



Gospel Lk 2:1-14

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.'

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 infinite 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.'

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The Living Word

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight

25 December

First Reading Is 9:1-7

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

*(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 Ti 2:11-14

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.

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 Anthony of Padua Church

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Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm Sunday: 9.00am

Weekdays: Tuesday to Friday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm to 4.30pm or by appointment



Christmas Day

25 December 2023



Happy Birthday Jesus

Christmas Wishes

*Fr Laurie would like to wish you and all your loved ones
a Happy and Peaceful Christmas*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

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.

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 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.

There will be no 9am Mass this Tuesday 26 December

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.

NO CASH FOR THE CHURCH COLLECTIONS?

We have tap devices at the church entrances – simply choose the amount and tap your credit or debit card for an anonymous donation.

OR

Scan this QR code and you will be taken to the CBA's secure BPoint online form, where you give your details and choose a biller code (ie what the donation is for).

OR

You can also make contributions through the parish website—click the green SUPPORT US button at the top right then choose the DONATE button.



DO SOMETHING OF ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE - become a parish catechist for Catholic children at Clovelly Public School. If you are interested, please speak to Fr Laurie, contact Joanne Russell 0467 023 962 or email the parish office.

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.