



ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH

34 Roberts Road, Airport West

Phone: 9338 3793

Email: airportwest@cam.org.au

Website: <http://pol.org.au/airportwest>

Our Churches:

St Christopher's Church

34 Roberts Road, Airport West

St Augustine's Church

100 Harrick Road, Keilor Park

Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Hoang

Email: airportwest@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Emilia Balkan

Primary Schools

St Christopher's Primary School

34 Roberts Road, Airport West

Principal: Adrian Glasby

Phone: 9338 3591

St Augustine's Primary School

Augustine's Way, Keilor

Principal: Catherine Steere

Phone: 9336 4294

St Christopher's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

The Nativity of the Lord (Year B)

24 / 25 December 2023

Please note:

Weekend Masses will be as normal at both St Christopher's & St Augustine's Churches.

From Tuesday 2 January to Friday 26 January morning weekday Masses will be ONLY on Wednesdays & Fridays.

Normal weekday Masses will resume on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

Worship Timetable

WEDNESDAY

Holy Rosary 9.00am

Mass 9.30am

FRIDAY

Holy Rosary 9.00am

Mass 9.30am

SATURDAY

Mass (Vigil) 5.00pm

SUNDAY

Mass (Italian) 8.30am

Mass 10.30am

Mass (St Augustine's Church) 9.00am

Parish Office:

Please note our office will be closed from Tuesday 26 December 2023 until Monday 5 February 2024.

Please contact 9338 3793 to leave a message for urgent matters only and we will contact you as soon as possible.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recently deceased:

Corrado Malandrino

(Rosary 27/12/23, 11am / Funeral 27/12/23 11.15am at St Christopher's)

All anniversaries that occur at this time, especially:

Trent Murphy, Reg Wright, Jim & Sheila Thompson, Bill & Lydia Young, Attilio Accaputo, Giuseppe Accaputo, Vito & Santina Oreto, Oreste & Maria Sidel, Natalina Andronico, Frank & Maria Siciliano, Famiglia Cappellano, Famiglia Cefala, Famiglia Zaffina, Elisabetta Liparota, Salvatore Scarpino, Pasquale & Tony Siclari, Famiglia Pino



Family Mass Readings

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet of Isaiah

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

Response:

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'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.

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.

'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

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

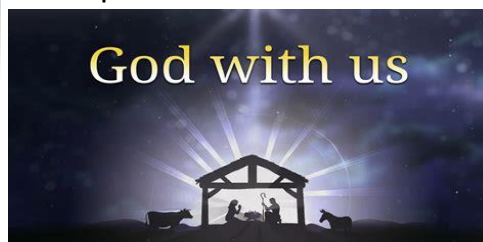
Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.



Vigil Mass Readings

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet of Isaiah

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

Response:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

R.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

R.

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.

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, 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

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

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.



Christmas Day Readings

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet of Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his

people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response:

**All the ends of the earth
have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

R.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

R.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

R.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

R.



SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-6

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.



**Greetings to all our Precious Parishioners of
St Christopher's and St Augustine's in the Lord Jesus.**

Christmas is one of the greatest events on earth that God has given to humanity. The Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God-made-man, becomes the Gift of God that fits every human heart. All are invited to believe in Him and worship Him, because He is the Lord and God. He is the Saviour who had been announced by the Prophets of old.

Christmas was a time that is still with us as Christ lives on in the vulnerable, human situations of today.

Reflecting on the image of the manger, we can see the humility of the Son of God. Looking at the poverty of the crib with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we think of the children in our country and in the world who no longer have parents. Looking at the crib, we think and pray for separated parents to reconcile in order to bring love to their children who need them. Looking at the crib, we pray for innocent children not to be harmed by anyone. Looking at the crib, we pray for all families in the world, especially in our parish, that they may live in harmony, peace, unity and love. Looking at the crib, we try to fill up our hearts with love and support for those who are in need.

Jesus in the manger gives us hope. In the darkness of our world, the light of God incarnated, Jesus Christ, has shone. The coming of Jesus in gentleness, the Saviour of the world, encourages us to hold out the hand of reconciliation, to help one another, to work for peace. We remember the message of the angels: "*Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace*". We ask Baby Jesus to help us to be people of peace, peace in mind, peace in heart and peace in life, and to spread peace everywhere we go.

Christmas is about the lessons and messages behind the statues in the manger, about the heart of love and charity as well as the way of living our Christian life according to the model of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all who lived the real meaning of Christmas by helping those in need, by giving money and presents to the poor during Advent. You responded by the love of your heart to those who needed you. You gave very special gifts to them so they could share the meaning of Christmas with you.

With a Spirit of Joy and Peace of Christmas, I also would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all parishioners who have contributed and helped St. Christopher's and St. Augustine's Parish during the past year, and thank you all who assisted in making this Advent and Christmas holy and special.

May the Saviour Jesus Christ, Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph pour down God's blessings and graces upon each parishioner of St. Christopher's and St Augustine's.

*May your Christmas
and New Year
be filled with the Blessings,
Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
BLESSED NEW YEAR to ALL.**

Fr. Peter Hoang

