



**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B**

**24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

**Parish Priest** Fr Vincent Nguyen  
66 Aitken Street, Gisborne Vic 3437  
Ph: 5428 2591

**Parish Secretary** Tammie Dalgleish  
P O Box 467, Gisborne Vic 3437  
Ph: 5428 2591

**CHILD PROTECTION - is everyone's responsibility**

Check the Parish Website for:

Child Safety & Code of Conduct Policy  
Parish Privacy Act / Professional Standards

*A parent must accompany any child leaving the church during Mass.*

**Parish Email** [gisborne@cam.org.au](mailto:gisborne@cam.org.au)

**Parish Website** <http://pol.org.au/gisborne/Home.aspx>

**Secretary Hours** Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

**CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:**

Please pray for those who are in ill health:

*Eileen Seric, Corrine Van der Merwe, Megan Brannigan,  
Glenys O'Dea, Anthony Seric, Ryan Fitzgerald,  
Cheryl Lapworth, Fran Steffanoni, Terry Ryan,  
Helen Kelly, Shane Ragland & Eliza Jane.*

We pray for the recently deceased and for those who have an anniversary at this time, especially *Mick Seric, Ronald Chinnia, Joseph Consiglio, David Consiglio & Darren Nisbett.*

**May they rest in peace** ☩

*Please email Tam if you would like an Anniversary included.*

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sat 23 Dec 6pm - St. Brigid's Church –**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass*

**Sun 24 Dec - 11am - St. Brigid's Church -**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass*

**Sun 24 Dec - 7pm - St. Brigid's Church -**  
*Family Christmas Vigil Mass*

*Note change of location due to infrastructure works.*

**Sun 24 Dec - 9pm - St. Patrick's Church –**  
*Christmas Vigil Mass (Christmas Carols from 8.15pm)*

**Sun 24 Dec - 11pm - St. Brigid's Church -**  
*Christmas Eve Night Mass (Christmas Carols from 10.30pm)*

**Mon 25 Dec - 9am - St. Ambrose's Church –**  
*Christmas Day Mass*

**Mon 25 Dec - 10.30am - St. Brigid's Church -**  
*Christmas Day Mass*

**Mon 1 Jan - 10am - St. Brigid's Church -**  
*Feast of Mary, Mother of God*



**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

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.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

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.'

[mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

**St Brigid's Parish Carols**

Thank you to all who attended and participated in this wonderful event.

Special mention to Gerard & Kevin Carroll for their efforts in making this event happen.

This event was proudly supported by That Video Guy.

**Change to Weekday Mass**

Please note due to the huge Christmas Mass schedule there will be **no weekday Mass on Tuesday 26 December or Wednesday 27 December.**

Thursday 28/12 at 9:15am and Friday 29/12 at 9:15am **will run** as scheduled.



# Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Year B

30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023

**6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's**  
**Reader:** *Volunteer required please*  
**Offertory:** to be chosen on the day.  
**Eucharist:** *Volunteer required please*

**8:00am Mass St. Ambrose**  
**Welcomer:** J. White  
**Reader:** *Volunteer required please*  
**Offertory:** to be chosen on the day.

**Flowers:**  
*Volunteer required please*



**9.30am Mass St. Patrick's**  
**Reader:** *Volunteer required please*  
**Offertory:** to be chosen on the day.  
**Eucharist:** *Volunteer required please*

**11:00am Mass St. Brigid's**  
**Reader:** *Volunteer required please*  
**Offertory:** to be chosen on the day.  
**Eucharist:** *Volunteer required please*

## Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses & Volunteers

**7pm Gisborne - Family Mass** – Volunteers from teaching staff to be arranged on the night.

**9pm Macedon - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil** – Available volunteers please.

**11pm Gisborne - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight** – Available volunteers please.

### Christmas Day Masses

**9am Riddells Creek - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day** – as per roster if available.

**10:30am Gisborne - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day** – as per roster if available.



Volunteers – if you see a need either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day – please make yourself available thank you.

### RECONCILIATION

#### Reconciliation

By appointment only

Please see Fr. Vincent after Mass to arrange a suitable time or contact the office on 5428 2591.

### THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Brigid's Church Account NAB**

**BSB: 083 347**

**Acct: 6742 95773**

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

### PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Priest & Presbytery expenses, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Brigid's Presbytery Account NAB**

**BSB: 083 347**

**Acct: 6672 72303**

Please use your surname as the reference.

**SCRIPTURE STUDIES will be taking a break until after the New Year.**

For all enquiries please contact Bernie 0414 890 377

### COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE

Sadly, we didn't have any winners from St. Brigids Parish but lots of happy people listed below took home some wonderful prizes. Better luck next year!

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Kai Picanto	M. Flynn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	\$5000 Coles/Myer voucher	A. McGeary
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	\$3000 Coles/Myer voucher	L. Gill
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	\$1000 Coles/Myer voucher	D. Swlleksz
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	\$1000 Coles/Myer voucher	M. Kovac
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize	\$500 Coles/Myer voucher	P. Agardy
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize	\$500 Coles/Myer voucher	Losefo

### Weekday Mass has returned

Tuesday – 5pm Wednesday 9:15am

Thursday 9:15am Friday 9:15am

For those who may like a time of quiet prayer prior to Mass, the church will be open at 9am each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday to do so.

### GIVING TREE 2023

Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful cause. There is a huge array of Food Gift Cards from Foodworks, IGA & Coles in Gisborne along with many "Pennies from Heaven" envelopes, which will be converted to cards.

The Gift Cards will be used to support families in need over the Christmas period.

### Weekly Social Cards Night

The Tuesday night card group would like to thank the people who have donated raffle prizes throughout theyear. It is very much appreciated.

**THANK YOU**

### St Brigid's Parish Weekly Thanksgiving Sunday – 17 December, 2023

Total Amount received	\$	1691	(envelopes)
Total Amount received	\$	200	(credit cards)
Total Amount received	\$	10	(direct debit)
Presbytery Collection	\$	444	(cash, c/c & d/d combined)

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

May the Lord bless you all

**Introduction:** This Fourth Sunday of Advent wants us to turn our attention towards Christmas, so we listen again to one of the Gospel Stories of the Annunciation to Mary.

**Lighting of the Advent Candle.**

Rejoice highly favoured, The Lord is with you.

Response: **Be it done to me according to your word.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-16

Through the prophet Nathan God makes it clear that in due course a Temple would be built to house the Ark of the Covenant, and that David's lineage would lead to the birth of the Saviour.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

St. Paul tells of the good news he preaches, that is the revelation of God's Mystery, now to be revealed everywhere to bring all to faith.

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

In this account of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary of Nazareth, we read of her anxiety when told that she is to be the Mother of the Lord.

**Prayer of Intercession:** "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God," says the angel Gabriel. May, we too, share in God's goodness as we place our petitions before Him.

1. We pray for the Pope and the Bishops, that their Christmas messages will encourage people of good will to follow Mary's example and accept the plan of God.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, that devotion to the Virgin Mary will lead all Christians to Christ through her.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

2. We pray for our local community, that in their final preparations for Christmas, they may put themselves into the spirit of the season to show God's Spirit of openness to all.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

3. We think of those who are suffering this Christmas through homelessness, violence, illness, loneliness, poverty, war or natural disaster. We pray that through the help, concern and generosity of others, they may be helped out of their difficulties and experience less troubled times in the New Year.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

4. At this time of joy and celebration we think of those in our community who have lost loved ones in the last year. May they find comfort in the goodness of the Father who sent his only Beloved Son onto this earth to show his love for us and to earn us redemption.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

5. We pray for those who are sick – especially those on our parish prayer list - and for all who care for them. For the faithful departed: those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially *Mick Seric, Ronald Chinnia, Joseph Consiglio, David Consiglio & Darren Nisbett*. May their family and friends be comforted in the knowledge that they now share in the banquet of heaven promised to them.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** Confident in your covenant with us, O God, we offer our prayers, for you are truly our Lord and Saviour. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Next weeks readings:** Genesis.15:1-6, 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8-19; Luke 2:22-40

**THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ,

Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world; receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen

**APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*all bow*)

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried; "he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen

# The Living Word

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight**

**25 December**

## **First Reading**

**Isaiah 9:1-7**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

*A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**The word of the Lord.**

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Luke 2:11**

(R.) *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth (R.)

## **Second Reading**

**Titus 2:11-14**

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus.**

*God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus.

He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Luke**

**2:10-11**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:1-14**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

*Today a saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

