

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B 19th - 20th December 2020

First Reading: Samuel 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 forever."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5.27.29 R.see.v.2

R/ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

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

Gospel: Luke 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 forever 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Everything in our lives begins with the Lord's inspiration, continues with his help, and only under his guidance can ever achieve a successful conclusion, for "Nothing is impossible for God."



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



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Glory to God

The theme that runs through today's readings is giving Glory to God. King David builds a temple to the glory of God. St Paul exhorts us to give glory to God; and in the gospel, Mary gives glory to God by accepting his plan for her and dedicating her entire life to God.

How can we give glory to God?

Following the examples of King David and Mary in today's readings, we can glorify God by recognising our own lowly beginnings, recognising that who and what we are, we attained by God's grace and for this we are grateful to him. David recognised that he was a simple shepherd of his father's flock, before God chose him to be the great king of Israel. And looking at Mary, she acknowledged before the angel Gabriel that she was the 'handmaid' of the Lord.



Accepting God's plan for us and allowing him to work in and through us is another way of glorifying God. When the angel announced to Mary that God chose her to become the mother of his Son, not fully understanding what this message meant, but fully trusting God, she responded: 'Let it be done to me according to your word'. And so, she availed herself like an instrument in God's hand.

We can give glory to God by using our resources for the works of God. King David decided to use the riches of his kingdom to build a temple to honour God. Of course God does not need our material resources,

but to use them or contribute them to help spreading the good news, to promote worship of God, to help those in need, etc., we give glory to God.

Another example of glorifying God we can learn from David and Mary, is believing that God can do more than we expect. While God empowered the young David to kill lions and bears, he believed that God would empower him to defeat the feared by all, Goliath. Mary, in turn, in accepting the assurance of angel Gabriel that 'with God nothing is impossible'. She believed that she would conceive without knowing a man and give birth to the Son of God!

We also give God glory when we believe that he can do more in our lives than we ask for or can dream of, for nothing is impossible with God! When we lead our lives to the glory of God, he glorifies us even more. Therefore, in all circumstances, good or bad, let us give glory to God who gives us the strength to live according to the Good News...

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Spirit, all glory to our God!

May God bless us all and guide us all to a most wonderful, blessed, fruitful and loving Christmas celebration to come.

Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Assistant Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

Ph: 0478 963 248

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony

Eley, Gerard Grant, Ophelia

Swai, Anisasio (Pauline) Veama-

tahau, Mark Tierney,

Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

Ph: 0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)

Ph: 0432 405 417

Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am (Italian),

10:30 am, 6:00 pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 9.10am

Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of

the month at 1.30pm

Devotional Practices:

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament: Wednesday after

9.10am Mass

Holy Rosary: Thursday (English)

Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before

Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only

**A Christmas message from
Archbishop Peter A Comensoli**

Friends,
Christmas celebrations in the city of Bethlehem are likely to be very quiet this year. Under the weight of a global pandemic, and the ongoing troubles in the Middle East, this special destination for thousands of pilgrims and tourists will resemble something more akin to that familiar Carol, 'O little town of Bethlehem... how still we see thee lie...' Perhaps it was a similar stillness that met the Holy Family more than 2000 years ago, as they sought a place of safety to welcome the birth of their child. Doors had been shut to them, amidst their own time of worrying restrictions. How familiar is this aspect of the nativity story to our own lives this year? Jesus was born in such a time as this, and in fact, is born for such a time as this. He comes to us always in our need and our reality. There has been much said about what a 'COVID Christmas' will be like, but is that the question we need to be asking? This year has challenged us in ways that have been unimaginable; it has turned our levels of comfort and security on their head. And whilst we've sought creative ways to engage in our worship and our connections, it's never been about reinventing something. Christmas too is not of our own making. The tinsel and gifts, food and holidays certainly play their part in how we acknowledge the festivity of the season, but they're not Christmas. Jesus is Christmas: then – now – always. Whether it is into a peaceful landscape, or a war torn one; a time of uncertainty and isolation, or one of abundant friendship and family; whether it is in poverty or in plenty – the question we should ask is what is the kind of Christmas we want to live? Isn't it one that holds close the promise of life and hope that the birth of Jesus gives us? And in that very gift, is not our calling to bring this life and hope to the world? Jesus is the gift beyond all gifts, which we receive; and He is the gift we can always give. Which brings me back to the next part of the Carol: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" When you gather this Christmas, in whatever way that is, don't labour on the darkness and of this year - recall the wonder of that birth and the light by which we can see ahead. May you, your families, loved ones, your friends and neighbours be filled with the everlasting light of life and hope this year.



We proclaim a crucified Christ
16th Dec 2021

Jesus is Christmas.

Collections

1st Collection: \$1037.85
2nd Collection: \$870.90

Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal: \$392.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



2020 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve**

Family Mass - 7pm (outdoors)
Night Mass: 10pm (in the church)

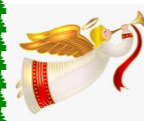
**Friday 25th December
Christmas Day**

9am (Italian),
10.30am & 6pm (English)

**Saturday 26th December
Vigil Mass - 6pm**

**Sunday 27th December
The Holy Family**

9am (Italian), 10.30am & 6pm (English)



Volunteers Needed

Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass

Setting Up School grounds starting at 5pm,
Registration Assistants, Ushers and Offertory Collectors

Christmas Eve 10pm Mass and Christmas Day

Registration Assistants and Offertory Collectors
If you can assist, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the church foyer. Thank you

Sacred Heart Mass Times

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm

Monday to Friday: 9.10am



Christmas Mass Bookings

Christmas Mass bookings are now available online via Trybooking.

For bookings, please [Click Here](#) or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOPD>

For those unable to book online, registrations for Christmas Mass must be made by contacting Fr Jan on 0400469540 or Fr Aloysius on 0428715282.

Registration is not required for infants under 12 months.

***Tickets do not need to be printed**

***Please note: Only 1 email address is required per family**



Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus,
your beloved Son.

We remember how he opened his heart in love
to all people.

Open our own heart to receive the gifts
that continue to flow so richly from the
heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Dates to Remember

Sunday 27th December: Feast of the Holy Family
After Masses special blessing for families

Thursday 31st December: Masses 9.10am and 7pm

Friday 1st January: Masses 9.10am and 7pm
Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday 3rd January: Epiphany of the Lord

Christmas Reflection

Christmas is a time when Christians rejoice in the gift of the Christ Child who comes among us as the vulnerable one. In this moment he was completely dependent on Mary and Joseph for love and nourishment. His presence brings joy to the world and to the lives of the forgotten ones.

Christmas is about finding God in the unexpected places of our world – in the faces of the refugee children, in the homeless women and men whom we so often walk past without noticing, in the families with a member in prison, in victims and survivors of abuse, just as Mary and Joseph found in the hearts of the shepherds.

The celebration of Christmas is a time for gathering with family and friends, a time for gifting one another and at the same time opening our hearts and minds to those struggling and hidden in our world.

Monica Cavanagh rsj



**The Fifth Day of Christmas
Feast of the Holy Family**

Sunday 27th December is the feast day of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. It should be a huge family feast, since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life. As Rev. Edward Sutfin states:

"The children must learn to see in their father the foster-father St. Joseph, and the Blessed Mother as the perfect model for their own mother. The lesson to be learned is both practical and theoretical, in that the children must learn how to obey and to love their parents in thought, word and action, just as Christ was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Helping mother in the kitchen and in the house work, and helping father in his odd jobs about the home thus take on a new significance by being performed in a Christ-like spirit." (True Christmas Spirit, St. Meinrad Archabbey, Inc.)

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Dhea Abenir, Anthony, Peter Bourke,
Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph,
Ray Mc Veigh, John Plum &
Bronislawa Slobodzian*

We Commemorate

*Maria Crocco (3rd month), Maria Grazia,
Antonio, Nicola, Rosina & Teresa Sammartino,
Sarkis Beaini, Lisa & Boulos Beayni
and all deceased members of the Beaini, Borowicki,
Bradshaw, Crocco, Gelain & Rizzo families.*

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

Christmas Novena

The Christmas novena begun on 17th December. From that day the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth.

**Find Hope in the Birth of Jesus
amid the Covid-19 Crisis**

In his 2020 [Christmas message](#), World Council of Churches (WCC) interim general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca has invited Christians and all people on earth to look up in hope, even if "there are many reasons to be afraid and to live in despair" today, reminding that "in the most difficult days of history", Christians have, time and time again, found consolation "in the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ that begins with the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem".

Jesus is Christmas: A Christmas Carols Special

Sunday 20th December, 7pm
View it on C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and online at the www.youtube.com/archmelb.

Christmas Masses to be televised on C31

We are pleased to share that this year's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed live on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/archmelb).

Please share this information with friends, family and fellow parishioners who may be homebound and unable to join the community physically at this time:

24th December: Carols from 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass

25th December: Christmas Day Mass from 11am

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Sunday: 11am

TV Mass - Channel 44 (31)

Live from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am