



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

24th December, 2023

Parish Priest Fr Vincent Nguyen
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Ph: 5428 2591

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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

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 –
4th Sunday of Advent Mass

Sun 24 Dec - 11am - St. Brigid's Church -
4th 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

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

30th & 31st 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 st Prize	Kai Picanto	M. Flynn
2 nd Prize	\$5000 Coles/Myer voucher	A. McGeary
3 rd Prize	\$3000 Coles/Myer voucher	L. Gill
4 th Prize	\$1000 Coles/Myer voucher	D. Swlleksz
5 th Prize	\$1000 Coles/Myer voucher	M. Kovac
6 th Prize	\$500 Coles/Myer voucher	P. Agardy
7 th 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.**

1st 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.

2nd 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

24 December 2023

First Reading 2 Samuel 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see 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; or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 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.