



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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4th Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020 Year A

Today's readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, the event which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time. The Gospel stresses the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation. In addition, today's Scripture texts describe God's promise to David and its fulfillment in Jesus, the Son of David. They also tell us that God's preparation for the coming of Jesus was full of surprises.

Angel's annunciation with seven surprising messages: In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel surprises Mary with seven announcements. i) Even as a virgin betrothed to Joseph, she will become a mother. ii) She will become a mother through "the Holy Spirit [Who] will come upon you, and the Power of the Most High [Who] will overshadow you." iii) The angel continues, "Therefore, the Child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God." iv) She is to "name the child Jesus," which means Savior. v) God will make Him a King and, as a descendant in the line of David, vi) "He will rule over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end." vii) As a Divine sign, Elizabeth, Mary's aged barren cousin is six months pregnant, "for," says Gabriel, "nothing shall be impossible with God!" The Gospel narrative also surprises us by reminding us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings, or even in great kings like Solomon, but rather in humble souls like Mary who trusted in God's promise.

Joke of the week

When my Baptist friend was a young teenager, President Kennedy ran for office. There was near hysteria in some places about the dangers of having a papist in office taking orders from the Vatican. Not long after the election, a little elderly lady was at the post office to buy stamps. The clerk said, "What denomination?" She adamantly said, "Baptist, but I didn't think it would come."

Confessions

Confessions are now available by appointment at the Parish on Saturday nights—before the Vigil Mass (5.30 pm).
 Please contact the Parish Centre on 93592369.

The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Nola, Judiel Teodoro, John Markis, Kathy Romanow, Wladyslaw Stopa, Rosa Latanzio, Leanne Branchflower, Carmela Bovezza, Giovanna Gamberale, Elda Taranto, Frank Cichello, Maurizio Pierazzi, Vanessa Borg **Recently deceased:** Eleanor Priest, Antonio Vocale, Frank Andricciola **We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:** Hilda McCabe, Giuseppe Zugaro, Paola Cutello, Americo Taccone, Joe Infantino, Maria Masina, Vincenzo DiCurzio, Assunta Tabone, Concetta Di Nunzio, Teofilo Seigafo, Anastasio (Tom) Kalafatis, Ida Zugaro, Maria Zugaro, Antonio Zugaro, Svetko Masina, Ferdinando Dibella, Michele Malarbi, Biondo Di Felice, Filomena Di Felice, Percy Tinker, Audrey Tinker, Garry Tinker, Frida D'Berardino.

Christmas mass celebrations

Christmas eve (Thursday 24th December): 7.00 pm ; Malayalam mass: 9.00 pm ; Carols: 11.30 pm ; Midnight mass. Christmas day (Friday 25th December): 9.00 pm (English) ; 11.00 (Italian)

December for Vinnies

The "Giving tree" will be present in the church during the month of December. Cards will be attached to the tree for gift suggestions. Parishioners will also be able to leave packages of food in bags at the foot of the tree. Donations will be forwarded to the St. Vincent de Paul conference for distribution to the needy in our community. Envelopes will also be available for cash donations on the church pews. Envelopes can be taken home and returned at a later date.

Through our efforts we can make a difference to those in need in our local community and helps ease their pain.

Volunteers needed

- Bus (Van) drivers: to pick up elderly parishioners for the Saturday (Vigil) 6.00 pm and the Sunday mass (Italian) 10.30 am. Once every 3 weeks.
- ALTAR & Sanctuary: Flower arrangement & general cleaning (training will be provided). Once per month.
- Church cleaning: Vacuuming, mopping the entrance & cleaning the entrance doors. Once per month
- Gardening: Tidying & weeding.
- Lectors: Reading and Special ministers. Once per month. (training will be provided)