

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm Ps 23:1-6

**R. LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS KING OF GLORY.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. R.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

**SECOND READING:** Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus

Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION.** Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Isaiah 9:1-7 , Psalm Ps 95:1-3, 11-13  
Titus 2:11-14 , Luke 2:1-14

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Sat 24 Dec: 5.00pm Family Mass (Manly)  
7.00pm Mass (Gumdale)  
Sun 25 Dec: 9.30am Mass (Manly)  
**Sun 25 Dec: No Mass at Gumdale**

This parish is Child Safety Aware and complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Safeguarding policy is situated in the foyer of the church. **STOPLINE CONTACT:** Phone 1 300 304 400 Email AOB@stopline.com.au



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**Pastor**

Fr George Joseph  
josephg@bne.catholic.net.au

**Parish Secretary**

Kate Sellwood  
Office Hours  
Mon Wed Fri 8.30am – 2pm

**Ministry Coordinator**

Nola Smith  
sjvsacramental@bne.catholic.net.au

**Parish Pastoral Council**

Chair Peter Smyth-Kirk  
Secretary Pam Biggs-Chapman

**Parish Finance Committee**

Chair Hugh Davies

**Safeguarding Officer**

Les Sellwood: Mob: 0401 382 085

**SJV Primary School Manly**

Ph: 3097 2900  
Email: pmanly@bne.catholic.edu.au

**SACRAMENTS**

All enquires for Baptism,  
First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion &  
Confirmation, please contact **Nola Smith**  
Ph. 0412 345 752  
sjvsacramental@bne.catholic.net.au

**FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS**

All enquires about Funerals and  
Weddings, please contact **Kate Sellwood**  
manly@bne.catholic.net.au

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 4.30pm or by appointment

**For the Children...**

**The angel's visit**

Before Mary and Joseph were married, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that through the power of the Holy Spirit, she was going to have a child. This child would be the son of God



**LET US PRAY**

Lord, keep your angel by my side,  
to care for me and be my guide;  
To be my friend throughout the years,  
and keep me safe from hard and fears;  
To stay with me each night and day,  
so from your love I never stray.

**17/18 DECEMBER**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**

**Gospel Reflection**

Today's reading, concerning 'how Jesus Christ came to be born', expresses the faith in the Incarnation of the community for which Matthew wrote. This community of Jewish Christians were anxious to persuade those with whom they had shared the traditions of Israel to believe in Christ as the 'fulfilment' of 'the Law and the prophets' (Mt 5:17).

Whereas, the more familiar story of Christ's birth, in Luke's gospel, is centred on Mary, the mother of the Saviour, Matthew's account is told from the point of view of Joseph, the one who was destined to be the foster father of the Saviour. It is through Joseph that the Davidic lineage of the child to be born, so important in the hopes of Israel, is proclaimed. Finding his betrothed to be with child, Joseph 'being a just man' considered divorcing her quietly. Some scholars see profound significance in Matthew's reference to 'justice' (i.e. fidelity to the traditions of Israel): the implication that before the divine mystery that confronted him, probably through his being informed by Mary, Joseph's first reaction was a sense of unworthiness. His reluctance was only overcome by a divine call that led him to take up the immense responsibility that was to be his.

As in Luke's account, Mary's virginal conception is clearly affirmed. Her son is not only to be 'a descendant of David', as our reading from Romans declares, but also the Son of God, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, something that our reading from Romans declares will be made manifest to the whole world 'through his resurrections from the dead'. Matthew also cites the words of Isaiah, 'a virgin will conceive'. The prophet's prediction, in fact, was that Ahaz the king was to be given a sign from God in the coming birth of a son. (There are about a dozen of these 'all this was to fulfil' citations in Matthew's gospel. They are not technical interpretations of the texts cited, but expressions, - in the spirit of the rabbinical Traditions, of the conviction that Christian faith's reading of the Old Testament recognises the 'fulfilment' of old Israel's hopes.)

The Davidic Messiah announced to Joseph in his dream is far more than a liberator from Roman occupation. His name, which means 'God saves', points to his role as the Saviour. 'Saving the

*Continued on Page 2...*

We acknowledge and pay respect to Traditional Custodians – the Quandamooka and Jagera Peoples  
on whose land we walk, live and worship.

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## FOR YOUR DIARY DECEMBER

19 Mon No Mass  
20 Tues 6:00pm Mass  
21 Wed 9:00am Rosary  
9:30am Mass  
22 Thu 9:30am Mass  
23 Fri 9:30am Mass  
24 Sat 4:30pm Reconciliation

### 24 Sat THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 5:00pm Family Mass (Manly) (Choir)

7:00pm Mass (Gumdale)  
25 Sun No Mass at Gumdale  
9:30am Mass (Manly)  
(Pianist & Soloist)

### 26 Monday to 30 Friday No Mass

31 Sat 4:30pm Reconciliation

### 31 Sat MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 5:00pm Mass (Manly)

## JANUARY

01 Sun 7:00am Mass (Gumdale)  
9:30am Mass (Manly)

02 Mon No Mass  
03 Tues 6:00pm Mass  
04 Wed 9:00am Rosary  
9:30am Mass  
05 Thu 9:30am Mass  
06 Fri 9:30am Mass  
07 Sat 4:30pm Reconciliation

### 07 Sat THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 5:00pm Mass (Manly)

08 Sun 7:00am Mass (Gumdale)  
9:30am Mass (Manly)

### 09 Mon 9:30am Mass The Baptism of the Lord

10 Tues 6:00pm Mass  
11 Wed 9:00am Rosary  
9:30am Mass  
12 Thu 9:30am Mass  
13 Fri 9:30am Mass

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people from their sins', he will fulfil the true destiny of Israel, as the people chosen to bring the whole world to share in God's final blessings.

Telling of his coming as 'Emmanuel', a name that means 'God is with us', Matthew invites the Jewish people to recognise that the great theme of divine presence, running through the Scriptures, 'I will be your God; and you will be my people', has found a realisation beyond all their imagining. In fact, Matthew's gospel will close with the same theme from the mouth of Jesus himself: 'I am with you always; yes, to the end of time'.

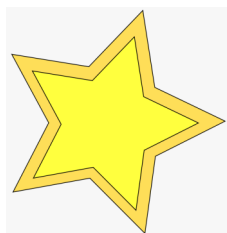
John Thornhill sm

## BLESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE Fourth Week of Advent

Let us put Christ back into the Christmas Tree with this simple blessing of the tree.

The third week of Advent we say:

Dear God,  
We ask a blessing upon this tree  
as it is a reminder to us of the birth  
of your Son, Jesus. May the star we  
place on top be a sign of the light  
of Jesus in our lives.



### Available Now from the Piety Stall

A limited number of 2023 Columban Art Calendars (\$10.00) and Incarnate Advent Reflection (\$5.00) are now available for purchase from the piety stall.

## HELP NEEDED

If you have an hour to spare on Friday 23 December at 3pm we need your help to cut and bag Christmas Cake that will be shared after the Christmas Masses. Many hands make light work so please join us as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

## Dates to Remember..

December 25	Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
January 1	Mary, The Holy Mother of God
January 8	The Epiphany of the Lord
January 9	The Baptism of the Lord
January 15	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year

	Welcome	1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	EMHC	Screen
Saturday 17 Dec	Maureen B	Jane O	Alison G	Denis H	Anjoline
Sunday 18 Dec	Donna R	Jasser N	Laurent F	Margaret H	Kate P / Calla P
Saturday 24 Dec	Nola S	Children		Gerardina R	Anjoline
Sunday 25 Dec	Jane O	June M	Donna R	Margaret H	TBC

## Of your charity, please pray for:

**Recently deceased:** Ken Gillespie, Allan Delaforce, Kevin Holzberger, Veronica Lynch, Marcelo Vitoriano, Jill Rideout Belletty.

**Anniversaries:** Trevor Alexander, Edmond Baker, Katherine Barton, Fay Bishop, Dean Bramley, Kevin Byrne, Joan Copley, Catherine Dillon, Sylvia Fens, Alan Francis, Kathleen Galea, Meg Griffiths, Stephanie Hankins, Jean Kuter, Jennifer Lynas, Olivia Lewis, Eric Morrison, Gerard Ring, Jean Rosenstengel, Madeline Shenton, Henry Sizeland, Wilma Will, Blanca Wiswell, David Vidler, Gary Selwood, Sr Teresita Ahearn, Maria Hoang T Do, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

### We Pray For The Sick

Rose-Marie Dickson, Emma Walters, David Schilling, Pat Ellis, Emily de Looze, Jocelyn Barrow, Barry Smith, Dell Chapman, Ted Chapman, Mrs Ford, Richard Pook, Natasha Skitmore, Irene Gavrilla and Anne Dixon.

*For a name to be included in the 'Prayer for our Sick' list, the Privacy Act now requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative. At the end of each month, names for the recently*

## CATHOLIC LEADER

We have 1 copy of the December issue of the Catholic Leader available at the back of the Church.

## CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Monday 19 Dec: 8:30am - 2:00pm  
Tuesday 20 Dec: 8:30am - 2:00pm  
Wednesday 21 Dec: 8:30am - 2:00pm

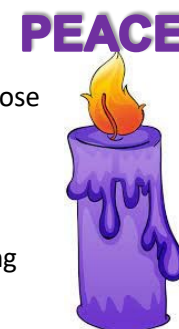
*The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 22 December. Reopening on Wednesday 4 January at 8:30am. The parish email will be checked occasionally during this time.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### The Angels Candle

Jesus is sometimes known as the 'Prince of Peace'. He brings peace to those who know him.

The fourth Advent candle represents **Peace**, and just like Angels shared a message of **peace**, we are called to bring peace to the world.



Dear Jesus,  
Help us be messengers of peace in our world today. In the moments when we are frustrated or angry with others, remind us of the peace you bring to the world and help us be a bring that same peace to our situation. Let our peace be a light unto the world for others.

## Save the Date!

**Sunday 22 January 2023**

St John Vianney's Parish will join Christian churches and faith communities across Australia to celebrate

## Aboriginal Sunday

**Please join us for Morning Tea  
after the 9.30am Mass TODAY**

## Christmas Masses

We are anticipating large numbers at our Christmas Masses this year so we encourage you to arrive early to ensure you find parking and a seat in the church. Christmas Carols will be played 20 minutes prior to the start of Mass and we invite you to sing along with us.

On Christmas Eve the Chapel and front pew of the church will be reserved for the families of the children who are involved in the Nativity Play.



## CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2022

This Saturday, 17th December, the Christmas Hampers are being delivered to families and singles in our local community, to bring a little extra joy this Christmas. As the latest count, 45 hampers will be distributed. A huge thank you from the Manly Vinnies Conference to our SJV Parish and School for the very generous support of our hamper appeal this year. God bless you all.

## Family Christmas Twilight Thankyou

On Friday 9 December we had 22 children on the stage and more than 50 people in the audience watching the Nativity Play and singing Christmas Carols.

### A wonderful night was had by all.

A big shout out to all the children and their families for working so hard rehearsing and preparing costumes for the play. To all the people who helped with the games and activities, the sausage sizzle, the O/H projection and the accompanying music, the set up of the hall and the clean up, we cannot thank you enough. It was such a wonderful night and we are looking forward to the next one in 2023.

## Parish Key Found

If you have lost your Church key please contact the Parish Office as this key has been returned.

