



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

Rectangular Snip

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil

25 December

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2

(R.) *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. '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.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (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;
for him my covenant shall endure.' (R.)

Second Reading

Acts 13:16-17. 22-25

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:1-25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

