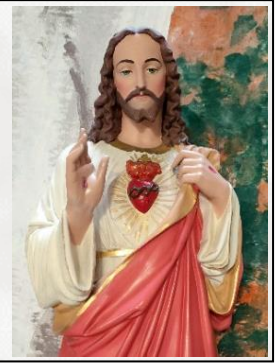




# Sacred Heart Parish Preston



322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Phone (03) 9480 3398 or (03) 9484 2124

Email: preston@cam.org.au

Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au

## Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -3pm

**Parish Priest:** Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

**Italian Community Chaplain:**

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD 0478 963 248

**Parish Office:** Rachel Costa

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Coordinator:** TBA

**Safeguarding Committee:**

**Safeguarding Officer:** Robert Dullard

**Safeguarding Committee: Members:**

Mary Harb, Teresa Dang, Pauline O'Day

**Parish Council Members:**

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Mark Tierney,

Ben Fortuna, Natalie Baran, Judeline

Wadhvani and Joanne Verga

**Liturgy Committee:**

Chair – Judeline Wadhvani

Secretary – (To Be Announced)

**Coordinators:**

Lectors and Audio Visual – Jessy Thambiraj

Music – Carolina Constable

Ministers of Communion– (To Be Announced)

Hospitality, Altar & Environment – (To Be Announced)

Safeguarding – Pauline O'Day

**Parish Finance Committee:**

Peter Constable (Chair)

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**

Stephen Costello (President)

**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 Friday** of February,

May, August & November at 1:30pm

**Next Healing Mass: Friday 7 Feb. 2025**

**Devotional Practices:**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

No more Adoration for 2024. Adoration will recommence in February 2025. 

**Holy Rosary:** Thurs after the 9:10am Mass

**Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 5:15pm**

**Baptisms & Weddings:** By appointment only

**Breakfast with Fr Aloysius**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, the next one is on

**Monday 6 February** in the presbytery after

9:10am Mass. All welcome

Bulletin printed: 23/12/2024

*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*



## The Nativity of the Lord 25 December 2024



### A Christmas Message from Archbishop Peter Comensoli

In his Christmas message for 2024, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli focuses on the familiar, hopeful image of the Holy Family—‘a mother and father hovering attentively over their newborn child’—and how it invites us into ‘a promise that transcends time and place’, and that has the power to transform our lives, our families and the world.

Transcript:

Over recent weeks, much attention has been drawn to the window displays in the heart of Melbourne’s CBD. These displays have sparked conversations about their social history and the tradition they represent for families. At the same time, they've prompted reflections on the suffering caused by global conflicts, urging us to look at ourselves in our local settings.

This year, the windows feature a variety of displays, with a theme of animals and nature. However, one window stands out. It depicts a mother and a father hovering attentively over their newborn child. In this moment, they have found shelter and security, a place of refuge and safety from their struggles. They are together, united in a joyful love, at peace with each other, and resting in the grace that surrounds them.

We all know this scene, even if for some, the gift it represents has become hidden. In the midst of what may be a commercial display, this simple image reminds us of a promise that transcends time and place. Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are there, inviting us into their lives.

Hope springs from this image; peace is at its heart. The Holy Family speaks to us of hope and joy in new life—to each of us in our own local families. The child points us to where peace can be found—especially for the world beyond us.

Here in Melbourne, we await this Christmas knowing far too many are suffering in the throes of war internationally, and struggle at home. As we look to that humble family from Bethlehem, how might we give special attention to how we live with all our brothers and sisters as a holy family?

Families, of course, are not always easy places to be, and they require a daily practice of love and self-giving, patience and respect, attentiveness and forgiveness.

As we see the loving gaze of Mary and Joseph on their Child, who is our Saviour, might we lift up a humble prayer, asking that God’s love and mercy surround us, and Christ’s peace and compassion flourish among us.

May you have a hope-filled and peaceful Christmas.



## 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.*

| Sat 6pm Mass | Lectors                        | Ministers of Communion | Altar Servers |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 28-Dec-      | Marlene Vergou<br>Terry Murphy | Mary Harb              |               |
| 04-Jan-      | Mary Harb<br>Teresa Dang       | Charlotte Bainy        |               |
| 11-Jan-      | Terry Murphy<br>Marlene Vergou | Mary Harb              |               |

| Sun 10:30am Mass | Lectors                            | Ministers of Communion | Slide Projection | Altar Servers |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 29-Dec-          | Ophelia Swai<br>Marilène Fortuna   | Giovanna D'Intino      | Jessy            |               |
| 05-Jan-          | Jessy Thambiraj<br>Jessica Suppiah | Tony Eley              | Jessy            |               |
| 12-Jan-          | Ophelia Swai<br>Marilène Fortuna   | Jessy Thambiraj        | Judeline         |               |

| Sun 6pm Mass | Lectors                           | Ministers of Communion |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 29-Dec-      | John Gaffney<br>Jenifer Cahapay   | Natalie Baran          |
| 05-Jan-      | Shanthy Antony<br>Snehlita Antony | Robert Dullard         |
| 12-Jan-      | John Gaffney<br>Shanthy Antony    | Judith Pimentel        |

## A Heartfelt Thanks to All Our Volunteers



### WE PRAY FOR:

#### The elderly and the sick

Charlene Apollos, Sandra Bishop, John Storrie, Joan Bonwick, Our Sacred Heart School student Samantha Corsi  
*Our parishioners, family members and friends,* that they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect.

#### Those who have died recently:

*Fr Leonard (Len) Thomas PE - RIP Tue 17/12*

#### We Commemorate:

*Chiara Buso, 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.*

*Raffaele De Luca, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.*

*Frank Mendolicchio*

*O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May they rest in peace. Amen.*



### Please note:

**There is NO morning Mass on Friday 27 December.**

**We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.**

There will be Mass on this day at St Luke's church in Lalor at 9am.



### Last Week's Collection: 22.12.2024

1st Collection for our Church: \$869

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$667

Thank you for your kind generosity!



### Sacrificial giving via QR code

To support our parish, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code which is unique to Sacred Heart Church, Preston. It will give you direct access to the CDF pay webpage by following a few easy steps. The QR code is also displayed in the Church foyer. Many thanks for your continued generosity and support to Sacred Heart parish.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Sacred Heart Community Preston acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this Sacred land on which our Church stands. We acknowledge their unique wisdom and ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



### ✠ Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week ✠

*Monday 23 December St John of Kęty, Priest)*

*Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day*

*Thursday 26 December St Stephen, the First Christian Martyr*

*Friday 27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist*

*Saturday 28 December Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*



### THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS

*God "became flesh" (Jn 1,14) and entered fully into our human condition because He loves us so much He considers us to be more precious than anything else. Brother, Sister, know that your name is written on His heart.*

*Happy Christmas!*



### Advent Candles:

### Christmas

Today is the day we have been preparing for throughout Advent. **Jesus is born.**

*All five candles are lit.*



We have been waiting for this day, Loving God. We have prepared ourselves for this special day. On this Christmas Day, let us live as those who let hope, peace, joy, and love reign in our lives. As the candles burn brightly and light our path, let us live as those who have the Christ's light burning inside us today and every day. Amen.



We are pleased to share the success of the inaugural Archbishop's Campaign and sincerely thank you for your generosity and support. Together, parishes across the Archdiocese raised **\$811,178** including **\$365** contributed by Sacred Heart Parish, Preston.

These funds will support vital mission areas such as the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives.

Thank you for being part of this important campaign and for living out your faith with action.



### The story of a beloved Christmas Carol

'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

Few carols are as triumphantly joyful as Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, a hymn that has been a Christmas staple for nearly three centuries.

The hymn was penned in 1739 by Charles Wesley, a prolific and popular hymn writer and the brother of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement. Its first line originally read, 'Hark, how all the welkin rings.' The archaic word welkin, meaning 'the heavens', was later changed to 'herald angels' by Wesley's colleague George Whitefield—despite Wesley's objections—giving the hymn a clearer connection to the Nativity story described in Luke's Gospel.

The melody we now associate with the carol wasn't added until more than a century later. In 1840, the German composer Felix Mendelssohn wrote a piece to commemorate the invention of the printing press, noting at the time that the almost militaristic tune would be unsuitable for a sacred context. English musician William H Cummings, however, seems to have been unaware of this when he adapted Mendelssohn's composition in 1855, setting Wesley's lyrics to it and creating the version we sing today.



*Readings for the Vigil and Night  
Masses on Christmas Eve*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.  
It is I who have begotten you this day.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,

to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**GLORIA**

See page 4

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

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.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 95(96):1-3,11-13**

**The Response Is:**

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,

sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

Proclaim his help day by day,

tell among the nations his glory

and his wonders among all the peoples.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

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.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

With justice he will rule the world,

he will judge the peoples with his truth.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**SECOND READING**

*Titus 2:11-14*

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.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

Good news and great joy to all the world:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL**

*Luke 2:1-14*

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.'  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*THE NICENE CREED.*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not

made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was

buried, and rose again on the third day in

accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the

living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the

giver of life, who proceeds from the

Father and the Son, who with the Father

and the Son is adored and glorified, who

has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

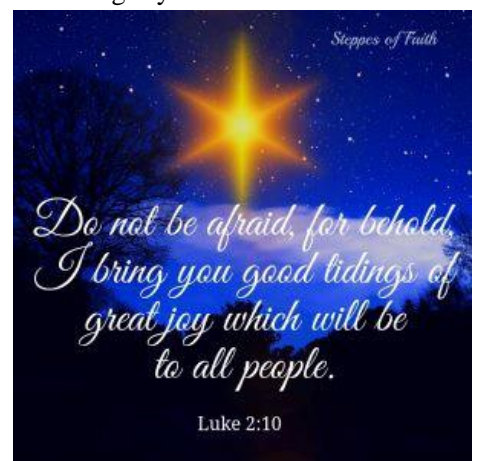
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the

resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

See page 3

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 97(98):1-6**

**The Response Is:**

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **Response**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations.

He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **Response**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, ring out your joy. **Response**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **Response**

**SECOND READING**

*Hebrews 1:1-6*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord, Today a great light has come upon the earth.

*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL**

*John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*THE NICENE CREED.*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



*May the joy of Christ's birth fill our hearts anew with peace and love and enliven within us a spirit of hope for the world.*

*Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas*

