



# Parish of St Justin

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*St Justin's Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

**The Nativity of the LORD (Christmas) Day**

**25th December 2023**



*Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,*

*St Justin's Community Welcomes and give thanks to everyone for coming together and making 2023 a remarkable year,*

*From the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish staff and Fr Andrew.*

*A Very Happy Christmas & a season where God's love fill your heart with a perfect peace only He can bestow.*



## Christmas Vigil Mass - 6pm

### First Reading

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**      **Is 62:1-5**

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

**Response - Thanks be to God**

### 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.*

### Second Reading

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**      **Acts 13:16-17, 22-25**

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

**Response - Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew**

**Mt 1:18-25.**

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

**Response - Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## Christmas Midnight Mass 12am

### First Reading

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**      **Is 9:1-7**

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

**Response - Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11**

*(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

### Second Reading

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus**      **Ti 2:11-14**

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

**Response - Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel

**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

**Response - Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## Christmas Day 8.30am & 10.30am

### First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 52:7-10

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**

**Response - Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3

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

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 1:1-6

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**

**Response - Thanks be to God**

### 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

John

Jn 1:1-18

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**

**Response - Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## ARCHBISHOP COMMENSOLI's 2023 Christmas Message

In his Christmas message for 2023, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflects on the beautiful words of the prophet Isaiah, who speaks of 'the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation'.

These are beautiful words—old words, first spoken in old days, yet so sorely needed in our day!

Amid this time of conflict, suffering and exile, Isaiah speaks to us words of peace and the good news about the Prince of Peace.

Our hearts ache for reconciliation of peoples; respect for our shared humanity; care for our crying planet. Our world and its people seem to be groaning and railing against pathways to true peace.

Yet we experience the hope of God through simple words of joy, mercy and peace.

The shepherds experienced this. So did the Magi. Mary and Joseph knew it intimately.

God knew we needed his Son to come amongst us, to show us the way ahead.

As we come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this year, might we be attentive to the broken people across the world who are held captive by the tragedy of war and old hatreds.

Might we also remember those exiled in other ways—bereft of knowing God; lost and searching for identity and purpose.

We too can be the messengers whose footfalls bring light into the world, announcing mercy, bringing joy, offering Good News.

God has come among us, simply, humbly and hopefully in a little child, his Son, our Brother.

May the peace that comes through this child, the Prince of Peace, be with you this Christmas.

And with every footstep, may you take His message, and life, out into the world.

**Happy Christmas to you all!**

## Parishioners of St Justin's: Be involved & Stay involved !

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** servers at mass (Year 3 – Year 12 students).

**ALTAR GROUP:** maintains the Sanctuary, linens, vestments, candles, flowers and decorations on a week -to- week basis and for special occasions.

**CHOIR:** sings at mass; singers and musicians.

**CHURCH CLEANER:** maintain the Church foyer, sacristy, light duties as needed.

**COLLECTOR:** passes the collection baskets during Mass.

**COUNTING TEAM:** weekly rosters to assist with counting.

**DATA PROJECTIONISTS:** operate power point display during mass.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** distribute communion at Mass (Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers).

**FAIR ON THE HILL:** to assist in our annual fete held in November each year.

**MAINTENANCE TEAM:** garden and general maintenance of the parish.

**READERS:** Do the readings and prayers of intercessions during mass.

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### **Parish Pastoral Council:**

**Sacrament Preparation Classes:** Preparation for Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Confirmation

**Childrens' Ministry:** children 3 – 10 years old;

**Youth group:** young people (grade 6 – 25 years);

*For more information please contact Parish Office 9401; [wheelershill@cam.org.au](mailto:wheelershill@cam.org.au) all talk directly to Fr Andrew or members of the Parish Pastoral Team or members of the parish groups.*

## Parish Office Notice

St Justin's Parish office will be closed from the 22nd December to 5th January 2024

Whilst the Parish Office remains closed during this period, if there is any emergency please call Parish Office : 9401 6335 and leave a message and we will get in touch with you!

You can also send an email: [wheelershill@cam.org.au](mailto:wheelershill@cam.org.au)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**"St Justin's Wheelers Hill Parish, we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we implement procedures and standards as directed by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. "**