

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH CHELSEA

Christmas Time December 2023



*Best wishes to all in our parish
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*

*Peace, joy, happiness,
promise, hope, new life, love.*

*These are words
which all of us have wished others
in Christmas cards and greetings.
We rejoice in the Lord's presence, God-
with-us.*

*We welcome all visitors to our parish,
and lift our voices together in familiar songs and carols,
and do what we do best – celebrate the Mass,
the great feast of Christians.*

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all the volunteers who made the Christmas celebrations possible; especially the cleaning teams, St Joseph's Music Ministry – singers and organists, altar servers, ushers, collectors, readers and ministers of Holy Communion (co-ordinated by Chris Bennetts), St Joseph's Altar Society and Flowers team, all Sacristans, St Joseph's Building and Maintenance Committee, and all helpers who assisted in setting up the Advent Wreath, Crib, and Christmas Tree. A special word of thanks to the volunteers who helped with the cleaning bee, and to all those who were prepared to help and did so when they saw the need. Our wonderful parishioners who kept vigil with our Lord during Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the last week are very much appreciated.

We also thank God for the presence amongst us of the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, and for the outstanding work of the parish office team – Maree Dalton and Vanessa Heredia.

“Well done, good and faithful servants!”

*Thank
You*



The Nativity

G K Chesterton (1874 – 1936)

The thatch of the roof was as golden,
Though dusty the straw was and old,
The wind was a peal as of trumpets,
Though barren and blowing and cold:
The mother's hair was a glory,
Though loosened and torn,
For under the eaves in the gloaming —
A child was born.

O, if a man sought a sign in the inmost
That God shaketh broadest his best,
That things fairest are oldest and simplest,
In the first days created and blest:
Far flush all the tufts of the clover,
Thick mellows the corn,
A cloud shapes, a daisy is opened —
A child is born.

Though the darkness be noisy with systems,
Dark fancies that fret and disprove;
Still the plumes stir around us, above us,
The tings of the shadow of love.
Still the fountains of life are unbroken,
Their splendour unshorn;
The secret, the symbol, the promise —
A child is born.

In the time of dead things it is living,
In the moonless grey night is a gleam,
Still the babe that is quickened may conquer,
The life that is new may redeem.
Ho, princes and priests, have you heard it?
Grow pale through your scorn.
Huge dawns sleep before us, stern changes -
A child is born.
And the mother still joys
for the whispered
First stir of unspeakable things;
Still feels that high moment unfurling,
Red glories of Gabriel's wings.
Still the babe of an hour is a master
Whom angels adorn,
Emmanuel, prophet, anointed —
A child is born.

To the rusty barred doors of the hungry,
To the struggle for life and the din,
Still, with brush of bright plumes and with
knocking,
The Kingdom of God enters in.
To the daughters of patience that labour
That weep and are worn,
One moment of love and of laughter —
A child is born.

And till man and his riddle be answered,
While earth shall remain and desire,
While the flesh of a man is as grass is,
The soul of a man as a fire,
While the daybreak shall come with its banner,
The moon with its horn,
It shall rest with us that which is written —
“A child is born.”

And for him that shall dream that the martyr
Is banished, and love but a toy,
That life lives not through pain and surrender,
Living only through self and its joy,
Shall the Lord God erase from the body
The oath he has sworn?
Bend back to thy work, saying only —
“A child is born.”

Christmas 2023

Sunday 24 December
Christmas Carols 5:30pm
Vigil Mass 6pm

Christmas Carols 8:30pm
Christmas Night Mass 9pm

Monday 25 December
Christmas Carols 9:30am
Morning Mass 10am

Tuesday 26 — Saturday 30 December
Mass 9am

New Year

Saturday 30 December
6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 31 December
9am & 11 am Sunday morning Mass
3 pm Holy Hour

With *Te Deum*, Prayer during the Day
and Benediction

Monday 1 January
Mass 9 am (with blessing of new parish Mass vestments)

Tuesday 2 — Saturday 6 January
Mass 9am

From the earliest days of the Covenant, God called his People to assemble with him. “Keep Holy the Sabbath” is God’s command to us. The Lord’s Day for Christians, Sunday, is precious to us, borne out of our love for Him, who first loved us. The Solemn Obligation of Catholics to attend regular Sunday Mass, as well as on Holy Days of Obligation, was restored to the Diocese on the 27th of November 2022, after the lifting of exemptions around COVID. We extend our arms and welcome you back – the door of Grace is always opened.

