

Gospel Reflection

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day

Luke 1:26-38

John 1:1-5, 9-14



In celebrating Christmas, and wanting to celebrate the “true meaning of Christmas”, we will focus strongly on the newborn child in the manger in the presence of Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds when they arrive, (sheep and cattle are not mentioned in the biblical account). It is always wonderful to contemplate the birth of a child. We have all felt the thrill of the arrival of a new little person in our family, or the birth of a new little one to dear friends of ours. Our faith that in this little one, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, God has made God’s Self present in human flesh adds another wonderful dimension to this joy, as we marvel at the scene in Bethlehem.

We find this faith expressed in another wonderful way in the Gospel of John. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1) “And the Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). These words are part of the Gospel reading for Christmas morning Mass, (John 1:1-5, 9-14)

For an even deeper understanding of the “true meaning of Christmas”, as well as contemplating the scene at the crib, we also need to go beyond Bethlehem. The words, from today’s Gospel, of the angel Gabriel to Mary (quoted above) on the occasion of the conception of Jesus remind us of who this little child is – “the Son of the Most High, on the throne of David, of whose kingdom there will be no end.” He is the one who, after his baptism by John in the Jordan, will, by word and action, proclaim the Good News of God’s eternal and infinite love for all humanity, pass through death and resurrection, and welcome us into the kingdom of which there will be no end. With mature adult faith we can both thrill at the celebration of his birth, and keep in mind, the whole story.



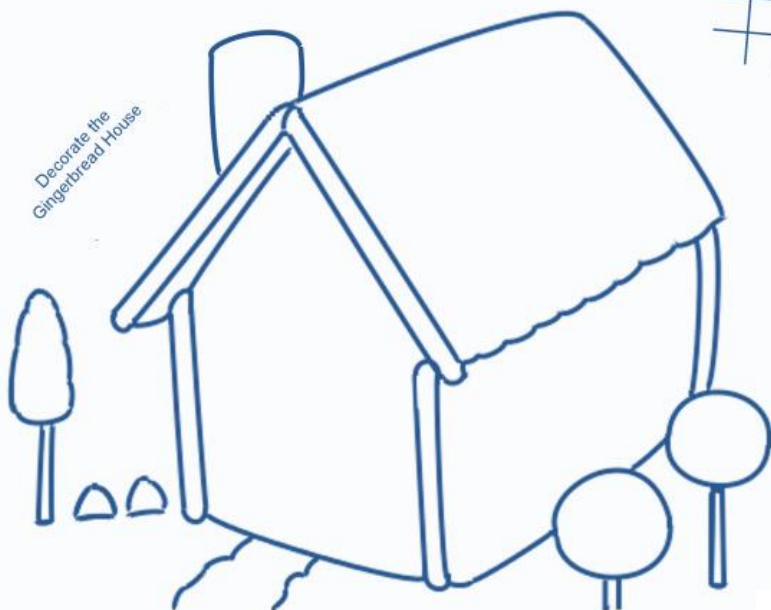
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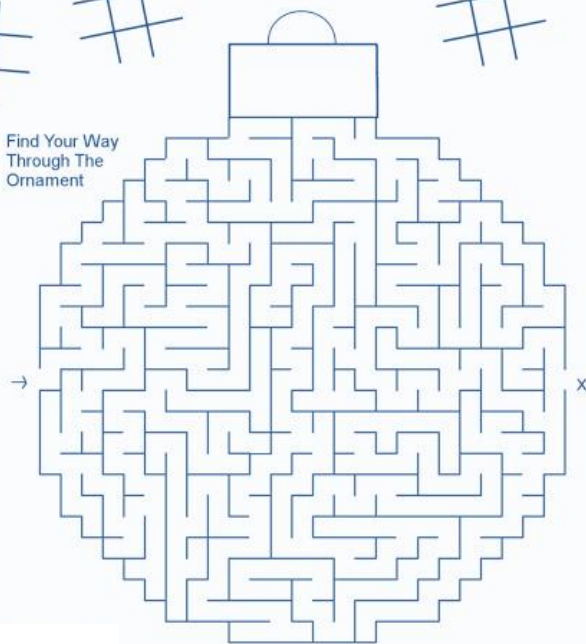
ORNAMENTS
 PRESENTS
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 SLEIGH
 SNOW
 SNOWMAN
 STOCKING



Decorate the
Gingerbread House



Find Your Way
Through The
Ornament



PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

If you would like to use our Caravan please call the Parish Office on 9311 3091 to book. The caravan is walking distance to the beautiful beach and is situated within a caravan park. It is a short drive to kid friendly activities such as The Big Goose Farm and The Enchanted Adventure. It sleeps four comfortably and up to six (very cosy), with all main amenities you could need for \$60 per night.

A great and affordable opportunity to get away over the school holidays or just a weekend!

Please contact the presbytery for availability and to book.





Let's eat!

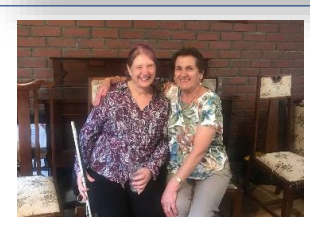
Photos from another successful Parish dinner and the last of 2023!

We look forward to sharing more meals and time together in the New Year.



Congratulations!

A wonderful welcome and congratulations to the Varkey Family on the new addition to their family. The most special way to end the year. We wish them the very best!



St. Theresa's Parish Notices Page

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes
 Presbytery: 17 Drummartin St., Albion 3020
 Phone: 9311 3091
 Fax: 9311 5406 Mob: 0428 533 391
 Email: caalbion@netspace.net.au
 Polish Chaplain: Fr Marian Szeptak
 Residence: 185 William St., St Albans 3021
 Phone: 9310 9057



"Do Small Things Well"

St. Theresa's Primary School - 93119070
 16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020
 Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734
 Blanche St., Ardeer 3022
 Principal: Assunta Lacovino

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Year B 23 & 24 December 2023

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December	Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer	6.00pm
	Queen of Heaven Church, Holt St., Ardeer	8.00pm
	St Theresa's Church, Drummartin St., Albion	12.00 Midnight
	Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer (Polish)	12.00 Midnight
Christmas Day Monday 25th December	Queen of Heaven Church, Holt St., Ardeer	9.00am
	Mother of God Church, Blanche St., Ardeer (Polish)	10.15am
	St Theresa's Church, Drummartin St., Albion	10.30am
Boxing Day Tuesday 26th December	Mother of God Church, Blanche St, Ardeer (Polish)	9.00am
New Year's Day Monday 1st January	Mother of God Church, Blanche St, Ardeer (Polish)	9.00am

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

There will be a special collection taken up at the Christmas masses, to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, also known as Vinnies, in support of those families and individuals who maybe in need in these difficult financial times.

MASSES THIS WEEK

ST THERESA'S
 Drummartin St, Albion
 9.00am Friday
 10.30am Sunday

MOTHER OF GOD
 Blanche St, Ardeer
 10.00am Wednesday(Pol)
 9.00am Thurs
 6.00pm Friday (Polish)
 5.30pm Saturday
 10.15am Sunday (Polish)
 6.00pm Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN
 Holt St, Ardeer
 8.00am Wed
 9.00am Sunday

CHRIST'S CATHOLIC
 COMMUNITY
 Meeting Thursdays, 7.00 -
 8.30pm, at QofH Church

READERS/COMMENTATORS NEEDED

Mother of God's reader/commentator roster is low on people. Is there anyone who regularly attends Saturday night Mass and is willing to be a part of this service to the parish? Please talk to one of the current readers or call the office on 93113091. Thank you!

2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

Calendars now on sale - \$10 each

COLLECTIONS RECEIVED

Thanksgiving \$1477 Loose Money \$477
 Presbytery \$562 Christmas Offering \$70

COUNTERS 31st December

Team 3: M Azzopardi, M Camenzuli

FEAST DAYS

St Stephen the first Martyr, 26 December
 St John, Apostle & Evangelist, 27 December
 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, 28 December

READINGS Today

2 Samuel 7.1-5,8b-12,14a,16
 Ps 89.1-2,3-4,26+28,(R.1a)
 Romans 16.25-27
 Luke 1.26-38

Next Week

Genesis 15.1-6;17.3b-5,15-16;21.1-7++
 Ps 105.1-2,3-4,5-6,8-9
 Hebrews 11.8,11-12,17-19
 Luke 2.22-40