

**Sunday 25th December 2020**

Mass Times: Monday - Friday 9.30am, Saturday: 9:30am, 5:30pm Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

Baptisms & other sacraments: please call the office to organise.



# St Finbar's Catholic Parish

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Tues & Thurs

9.00am – 3.30pm

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Year B

## The Nativity of the Lord



Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won

a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of

God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

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**PLEASE  
REMEMBER IN  
PRAYER**



Remember Lord, those who have died and gone before us marked with the sign of faith. May they find peace in your presence light and happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### The Nativity scene

*St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.*



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**DECEMBER :**

**MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*26th St Stephen*

*27th St John the Evangelist*

*28th The Holy Innocents*

*29th St Thomas Becket*

*30th St Felix I*

*31st St Sylvester I*



*When you gather this Christmas, in whatever way that is, don't labour on the darkness and of this year - recall the wonder of that birth and the light by which we can see ahead.*

*May you, your families, loved ones, your friends and neighbours be filled with the everlasting light of life and hope this year.*

*Jesus is Christmas.*

*Archbishop Peter Comensoli*



**2021 MASS TIMES**

Monday—Friday 9.30 am

Saturday 9.30am & 5.30 pm

Sunday 9.00 am, 11.00 am



*WISHING YOU ALL A VERY SPECIAL & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

*MAY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS CONTINUE TO SPREAD INTO 2021*

*BRINGING PEACE AND LOVE INTO OUR WORLD.*

*God bless, Fr Ian Ranson*



**COVID GUIDELINES**

- PLEASE SIGN IN AT THE FRONT TABLE IN THE LOG BOOK.
- SANITISE HANDS ON ARRIVAL AND PRIOR TO RECEIVING EUCHARIST.
- DO NOT LEAVE USED MASS BULLETIN INSIDE THE CHURCH OR OTHER ITEMS.
- OBSERVE ENTRY AND EXIT LOCATIONS.
- PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ATTENDING MASS IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL AND PARTICULARLY IF YOU HAVE ANY COLD LIKE SYMPTOMS.
- **PLEASE PHYSICAL DISTANCE 1.5M INSIDE THE CHURCH.**
- **MASK IS NOT MANDATORY HOWEVER WILL NEED TO BE WORN SHOULD PHYSICAL DISTANCING NOT BE POSSIBLE.**

**SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

*St Finbar's Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.*

## **Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:1-25**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

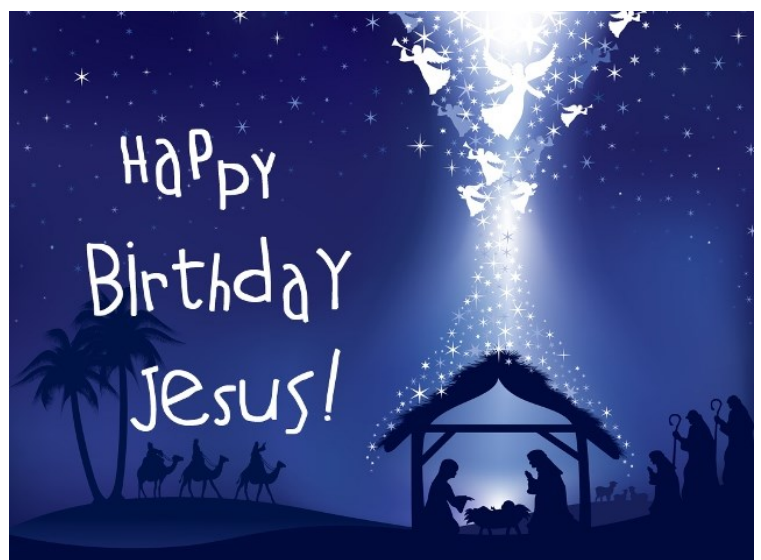
*Tomorrow the wickedness of the  
earth will be destroyed:  
the Saviour of the world will be our king.  
Alleluia!*

## **Gospel Mt 1:18-25**

*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



# THE LIVING WORD –CHRISTMAS 24TH & 25TH DECEMBER

## First Reading Is 52:7-10

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

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



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## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 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;

## Second Reading Heb 1:1-6

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

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