



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
 Archdiocese of Melbourne, 95 William Street, North Fawkner, 3060
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The Nativity of the Lord – December 25, 2020 Year B



BRINGER OF PEACE

The marginal situation of Jesus' birth renders it accessible to a group particularly on the margins of society themselves. The shepherds of Bethlehem are the first of the "poor" to whom, the scriptural promises (Isa 61:1) of the "good news" of the Saviour's birth is announced.

Like Mary herself (1:27), they initially take fright at the heavenly apparition. They are reassured. What they hear is a message "of great joy for all the people (see the First

Reading): the birth of a "Saviour, who is Christ the Lord". In the Greco-Roman world "saviour" was a title bestowed upon kings and rulers who brought peace and prosperity to their realms. In particular, the emperor Augustus, in whose reign Jesus was born, was acclaimed paradigm "Saviour" because his rule had brought peace – or at least the absence of war – to the entire world. Now, in the brief Gloria canticle, a multitude of the heavenly army signal the birth of a Saviour bringing peace of a different kind: *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who enjoy God's favour.*

The Gospel is not setting Jesus as Saviour over against the civil power (Rome) in a hostile sense. But by placing the birth of Jesus within this context, it claims the notions of salvation and peace for the divine project now underway. The true peace for which the world longs can only flow from the divine favour that the ministry of Jesus will proclaim. The final phrase does not suggest, in a restrictive sense, that some will "enjoy God's favour" and others not. It expresses the divine initiative. God's favour is poured out on the entire world, but only those who have the faith to believe that God is so gracious will enjoy its benefits to the full. (*Australian Catholics*)

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:** Paolo Cannata, Sabato Leone, Jason Howard, Ligaya Chin, Victor Fuentes Pison

We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Paola Cutello, Gaetano Montalti, Domenico Oliva, Maria Indomenico, Maria Cacic, Giuseppina Oliva, Maria Concetta Raco, Filippo Lazzaro, Domenico Malivindi, Concetta Malivindi, Peppino Butera, Bellina Butera, Leonor Gellel

We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel.

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) ; 10.30 (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)

Bus pick ups for 2021

Bus pick ups of parishioners will re-commence on the weekend of the 16/17th of January 2021.

The Parish bus will pick up parishioners for the Saturday Vigil mass 6.00 pm, and, for the Sunday (Italian) mass at 10.30 pm.

Parishioners wishing to be picked should contact the Parish Centre on 9359 2369