



Gospel Lk 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

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 her 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.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Carbon Langman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user/licensing agreement.

The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

24 December 2023

First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

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."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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

Second Reading Rom 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

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.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!



St Anthony of Padua Church

58 Arden Street, Clovelly

Ph: 9665 2711 Email: parish@stanthonyclovelly.org.au



Parish Priest: Fr Laurie Cauchi

Parish Office: 7 Fewings St, Clovelly 2031 Website: www.stanthonyclovelly.org.au

Parish School: 9665 7399 Principal: Mrs Anna Novak

School email: info@staclovelly.catholic.edu.au School web: www.staclovelly.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm Sunday: 9.00am
Weekdays: Tuesday to Friday 9.00am (no Mass on Tues 26 December)
Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm to 4.30pm or by appointment



4th Sunday of Advent

24 December 2023



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December **Carols** 6.30pm
Mass 7.00pm
Christmas Day Monday 25 December **Mass** 9.00am

There will be no 9.00am Mass this Tuesday 26 December

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The candles and the light remind us of the light Jesus brought into our world. The waiting for all the candles to be lit symbolizes the long years of waiting for the Savior. The greenery suggests life, growth and hope.

The Jesse Tree

Jesse was a shepherd who lived near Bethlehem 1000 years before Jesus was born. Samuel a prophet of God chose one of Jesse's sons, David and anointed him King of the Jewish nation. With our Jesse tree we are remembering David and other members of Jesus' family, as well as others, who waited for the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Our Jesse Tree reminds us that each one of us is important and that we each add something special to the coming of Jesus.

New Year Mass Monday 1st January will be at 10am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Let's start the New Year honouring Mary for bringing Jesus into our world.

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Don't forget to wish Jesus a Happy Birthday

Let's Keep Christ in Christmas

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Have you thought about what gift you can give Jesus?

What about some of our time?

What are those Christmas Envelopes for?

The money from these envelopes goes to a Central Fund that attends to the needs of priests of the Archdiocese. These include: sick priests, priests in special works, migrant chaplains and priests undertaking further studies. Some of these priests are often 'out of sight, out of mind', but they do need to be supported.

Please give them some thought especially at this time.

Musicians/singers are needed at our weekend masses.

If you are blessed with such a gift, come and share it to give praise to God.

PARISH MEETING 3/12: The report is on the noticeboard.

Catholic Weekly is available at church entrances.

Find out what is happening in the Catholic Church around the world.

Character is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

READERS NEXT WEEKEND: Haddock/Nash families; A MacNally, E Eberl.

Covid-19 is still around.

Please use sanitiser when you enter our church.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently deceased: Jeong Wook Park, Shirley Love, Monica McAuliffe, David McKenzie, Charlie Farrugia, Nola Dooley (née Vaughan), Gaye Zammit, Janice Peterson

Anniversary: All the Faithful Departed, Mary Cauchi, John Burke, Jim Taylor

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, has been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.