

4th Sunday of Advent - Year C

22nd - 23rd December 2018

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19. R. v.4

R/ Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 1:38

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

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Nothing need keep us from God or from the crib at Christmas. All are welcome. The real meaning of Christmas is to meet with God and to help our neighbour.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

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Called to be Bearers of God's Love to the World

Throughout biblical history, God has been doing wondrous things through small and unlikely people in places that we would not expect. The prophet Micah lived around the time of Isaiah. His was a message of hope uttered in the midst of despair to the people of God. Judah's king had been deposed by the invader but through Micah, God promises a successor who will be a bringer of peace. The linking events: a woman will give birth and a king who will be a shepherd of people.

The gospel today is the story of a young pregnant woman, Miriam of Nazareth, who travels in haste from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. The joyful unity of the two women - the older, soon to be the mother of a prophet, with a teenager whose future son will be the incarnation of God's love within humanity - is a celebration of God's supreme gift of Life to be shared. They are models for every Christian.

As we near the celebration of God with us, we might pause to wonder at the goodness of God in the lives of those who manifest God's mercy in our world. We might think of medics bringing relief to men, women and children afflicted by disease and malnutrition. We might think of those in our neighbourhood and families who help out a neighbour in difficult circumstances, who welcome and befriend a refugee family or include an elderly neighbour living alone in their own family celebrations.

We might give thanks for many local groups who put aside individual interests to joyfully work together to support struggling families, victims of drought, fires and floods – and who by their compassion and optimism share and celebrate the gift of God's love for every person.

The lesson we learn from these and the story of Mary and Elizabeth is that God has pitched His tent among us and is constantly revealing his presence –not through the powerful and mighty of this world but through the most unassuming of prophets. This is what we are preparing to celebrate and proclaim at Christmas.



Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priests in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Fr Phuong Vu SVD, La Trobe University Chaplain

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9484 3514

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Judeline Wadhvani

Child Safety Officer:

Judeline Wadhvani

M: 0490660787

judeline.wadhvani@gmail.com

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Gerard

Grant, Ophelia Swai, Anisasio

(Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark

Tierney, Timothy Nolan,

Fr Jan Szweda SVD

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

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) & Friday (Italian) after

9.10am Mass

Legion of Mary: Thursday

7.30pm, in the Presbytery

Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before

Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only


Sacred Heart Parish, Preston, Child Safety Policy

The Professional Standards Unit of the Archdiocese of Melbourne is currently reviewing and rewriting all diocesan child safety policies. New policies will be launched in 2019. The policies will reflect recent legislative changes and importantly reflect our vision to create a strong culture of excellence in safeguarding children and young people. Our Parish Child Safety Policy will be reviewed in the light of the new Archdiocesan documents by August 2019. Until the launch of the new policies, please continue to use existing documents. If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact the Professional Standards Unit on (03) 9926 5621 or (03) 9926 5630.

Christmas message from Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli

Every baby born comes with a promise: that life is always stronger than death. This promise is a powerful gift – the gift of hope. At Christmas we remember one baby, who was born for all: one life, stronger than any death. The birth of Jesus is the world’s greatest gift of hope, for it is not a new thing or idea or plan that Jesus brings, but a new life, his own. The birth of the Saviour brings the light of hope into each of our lives. And we are the ones for whom Christ has come to be with. This is a hope worth welcoming, defending and protecting. Amazingly, Jesus has now entrusted the gift of himself to us, that we might share his life with others. At a time when our institutions – political, social and religious – are damaged, it is a person who can bring to us renewed reasons to find hope for ourselves, and offer hope to others. Hope in the person of Jesus Christ opens up to us new horizons of goodness and rightness; the birth of Jesus challenges the mirages of dominance and self-centredness...Continue to believe in Jesus Christ, born from God and born of Mary; for he offers us his life so that we might find our lives in him. Friends, never lose hope in the birth of Jesus Christ. Happy Christmas.

[Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli's Christmas Message](#)



A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped to clean and prepare the church for Christmas celebrations.

The Giving Tree

Thanks to all parishioners, students and friends of Sacred Heart church for your kind support of our appeal this year. We prepared and delivered hampers to many of our Preston neighbours.

Thanks to you.

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
John Bernardini, Margaret Doyle, Luis Gandarillas, Irene Navascues, Dale O'Keefe, Veronica Parkes, Rosie Potter & Yvonne Tierney

Our loved one who died recently
Santino Casalis

Those recommended to our prayers
Vincenzo Capobianco, Vincenzo Roda & Eurilie Wood

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

2018 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Monday 24th December:

- **Christmas Eve:** Family Mass - 7.00pm
- **Carols Singing:** 9.30pm
- **Night Mass:** 10.00pm

Tuesday 25th December - Christmas Day:
 9.00am (Italian), 10.30am & 6.00pm (English)



Dates to Remember

Wednesday 26th December: 9.10am
 Feast of St. Stephen

Thursday 27th December: 9.10am
 Feast of St. John

Friday 28th December: 9.10am
 Feast of the Holy Innocents

Sunday 30th December: 9am (Ita), 10.30am & 6pm
 Feast of the Holy Family

Tuesday 1st January: 9.10am and 7pm
 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!




Christmas Masses

Please note that this year we will have Masses at 7pm and 10pm on Christmas Eve. **No midnight Mass.** On Christmas Day, Masses are at 9am (Italian), 10.30am and 6pm. If someone wishes to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at a later time, there will be Mass at 11pm at St Raphael's in West Preston and midnight Mass at St Paul's, Coburg.

Cleaning Roster: Saturday 29th December 2018

Shantha/Cory

Thank you for your help!



To Readers and Communion Ministers

We invite Readers and Communion Ministers to sign up for serving at Christmas and the following weekend Masses. If you can be on duty these days, please sign a roster that is placed in the foyer of the church. Thank you for your dedicated service to our Church Community.

Australian Nativity Scene at St. Elizabeth Parish

Monday 10th December 2018 to Friday 11th January 2019
 St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Bakers Road, Dandenong North (Melway 81A8)

Australian Nativity Scene (ANS) welcomes you to view the traditional and stunning nativity scene at St Elizabeth's, with this festive season's display marking fifteen years. This event is free and open to everyone—children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Viewing time after mass or by appointment. Enquiries: Wilson on 0428 927 110 or 9795 6217 (parish office)

Website: <http://www.australiannativityscene.org/>,
<http://www.facebook.com/AustralianNativityScene/>
 or https: [//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_scene#In_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_scene#In_Australia)

Summer School of Evangelisation: World Youth Day @ Home

Sunday 20th to Sunday 27th January 2019
 PGL Campaspe Downs, 1302 Trentham Road, Kyneton

In 2019, the Melbourne Summer School of Evangelisation in partnership with the Archdiocesan Office for Youth will be offering a special WYD-themed Summer School! The Summer School will include many of WYD features such as Catechesis with bishops, a Stations of the Cross, an expo and a final Mass. Join Bishop Mark Edwards and participants from around Australia for a week of faith and fellowship. Open to young people aged 16-35.

Registrations close December 20th 2018.
 To register visit: www.cam.org.au/wyd/wydhome

Roster for Christmas December 2018		
	Readers	Ministers
Christmas Eve 7.00pm	Marlene Vergou	Alan Castles Sharron Kotz Terry Murphy
Christmas Eve 10.00pm	Catherine Zanatta Ivana Lo Bello	Vincci Lee Jessy Thambiraj Sharron Kotz Marie Mohr
Christmas Day 9.00am (Italian)	Paiano T. Bozzella C.	Capobianco A. Gugliotti A.
Christmas Day 10.30am	Jessy Thambiraj Alan Castles	Tony Eley George Mc Brien
Christmas Day 6.00pm		

Roster for weekend 29 th - 30 th December 2018		
	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Terry Murphy	
Sun 9.00am (Italian)	Mancini m. Ilardi L.	Pavan M. Bozzella C.
Sun 10.30am	Jessy Thambiraj Alan Castles	Tony Eley George Mc Brien
Sun 6.00pm	Cory Medilo	

Last Week's Collection: 16/12/18

1st Collection for our Church: \$1036.70
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$713.15

Thank you for your kind generosity!

