

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508  
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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

## SUNDAY – 20<sup>th</sup>, December 2020

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year B

**RECENT DEATHS:** Helen Angeles

### ANNIVERSARIES

Alex Reichman, Eric Fay, Joan Noye, Maree Briody,  
Ted Mulcahy, Stan Meredith.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby,  
Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy  
Fr Adrian McInerney, Valda Murphy, Michael Wise,  
and all those in need of prayer

### ROSTERS

#### **Introduction & Readings**

Today: John Jess

Dec 27: Gerrard Family

#### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Bernadette Franc

Dec 27: Gerrard Family

#### **Assembly Leaders**

Today: Anne Beer & Maurice Barwick

#### **Special Minister**

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Dec 27: Clarrie Johnston

#### **Music**

Today:

Dec 27: Naomi Gerrard

#### **Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers**

Dec 20 & 27: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

#### **Church Grounds**

Dec 20 & 27: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

#### **Newsletter:**

December: Bernadette Franc 0427 678830

### **Christmas Mass Time**

*Christmas Eve Mass - 9 pm Thurs.* QR code allows us to have 56 inside. Seating will be available outside for any extras. These people will also need to register by scanning the QR code. Please arrive early so as the QR scanning can be done prior to Mass.

**WORKING BEE:** Thanks to all those who helped with the brass cleaning and last minute touch ups.

### MASS TIMES

#### **Sunday 27th December**

8.30 am Mass Feast of the Holy Family

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

10.00 am Mass Epiphany of the Lord

***Covid Safe Measures Apply to all Services***  
*Contact surfaces sanitized - Contact details collected – Scan the QR Code - Hand sanitizing required - Social distancing - If you are unwell stay home - Entry side door & Exit rear door*

### COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Please see Sue Mahony if you require a calendar.  
Cost \$8

### Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. The six discernment papers are available to read at

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/ead>. Any comments welcomed at [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Thinking about the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent

The fourth candle of Advent is called the “**Angel Candle**” and **symbolizes peace**. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14). This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

### Christmas Box Collection

Many thanks for your contributions to the Gift Box for the Primary School. We provided a great array of non-perishable foods as well as toiletries, toys and activities. Well done everyone. The school was delighted with our gift.

### Roster for Christmas Eve Mass

Many thanks to our volunteers for Christmas Eve.  
Readings and Welcome – Sue Mahony  
Prayers of the Faithful – John Jess

Organ – Carmel Milenkovic

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lk 1:38

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.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

## MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

2 Sam 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."'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

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

1. 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. **R.**

2. '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.' **R.**

3. 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. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**