



Brisbane Oratory in Formation Parish of Annerley Ekibin

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B [OF] &
Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord [EF]: 23rd/24th December, 2017

Readings for next Sunday
30th/31st December, 2017

1st Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

2nd: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,
17-19

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Fr Sharp, Fr Armstrong, Fr Wise and our four Oratory brothers would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and blessed Christmas with family and friends.

Thank you to all who assisted in the Parish's Christmas preparations. Thank you also for all the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we have received over these blessed days.

Please note: One Collection for Christmas Offerings will be taken up at all Christmas Masses this year. Thank you for your generosity.

Please see Page 2 for Christmas Mass times, and Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio: *The Deeper Meaning of Christmas:* In the days of Caesar Augustus, an era of peace finally dawns on the civilized world after centuries of strife. But this peace results from the proud ambition of emperors and the swords of their legions.

CAESAR, KINGS & A MANGER

In the Roman province of Judea, mysterious dignitaries from the East arrive with tales that a star signals the birth of a great king. Neither Caesar nor Herod will brook any rivals. So brutal hordes are sent to slay all the infants in the region to make sure the usurper is eliminated. The thugs are thwarted, but only for a season. For the royal child is laid in a manger, and the wood of that manger foreshadows the wood of the cross. Caesar and Herod were bound to misunderstand Him. They climbed their way to the top, stepping on all who stood in their path. Jesus emptied himself and plunged to the



bottom, from the glory of heaven to the squalor of a stable. Pharaohs and Caesars strained towards immortality. Yet He who was Immortal by nature embraced mortality. The great ones of the world exalted themselves. In the very act of being born, He humbled himself.

OX, ASS & SWADDLING CLOTHES

You would think that He would have chosen to make his debut in Rome or Athens. But He selected an obscure desert town in a dusty provincial outpost. Even in this humble spot, not even a seedy inn would make room for Him. So they had recourse to a cave, welcomed only by animals. Isaiah said it well: "an ox knows its owner, and an ass its master's manger; but Israel does not know, my people has not understood" (Isaiah 1:2).

Everything was in fulfillment of Scripture. He was born in Bethlehem, a town whose name means "house of bread." Though His crib was a manger—a feeding trough—they did not understand that He was the Bread of Life. He was wrapped, like Solomon, in swaddling clothes (Wisdom 7:4-5), but they did not recognize him as the new King and embodiment of divine wisdom.

SHEPHERDS & MAGI

The only people who recognized Him were shepherds, the humblest in society, and Magi, the wisest. But most Israelites, like us, were neither very humble nor very wise, so they missed it. They especially missed this—that one of the birthday gifts was incense, used in the worship of gods. He was not only king, wise man, messiah, and savior—he was God incarnate.

How could Jews have believed this? God is infinite, invulnerable, and omnipotent. What is more vulnerable, fragile, and helpless than an infant? Is it possible that the Eternal be born in time? Can the Divine Word be a child at the breast, incapable of speech? Can a mere teenage girl be the Mother of God?

It was just as hard for the pagans to believe it. For their philosophers had taught that God is spirit and the body is a prison. Salvation for them meant liberation from the confines of the physical body. So the idea that a divine Savior would embrace human flesh just did not compute.

PRINCE OF PEACE

But this, of course, was part of God's strategy. The element of surprise is critical in warfare. And Christmas was an act of warfare. In fact it was D-Day, the day of deliverance. The preparation had taken centuries, but now it was time for the Conqueror to land on enemy occupied territory. He came in humility, and would finish the conquest thirty years later by the greatest act of humility the world had ever seen.

"Peace on Earth, Good will towards men."

True peace can never be forged by steel, but only by love. It is the humble babe in the manger, not Caesar in his chariot, who is the real prince of peace.

Parish Office

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Parish Priest : Fr Andrew Wise

Parish Team

Ms Shirley Sadler (*Parish Secretary*)

Mrs Kathy Ducker (*Finance Officer*)

Mrs Teresa Martin

(*Assistant Sacramental Co-ordinator*)

Mr Richard O'Neil

† Mary Immaculate Church

616 Ipswich Road, Annerley

† St John Fisher Church

17 Messines Ridge Road, Tarragindi

† St Elizabeth's Chapel

61 Effingham Street, Ekibin

St Elizabeth's Primary School

Phone 3848 0828

Mary Immaculate Primary School

Phone 3848 8965

Our Lady's Secondary College

Phone: 3848 7462

St John Fisher Hall

17 Messines Ridge Road, Tarragindi

Phone 3848 1107 (Office hours)

The Brisbane Oratory in Formation

Oratory House - 3392 9247

16 Ferndale Street, Annerley

<http://brisbane-oratory.org/>

Fr Adrian Sharp (Moderator)

Fr Andrew Wise

Fr Scot Armstrong

Br Shawn Murphy

Br Tyson King

Br Conor Power

Br Matthew Buckley

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable

Adults Parish Representative

Contact for Safeguarding concerns

Marie Melski (3848 0338)

Catholic Enquiry Group:

Lauren Le Feuvre (0410 939 661)

Frassati (Young Men)

Dylan Shogren (0449 994 929)

Flores Teresianes (Young Women)

Bernadette Tomlin (0401 446 613)

Frassati Youth (High School age)

Abbie Powick (0477 055 778)

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St Vincent de Paul Helpline

Phone: 3010 1096

Homeless Hotline: 1800 474 753

PARISH DATE CLAIMERS

THURSDAY, 25th January

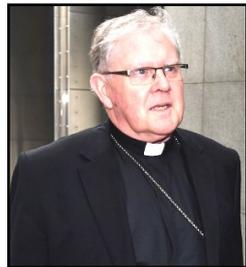
Elizabethan Social Club Australia Day Function. Pies, peas, etc. \$7.00.
For bookings, please phone Joan on 3848 3251 or Philomena on 3349 2809.

Saturday, 17th February

Baptism Preparation for Parents at 9:00am in MI Music Room. Please phone the Parish Office to book.

From Archbishop Mark Coleridge

The Royal Commission's examination of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and the response to it by leadership is now done. The final report is vast and its recommendations are many. So there'll be much to digest and act upon in the coming years as the full impact is felt in the Church and beyond.



The report reveals not only the appalling extent of the abuse but also the gross failure of Church leaders to deal properly with allegations, to deliver justice for victims and to co-operate with civil authorities. It shows that those who were abused within Catholic institutions were far too often not believed and that they were neither justly treated nor provided with adequate redress. For too long, the Church denied the extent of the abuse and its devastating impact on its victims, their families and their friends.

These years have been an agonising journey for everyone, not least for the victims who bravely came forward to tell their stories. We now know how difficult it is for those who've been abused to reach a point where they can tell their story; it can take decades. And one of the real achievements of the Royal Commission is that it's provided a safe space for survivors to be heard and to be believed.

For the Catholic community, it's been a deep humiliation, and I can only hope that humiliation will give birth to humility in a Church which accepts vulnerability beyond any attempt at justification or rationalisation, a Church willing to listen and learn, especially from the survivors of abuse themselves.

Sexual abuse of the young in Catholic institutions and its handling by Church leaders has been a colossal failure; and I can only express an acute sense of shame and apologise profoundly to all who have suffered. What has happened has done incalculable damage to those who were abused. It's also shaken the Catholic Church in this country to the core. Everything possible must be done to heal the wound, to right the wrong and to ensure that the future is very different from the past. Now that the Royal Commission is over, it can't just be back to business as usual.

The Church has to commit to change – not only personal change as each of us learns to see and hear differently, but institutional change as well. This will mean an ongoing transformation of our procedures and protocols in the area of safeguarding. Much has been done already, but there's no room whatever for complacency.

We'll also need cultural change – saying no to a Church that seeks its own protection and self-preservation at all costs, that turns in on itself rather than reach out to the wounded and distressed. This will also mean changes to incorporate greater transparency and accountability in the governance of the Church. I will establish one working-group to examine every aspect of governance in the Archdiocese and another to review how our current proactive policies fit in with the Royal Commission's recommendations and what more the recommendations will require of us.

We've begun to address the need for reform and renewal, recognising that confidence in the Catholic Church and trust in Church leadership are at an all-time low. The rebuilding of confidence and the restoration of trust will take a long time and there's no short-cut. It will be achieved only by a greater authenticity which is serious about reform and renewal and serious about the call of the Gospel.

The Royal Commission has been a searing experience for everyone, but for believers it's been an experience of searing grace – a grace we neither expected nor wanted but grace all the same. Church leaders have broken faith, but Jesus remains faithful: that's the grace. Faith asks the question, Where is God in all this? The abused God of Calvary is with us in the darkness. This is the God who took flesh in Jesus, and who still takes flesh in the mess of human life now. It's also the God who broke the power of darkness by raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrection isn't just an event of the past. It's an experience here and now for those who put their trust in the power of God's love, as we do now, confessing our sin and sharing our hope.

As one journey ends and another begins, I invite you to look with me on the face of Jesus Christ to see there both the sorrow of Calvary and the joy of Easter, to understand the past and to glimpse the future that the God in whom we hope is already preparing.

+ Mark Coleridge, December 2017

Christmas Eve Masses, 24th December

5:30pm: Vigil [OF] SJF
7:30pm: Vigil [Solemn OF+] MI
Midnight Mass:[EF] *Missa Cantata* MI

Christmas Day Masses, 25th December

7:30am: Mass [OF] MI
9:00am: Mass [EF] *Missa Cantata* MI
11:00am: Mass [OF] Sudanese MI

New Years Day is the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. There will be a midnight Mass [EF] at Mary Immaculate Church on New Years Eve, 31st December. Other Mass times will be 9:00am [EF] and 7:00pm [OF+] at Mary Immaculate Church.

WE PRAY FOR: Those who are recently deceased: Brian NELSON, Tony MUSSO, Brian BROPHY.

Those who are sick: Bob GILLESPIE, Luke ADENEY, Ksenia BORODIN, Rex BOWEN, Joan BRAMMER, Sylvia DELUCA, Shannon EMSLIE, Jane FARRELL, Bryan FITZPATRICK, Joan FLEW, Anne FRANETTOVICH, Gwen GAIR, Vilma GHOUSE, Bronte GREER, Marlene JOHNSTON, Marie MITCHELL, Cherrill MOLONEY, Valerie ORTON, Mila PICKARD, Ron ROFE, Joan ROONEY, Rosa Maria SANTOS, Matt VASIL, Josephine & Bill WRIGHT and Matthew ZEMEK.

All the faithful departed.

Rosters for next week

Rosters for next week

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Sun (MI) 7.30am Jim Lucey, Ann Fell

Sun (SJF) 8:30am Vince Kartelo

Sun (MI) 5.00pm Brett Heath, Dragica Heath

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sat (SJF) 5:30pm: Bert Jacobs, John Lesina, Prem Nair

Sun (MI) 7:30am: Bertha Clark, Joan Coghlan, Paul Coghlan, Charles Grugan, Kathleen Grugan

COUNTERS

Wednesday, 27th December, 2017

Bernie O'Hara

CHURCH CARE

Sacristy (SEC) Maria Monro

Sanctuary & Sacristy (MI) Mabel Saah

Laundry (MI) Mabel Saah

 **CHRISTMAS SINGERS for ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH**
Come and lend your voice to the musical prelude at SJF this Christmas Eve. All levels of accomplishment joyfully welcomed! We will begin carols at 5:10pm. Please arrive early.



May the Blessings of the Christ Child be Yours at Christmas and throughout 2018

PLEASE NOTE

Weekday Masses omitted this week:

Monday, 25th December, 7:00pm Mass at MI

St Gregory's Latin Mass Community:

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord, Wilston 7:30am

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 23rd December, Private:

For the intentions of the donor

5:30pm Vigil at MI: For the People of the Parish:

Pro populo

Sunday, 24th December, 7:30am Mass at MI:

For the repose of the soul of Remigio De Ambrosis, anniversary

8:30am Mass at SJF:

For the intentions of Rolly, Shannon & Ava Jeffs

9:00am Mass at MI: For the Pope and the Bishops

Monday, 25th December, Midnight Mass at MI:

For the Holy Souls in purgatory

Tuesday, 26th December, 6:00am Mass at SE:

For the Holy Souls in purgatory

9:00am Mass at MI: For the repose of the soul of

Edna Wright, anniversary of death

Wednesday, 27th December, 6:30am Mass at SJF:

For the Holy Souls in purgatory

9:00am Mass at MI: For Jo & Eddie Kann,

Janet George, Bill Meehan and Billie McCormack,

deceased

Parish Diary & Mass Times: 25th-31st December

Monday 25th December:

* **PLEASE SEE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ON PAGE 2**

* **NO MONDAY 7pm MASS/CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK ONLY**

Tuesday 26th December

6:00am Mass [OF+] SE

7:00am Mass [EF] MI

9:00am Mass [OF+] MI

Wednesday 27th December

6:30am Mass [OF] SJF

9:00am Mass [EF] MI

Thursday 28th December

6:00am Mass [OF+] SE

7:00am Mass [OF+] MI

9:00am Mass [EF] MI

Friday 29th December

6:30am Mass [OF] SE

9:00am Mass [EF] MI

Saturday 30th December

8:15am Mass [EF] MI

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

5:30pm Vigil [OF+] MI

5:30pm Vigil [OF] SJF

Sunday 31st December

7:30am Mass [OF] MI

8:30am Mass [OF] SJF

9:00am Mass [EF] MI

5:00pm Mass [OF+] MI

Midnight Mass [EF] MI *Mary, Mother of God*

OF = Ordinary Form | OF+ = *Ad orientem* | EF = Extraordinary Form |

MI = Mary Immaculate SE = St Elizabeth's SJF = St John Fisher

CONFESSION TIMES:

Mon 6:45pm (MI)

Wed 9:40am - 10:00am (MI)

Thu 9:40am - 10:00am (MI)

Fri 9:40am - 10:00am (MI)

Fri 7:30pm - 8:30pm (During Holy Hour)

Sat 7:15am - 8:00am (MI)

Sat 4:45pm - 5:15pm (MI)

Sat 5:15pm by request (SJF)

Sun During 9:00am Mass where possible (MI)

The Angelus and the Rosary are prayed half an hour before the early Masses, Monday to Friday, at SE & SJF.

* All night Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Thursday at SE beginning at 6:00pm and ending at 6:45am on Fridays.

* Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Saturdays from 7:15am - 8:00am at MI Church.

Overnight adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has concluded for the year at St Elizabeth's Chapel and will resume again on Thursday 1st February, 2018.

The Friday Holy Hour at Mary Immaculate Church has concluded for the year will resume again on Friday 2nd February, 2018.

Thursday, 28th December, 6:00am Mass at SE:

For Father Giles Atherton, intentions

9:00am Mass at MI: for the repose of the soul of Esme Taylor

Friday, 29th December, 6:30am Mass at SE:

For Jesus Youth

Saturday, 30th December, Private:

For the Holy Souls in purgatory

8:15am Mass at MI: For Alfie Jeffs, intentions

5:30pm Vigil at MI: For Dominic Minuzzo, intentions

Sunday, 31st December, 7:30am Mass at St Columba's

Wilston: For the Pope and the Bishops

8:30am Mass at SJF: For the People of the Parish: *Pro populo*

5:00pm Mass at MI: For the repose of the soul of

Colin Bassett, Anniversary of Birthday

Advent Wreath Prayers

Celebrant: O DAWN OF THE EAST, brightness of light eternal, and Sun of Justice:

Response: COME, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Celebrant: KING OF THE GENTILES and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one:

Response: COME, and deliver man, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

Celebrant: O EMMANUEL, God with us, Our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior:

Response: COME to save us, O Lord our God. Amen.

MASS READINGS

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 88

(Said by all)

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith.

This is only what Scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the house of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in the sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Memorial Acclamation: Number One

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND: \$2,797.80
ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS AVERAGE FOR WEEK:
\$1,878.40. Thank you from a grateful Parish.

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ARE YOU A NEW PARISHIONER?

OR ARE YOU FROM ELSEWHERE IN BRISBANE BUT

REGULARLY ATTEND MASS HERE AND WOULD LIKE

TO BE REGISTERED AS A FRIEND OF THE BRISBANE

ORATORY? If so, please fill in the form below and place

it on the collection plate or mail to our Parish Office:

P.O. Box 3131, Tarragindi. 4121.

I am a new parishioner

I am from elsewhere but would like to be

registered as a friend of the Brisbane Oratory

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone.....**Mobile**.....

E-mail.....

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