

CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS

St Mary's Robinvale & St Patrick's Manangatang

Please join us and celebrate CHRISTMAS, the great feast of God-among-us. This year will be a little different due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings in order to continue to keep our communities safe and healthy.

Last few weeks our attendance at St Mary's, Robinvale weekend Mass was around 55. This makes it comfortable to accommodate everyone in our Church at Christmas Masses. There may be more visitors and more local families who may join for the Christmas Mass.

Following 4 square metre distance we will be able to accommodate up to 70 at one time in our Church including narthex. To increase our numbers up to 140, requires that we use Quick Response (QR) Code for parishioners to register their attendance at Mass. QR code is displayed on each pew and at least in 10 places around the Narthex. Please use the camera on your smart phone to scan the QR code before you are seated in the Church. If you do not have a smart phone, signing in using pen and paper is available and you would need to keep 4 sq. distance, otherwise 2 square metre only.

You have the opportunity to book in advance for the Christmas Mass. This would help us in our planning and following COVID safe guidelines. For booking by phone, please send a text or call Mary Knight 0438 627 920 or email: robinvale@ballarat.catholic.org.au



For online booking of Christmas Mass, please follow the links below:

8pm vigil Mass, 24th December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNRCK>

11am Christmas Day

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNRCQ>

We have every 2nd pew being used. Family groups may use a whole pew, while single attendees are asked to sit maintaining social distance.

For any reason if you miss Christmas Mass, please come for Vigil Mass following Christmas day (Saturday 6pm, 26th Dec.) .

It is recommended that you download the Service Victoria App on your phone before you arrive. Please ensure you arrive at least 15 minutes before the commencement of Mass to complete entry requirements.

For bookings in Manangatang, 5pm Vigil Mass: Please Call Parish Office or email robinvale@ballarat.catholic.org.au Manangatang Church can accommodate only 22 people with pen-paper sign in & following QR scanning 44 maximum. QR scanning is displayed in the church.

Christmas Appeal 2020: Bishop Paul has said that our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the Diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. A special collection will be taken after communion for the Christmas Appeal at Christmas Masses. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.



ST MARY'S PARISH, ROBINVALE

Incorporating St Patrick's Manangatang

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B 19TH & 20TH DECEMBER 2020

Robinvale and Manangatang Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care. Child Safety Officers: Arthur Cassidy (Robinvale) 0437 576 730 and Noreen Morris (Manangatang)

Please remember these people in our prayers

Recent Deaths:

Valeliano 'Ahovelo (Leo)



Anniversaries:

Mary Millen; Harold Hilton; Cosimo Ienco; John Wells; Tom Perry; Richard Harradine; Sr Rose Daly; Bryan Dillon; Neville Walsh; Monica Leahy

Sick:

Sam Giampaolo; Therese Cummins; Rosa Santos; Kristin Sparto; Debbie Nolen; Basilio Alcodia;); Jeremy Dickson; Carmela Garreffa; Sister Basil; Peter MacIntosh; Gai Thi Tran

Parish Office

Ph. 50263068
19 Watkin St

Parish Administrator
Fr Anthony Nagothu

Parish Contact
Mary Knight
0438627920
robinvale@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MANANGATANG COMMUNITY CAROLS

Sunday 20th December

Catholic Church lawn @ 7.30pm

Bring your own chairs. No supper due to restrictions.

Free icypoles on the night.

Feel free to bring a gift for the Salvation Army empty Christmas Tree.

For further information contact: Lionel Price 0447241157



MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Manangatang:

Thursday 24th December

@ 5pm



Robinvale:

Thursday 24th December @ 8pm

Friday 25th December @ 11am

COVID SAFE PLAN:

**St Mary's Robinvale &
St Patrick Manangatang**



- ◆ 1.5m social distancing at one time.
- ◆ Please wear mask.
- ◆ Record your details in the book.
- ◆ Sanitise your hands and sanitise your contact surface.
- ◆ Please avoid interactions in the indoor space before or after the service.
- ◆ If you are sick or unwell, do not attend, get tested & please contact Parish Office or Mary Knight 0438 627 920

First Reading

7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

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 for ever."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

88:2-5, 27, 29.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'

I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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 for ever 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.

Local News:

As we prepare for Christmas, please spare a thought for those in our community who are not as fortunate and lucky as us. It is a wonderful opportunity to be generous in our 'giving'.

Don't forget that we can have more people attend Christmas Mass next week if we use the QR code method. If you are uncertain about what to do, there will be someone available to assist you but please arrive a bit earlier should this be your situation. More explicit details are included in today's newsletter.

An invitation is extended to parishioners to come along to Community Carols in Manangatang this Sunday, 20th December, at 7:30pm. Please bring your own chair along and enjoy an evening of singing Christmas carols together.

May the peace and joy of Christmas touch all our lives this coming week.

School News:

St Mary's School has been quite busy with our end of year celebrations. While we needed to change the format slightly due to restrictions, we were still able to hold our End of School Liturgy, Year 8 Liturgy/Assembly. We also held a Year 6 graduation for our students. We would like to thank Fr Anthony for his willingness to support these very special events by reading the Gospel, speaking to our students through the Homily, and participating in a blessing.

For our families, the school office and uniform shop will be open from Friday, January 22nd.

Staff return on Wednesday, January 27th. All students will return Monday, February 1st, 2021.

We would like to wish all our families a very safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2021.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

'Spirit Hovering'

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

RECONCILIATION 2nd Rite: 6pm Wednesday, 23rd December. Three priests are available for confessions. (Weekday Mass is cancelled)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please fill out the form at back of church with your name if you can help. Mass Slides on TV (1 person) - Offertory (2 people) - Reader (2 people) - Special Minister (2 people), Gloria Procession (3 young people- to carry Candles and Baby Jesus).

Light the Advent candle, four:
Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born,
gift of love that Christmas morn

