



STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

22nd Dec 2019



Fourth Sunday of Advent

God Is With Us

The mystery kept secret for long ages, promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, is today revealed (see Romans 16:25–26).

This is the “Gospel of God” that Paul celebrates in today’s Epistle—the good news that “God is with us” in Jesus Christ. The sign promised to the House of David in today’s First Reading is given in today’s Gospel. In the virgin found with child, God Himself has brought to Israel a saviour from David’s royal line (see Acts 13:22–23).

Son of David according to the flesh, Jesus is the Son of God, born of the Spirit. He will be anointed with the Spirit (see Acts 10:38), and by the power of Spirit will be raised from the dead and established at God’s right hand in the heavens (see Acts 2:33–34; Ephesians 1:20–21).

He is the “King of Glory” we sing of in today’s Psalm. The earth in its fullness has been given to Him. And as God swore long ago to David, His Kingdom will have no end (see Psalm 89:4–5).

In Jesus Christ we have a new creation. Like the creation of the world, it is a work of the Spirit, a blessing from the Lord (see Genesis 1:2). In Him, we are saved from our sins, are called now “the beloved of God.”

All nations now are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to enter into the House of David and Kingdom of God, the Church. Together, through the obedience of faith, we have been made a new race—a royal people that seeks for the face of the God of Jacob.

He has made our hearts clean, made us worthy to enter His holy place, to stand in His presence and serve Him.

In the Eucharist, the everlasting covenant is renewed, the Advent promise of virgin with child—God with us—continues until the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20; Ezekiel 37:24–28).

Scott Hahn

COMING UP

Carols
Tue 24th Dec,
7:30pm

Christmas Vigil
Tue 24th Dec,
8pm

Christmas Day
Wed 25th Dec,
10am

Holy Innocents Mass
Sat 28th Dec,
12pm

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Mon - Thurs: 8am, Friday: 10am, Saturday: 10am
Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

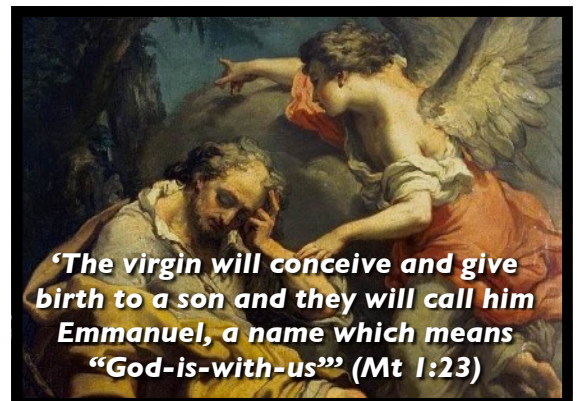
Fr John Spiteri OFM Cap

PHONE: 9690 5895 EMAIL: stspeterandpauls@gmail.com

FB: @stspeterandpauls WEBSITE: stspeterandpauls.com

Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



CHRISTMAS TIMES 2019

Here are the Christmas times for this parish:

Carols: 24th Dec at 7:30pm.

Christmas vigil: 24th Dec at 8pm.

Christmas day: 25th Dec at 10am.

Also note: The Christmas Midnight Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral is back this year. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be celebrating.

OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Friday 13th December, Open House guests enjoyed Christmas lunch in the parish hall. As well as the usual feast, there was a lively Latin band. Santa came and even sang with the band and an expert caricaturist did portraits of some lucky guests.

Thanks to the friars, to Emerald Hill Mission for funding and to the local businesses, parishioners and friends who contributed in so many ways.

If you want to be part of Open House next year please contact Br Michael at the friary.

If you'd like to contribute to Emerald Hill Mission contact parishioner Gerry Vaughan or go to their website www.emeraldhillmission.org.au

Catholic Theological College

2020 New Study Options Now Available!

The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment

Fr Brendan Reed, author of *Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes*, will teach how to navigate through the changed social and ecclesial environment. Will be beneficial for anyone involved in parish life, parish councils, parish teams, and parish ministry.

Church History

Fr Max Vodola will teach about the Church's story and the her journey of faith across the centuries. Units will include The Spirit of Trent, the Mystery of Vatican II, and Catholicism in Australia.

Contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information: +61 3 9412 3309 or AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au

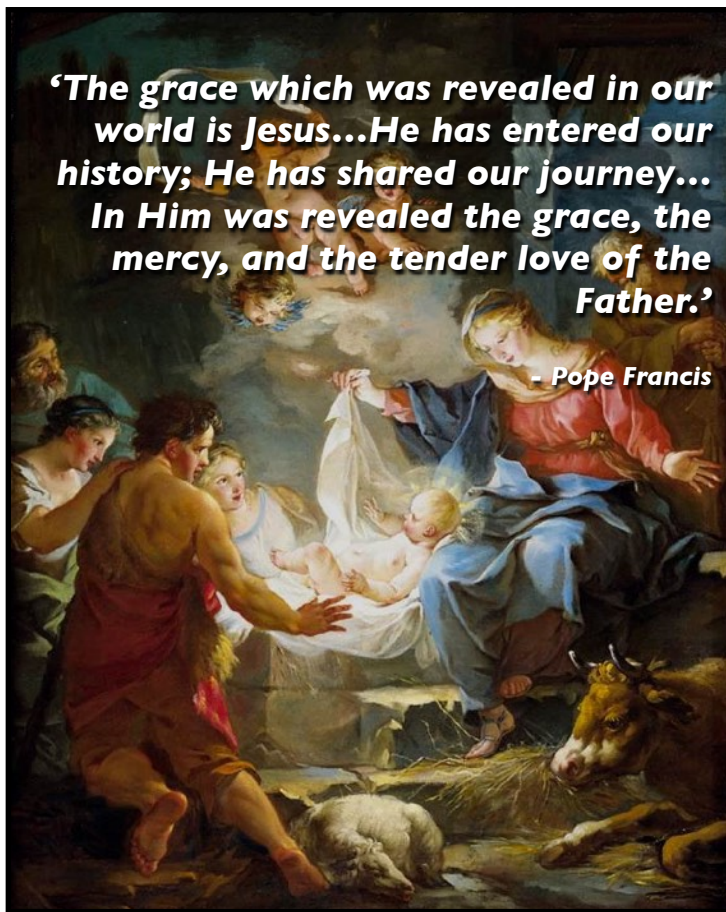
CALENDARS AND CARDS FOR SALE

There are 2020 Columbian calendars and some Christmas cards for sale at the back of the church. \$10 for the calendars and \$5 for a packet of 10 Christmas cards.



'The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus...He has entered our history; He has shared our journey... In Him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father.'

- Pope Francis



MASS FOR HOLY INNOCENTS

Sat 28th of December, 12 noon

Mass will be followed by morning tea, then a rosary at the Memorial for Lost Infants (in the front garden in front of the presbytery), and then a BBQ in the Open House. Fr John will be celebrating the Mass.



WANTED: NEW PARISH SECRETARY

The parish office is looking for a new parish secretary to start work from mid-January 2020. Flexible 16 hours per week. Please contact the parish office on stspeterandpauls@gmail.com for full job description or to send in your resume/expression of interest.

Applications close Monday 23rd December.

ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER

Please find at the back of the church copies of Archbishop Peter Comensoli's Christmas letter. Feel free to read it, as well as take copies home.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL

Melbourne Overseas Missions continues to assist the disadvantage and marginalised in Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Botswana, Peru, and Jerusalem. If you'd like to donate, you can put your donations in the envelopes found at the back of the church. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.



CATECHISM CORNER

"Mary's predestination" (n. 488)

"God sent forth his Son", but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free co-operation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, "a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary":

The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.

SAINTS OF ITALY

A 14 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

MILAN \ PADUA \ VENICE \ FLORENCE \ SIENA \ ASSISI \ LORETTO
SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO \ SORRENTO \ MONTE CASSINO \ ROME



WITH
FR CHRISTIAN OBIEKWE
7TH - 20TH JUNE 2020

INCLUSIONS
Return Economy Class Airfare
Accommodation in Premium Hotels
Breakfast and Dinner
Transfers on Deluxe A/C Coach
Services of Professional Guides



LIMITED
SEATS
ONLY!!!

\$6490 AUD
BOOK BEFORE
30TH MAR

ENQUIRIES
Fr Christian Obiekwe
02 6041 2588
1300 721 561

HIGHLIGHTS

- * MILAN - Duomo Cathedral & Basilica of St Ambrose
- * PADUA - Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Basilica of St Anthony
- * VENICE - Piazza San Marco, Basilica of St Mark, Doges' Palace, Bridge of Sighs
- * FLORENCE - Ponte Vecchio Bridge, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce, Piazza Signoria, & Palazzo Vecchio
- * ASSISI - Tomb of St Francis, Basilica St Francis & St Clare, Hill of Paradise
- * AMALFI COAST - Island of Capri, Mount Solaro, Church of San Michele & Cathedral of St Andrew
- * MONTE CASSINO - Monastery of St Benedict & Monte Cassino war cemetery
- * ROME - St Peter's Basilica, Colosseum, Catacombs, Pantheon, Circus Maximus & Trevi Fountain

magi
PILGRIMAGES

1300 721 561 / 03 8839 6615
pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au
www.magiholidays.com.au

ATAS
afta

FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

25th of December

This feast celebrates Jesus being born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian), over two millennia ago. Contrary to the many popular heresies that arose in the early Church, this feast proclaims the fact that God truly took on a human nature, taking upon himself flesh and blood for the sake of our salvation. In other words, so that we may have a participation in the divine life.

St Irenaeus of Lyon sums it up beautifully when he wrote: 'In his immeasurable love, God became what we are in order that we may become what he is'.



Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill: Sr Annunciata, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr Joyce Stewart, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxa, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Atkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Alison Fraser, Steven Wallace, Elaine Wallace, Richard, Miles Buntiski, Lachlan Fahy, Colin Crawford.

4th Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

1st Reading – Isaiah 7:10-14

We hear Isaiah, the prophet of Advent, with his reassurance that the Son born to the house of David will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us".

Responsorial Psalm

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 will set it on the seas; on the waters. He made it firm.

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. 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.

Let the Lord enter; He is King of glory.

2nd reading – Romans 1:1-7

We hear St. Paul's reassurance to the Romans that he has been made an Apostle, specially chosen to explain the promises through the prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures. Through Jesus, we all receive grace and share in the mission of the Church.

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

We hear Matthew's account of the apparition of the angel of the Lord to Joseph, which balance Luke's account of the Annunciation of the angel to Mary. Joseph too hears the word and responds to it. Through their united response we can welcome our "God who is with us".

Next week's readings: 1st reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for each other gathered here today, may we experience the joy of the Lord's presence as we make our final preparations for Christmas.

Lord, we pray for families where there is division or tension. May the true spirit of the Christmas season show itself in their own expressions for peace and healing.

Lord, we pray for all those who find Christmas a difficult and lonely time. May God's love be revealed to them in the outreach of others.

Lord, we pray for those of our parish who will celebrate their Christmas elsewhere. May they travel safely and be rest assured of our prayers and our ready welcome when they return.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently Michael Xuereb and whose anniversaries occur about this time Brian Davies, Barry Jenkin, Kevin Downie, Greg Burke, Anne Donohoe, Barbara Connell, Patrick Connell, Kate Duffy.

Collections: Dec 14/15, 2019

1st Collection: \$1106

2nd Collection: \$1029

Online per week (Nov): \$350

1st Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2nd collection goes to the running costs of the Parish.

EFT Donations:

Account Name: Parish SS Peter & Paul

BSB: 083 155

Account number: 515577466

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 21	Geraldine C			Doris
Sun 22	Rick & Olwen	Doris & Mario	Bill & Carol	
Sat 28	Angela			Doris
Sun 29	Geraldine & Janet	Mario & Geraldine F	Margaret & Nancy	