; Giuseppe Andronaco; Antonio, Tony & Amalia Gangemi; Francesco & Maria Panetta; Cristina Ritumban; Vivian Lamicela; George Srou; John Dizon; Victor Degabriele; Charlie Sciberras; Charlie Galea; Dominic Cumbo; Joseph & Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa & Menu Sammut; Francis & Bernarda Grima; John & Tonina Darmanin; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Carmelo & Rita De Bono; Joseph Apap; Victor Micallef;

Parish Support Programme:

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,082

Shortfall: \$506 Loose: \$1,082

Presbytery: \$1,364

Please support the Parish Priests, clergy and retired priests of the Archdiocese by using the Christmas Offering envelopes available on the pews. Thank you.

Contributing to the Collections

You may wish to use the QR code if you have left your cash at home. Thank you for your generosity.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

Family Mass 6:00pm

Vietnamese Mass 9:00pm

Carols & Midnight Mass 11:30pm

Christmas Day - Thursday 25th December

English 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Boxing Day - Friday 26th December

9:15am

The Season of Christmas



Thank You to Our Many, Many Parish Helpers & Supporters

Thank you to the Augustinian Sisters.

A special thanks to the musicians & singers for all their work during the year - especially the Christmas Masses. Our thanks also to the Parish Office Helpers, Pastoral Team, Liturgy Committee, Parish Catechists, Baptism Team, RCIC Team, Pastoral Care Group, St Vincent de Paul Members, Parish Council, Finance Committee; Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers, Counters, Collectors, Sacristy Team, Flower Donors & Arrangers, Church & Window Cleaners, Garden & Grounds Team, Working Bee Teams, Electricians, Plumbers, Painters, Handymen, St Joseph The Worker Maintenance Group, Social Committee, Hall Fundraising Committee, St Martin's School Teachers & Administration Staff, School Parents & Friends, and the School Board for all their support throughout the year. A final thankyou to the helpers during the Christmas season delivering Christmas cards, decorating our Christmas tree, constructing our nativity scene, preparing the church and all those who have left a gift under the tree.

*Wishing everyone a
Holy Christmas and a
Safe and Happy New Year.
Fr Paul Tru*

Thank You for Your Generosity and Support of the Appeals Held in 2025:

Archbishop's Campaign	\$ 4,817
Caritas (Project Compassion)	\$ 2,796
Catholic Care Collection	\$ 1,911
Holyland Collection	\$ 3,022
Catholic Missions	\$ 2,145
Opening the Doors	\$ 1,178
Peter's Pence	\$ 1,629
Father's Day	\$ 633
Youth Festival	\$ 572

Christmas Prayer

Meister Eckhart once said:

'What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?'

Lord, we do far too much celebrating your actual coming in our heart.

I believe in God,

but do I believe in God-in-me?

I believe in God in heaven,

but do I believe in God-on-earth?

I believe in God out there,

but do I believe in God-with-us?

Lord, be born in my heart.

Come alive in me this Christmas!

Amen.

Living Faith



Merry Christmas