



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Year C, 21-22 December, 2024

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass
(except for Christmas Day
and New Year's Day)

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

*Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is
"temporarily unavaila-
ble"*

**Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am**

CHRISTMAS DIARY

DEC 24TH, TUESDAY

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES ARE:

6PM CHILDREN'S MASS

8.30PM FAMILY MASS

11.30PM CAROLS FOLLOWED BY MIDNIGHT MASS

DEC 25TH, WEDNESDAY

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES ARE 9AM AND 11AM
(NO EVENING MASS ON THIS DAY)**

DEC 26TH, THURSDAY

BOXING DAY - MASS AT 9AM

JANUARY 1ST, WEDNESDAY

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS AT 9AM (NO EVENING MASS ON THIS DAY)

**** NORMAL MASS TIMETABLE BETWEEN BOXING DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY ****

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North

Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Acting Principal
Mrs Monique Fallace

St Paul Apostle South

Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's

Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Feast of The Holy Family Sunday Year C

First Reading *1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28*

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

Elkanah and his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time."

When she weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, a measure of flour and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord." She left him there for the Lord.

Psalm

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God

Blessed are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer
give ear, O God of Jacob
Behold our shield, O God
look on the face of your anointed

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness

Second Reading *1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24*

Beloved:
See what love the Father has given us, that we should be
called children of God; and that is what we are
The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know

him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

Whoever obeys his commandments abides in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts O Lord
to listen to the words of your Son
Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 2: 41-52*

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

He said to them "Why were you searching for me?" Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

Reflection

1. It's natural for any mother to worry when their child starts to gain their independence, and anger is a natural reaction to fear.
2. Jesus' worried parents have to search for him when he stays behind in the Temple.
3. We can understand more about Jesus by identifying with Mary as she learns about her son's role on earth.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

THANK YOU



To all who donated hampers to our brothers and sisters who are in need during this season of giving. Your generosity has enabled those families to enjoy the festive season.

We thank all volunteers who have helped segregating the hampers on the night and those who helped delivering them on Monday. This year we had so many volunteers that all hampers were delivered quickly.



Our Carols evening on Sunday was so much fun. We thank all choir members who have sacrificed their personal time to practice so that we could all enjoy the carols on a 'hot' afternoon. Fortunately the weather changed and was much improved after the sun set. We also thank Meno and Kiera who assisted with the sound system. Most of all, we thank all of you for joining us that evening. We had fantastic evening with so many of you enjoying the evening with us.

NATIVITY PLAY

Our children, with the help of parents and grandparents, have been practising well. We are holding our last practise session on MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER at 10.30am in the Church.

All children who are in the play please come along to this practice so that you can try out your costume.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all our students who have completed their year 12 studies this year. Good luck in whatever work or further studies you wish to pursue. Special mention goes to Avinda Wickramaratne who was DUX at Mazenod College.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Resources to teach body safety

Teaching children and young people about body safety is an important part of keeping them safe from child sexual abuse. It can be hard to know how to start these conversations, so we have developed a range of tools and resources to support you.

We developed a children's storybook as a culturally inclusive and safe resource for adults to start conversations with the children and young people in their lives about child sexual abuse. Written by Yvonne Sewankambo and illustrated by Nea Valdivia, My superhero voice follows Nour as she learns different cultural practices that help the people in her life speak up and get help when something makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

The storybook is available in e-book format, and has also been translated into 10 languages. For English version please click this link ['My superhero voice' – English](#)

Readings:

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT Yr C

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Feast of the Holy Family Yr C

1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24
Luke 2: 41-52

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Peter Taylor, Merlinda B. Szuba, Marian Meade, "Horse" Ian Price, Josip Dujic, Hector de Santos, Gladys Torres, Isabel Florindo, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell ***and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues***

Those who have died

Telesia Litia Dunlop, Angela La Sala, Giorgio Fuda, Rajendra George Rasiah, Doreen Anne O'Hara, Giovanni Torcasio, Eugene Mirra, Mitchell Fernandez, Peter Xavier Hickey ***and all who are named in our church memorial book***

May they rest in peace

Reflection (extracted from Pope Francis audition in 2018)

Mary: Model of Faith and Charity

The liturgy of this Fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on the figure of Mary, the Virgin Mother, expecting the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Let us fix our gaze upon her, a model of faith and of charity; and we can ask ourselves: what were her thoughts in the months while she was expecting? The answer comes precisely from today's Gospel passage, the narrative of Mary's visit to her elderly relative Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-45). The Angel Gabriel had revealed that Elizabeth was expecting a son and was already in her sixth month (cf. Lk 1:26, 36). So the Virgin, who had just conceived Jesus by the power of God, set out with haste for Nazareth, in Galilee, to reach the mountains of Judea, and visit her cousin.

The Gospel states: "she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth" (v. 40). Surely she congratulated her on her maternity, as in turn Elizabeth congratulated Mary, saying: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (vv. 42-43). And she immediately lauds Mary's faith: "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord" (v. 45). The contrast is obvious between Mary, who had faith, and Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, who doubted, and did not believe the angel's promise and therefore is left dumb until John's birth. It is a contrast.

This episode helps us to interpret the mystery of man's encounter with God in a very special light. An encounter that is not characterized by astonishing miracles, but rather, is characterized by faith and charity. Indeed, Mary is blessed because she believed: the encounter with God is the fruit of faith. Zechariah, however, who doubted and did not believe, was left deaf and dumb. To grow in faith during the long silence: without faith one remains inevitably deaf to the consoling voice of God; and incapable of speaking words of consolation and hope to our brothers and sisters. We see it every day: when people who have no faith, or who have very little faith, have to approach a person who is suffering, they speak words suited to the occasion, but they do not manage to touch the heart because they have no strength. They have no strength because they have no faith, and if they have no faith they do not find the words that can touch others' hearts. Faith, in its turn, is nourished by charity. The Evangelist recounts that "Mary arose and went with haste" (v. 39) to Elizabeth: with haste, not with distress, not anxiously, but with haste, in peace. "She arose": a gesture full of concern. She could have stayed at home to prepare for the birth of her son, but instead she takes care of others before herself, showing through her deeds that she is already a disciple of that Lord whom she carries in her womb. The event of Jesus' birth began in this way, with a simple gesture of charity; after all, authentic charity is always the fruit of God's love.

The Gospel passage about Mary's visit to Elizabeth, which we heard at Mass today, prepares us to experience Christmas properly, by communicating to us the dynamism of faith and charity. This dynamism is the work of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit of Love who made Mary's virginal womb fruitful and who spurred her to hasten to the service of her elderly relative. A dynamism full of joy, as seen in the encounter between the two mothers, which is entirely a hymn of joyful exultation in the Lord, who does great things with the little ones who trust in him.

