

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / B

25 DECEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

see back page for respective Mass

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT *see back page for respective Mass*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

see back page for respective Mass

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, /



Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS:

see back page for respective Mass

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

see back page for respective Mass

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

see back page for respective Mass

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

SOLEMN BLESSING

P. May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

R. Amen.

P. May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

R. Amen.

P. And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

R. Amen.

P. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ex 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria –
see front page

COLLECT

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5

RESP PSALM Ps 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

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 1:1-25 (or 1:18-25)

Profession of Faith – *see front page*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Isa 40:5

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – *see front page*

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 2:7

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

or

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria –
see front page

COLLECT

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:10-11

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

Profession of Faith – *see front page*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 1:14

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – *see front page*

MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Isa 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria –
see front page

COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:1-6

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

SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-6

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

Profession of Faith – *see front page*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

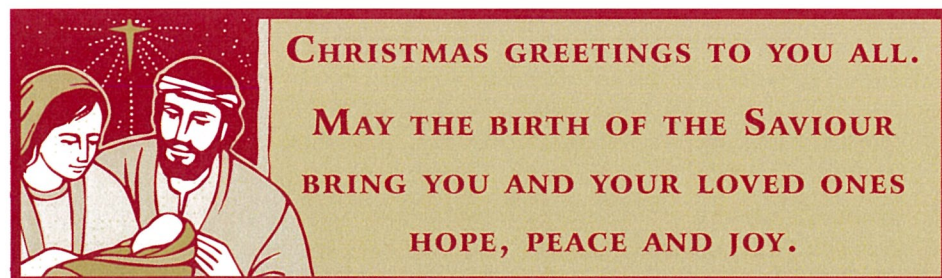
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – *see front page*

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VIGIL MASS READINGS 7PM

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

The Lord takes delight in you.

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. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

R. For ever 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

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

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. **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

Matthew 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 with her, she
gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NIGHT MASS- 10PM

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

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. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13

R. 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

God's grace has been revealed to all people.
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. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:10-11

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

Today a saviour has been born for you.
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DAWN MASS- 9AM

First Reading

Isaiah 62:11-12

Your Saviour is born.

This the Lord proclaims

to the ends of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look,

your saviour comes,

the prize of his victory with him,

his trophies before him'.

They shall be called 'The Holy People',

'The Lord's Redeemed'.

And you shall be called 'The-sought-after',

'City-not-forsaken'.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96:1, 6, 11-12

**R. A light will shine on us this day:
the Lord is born for us.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,

the many coastlands be glad.

The skies proclaim his justice;

all peoples see his glory. R.

Light shines forth for the just

and joy for the upright of heart.

Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;

give glory to his holy name. R.

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

His own compassion saved us.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS- 10.30AM

First Reading

Isaiah 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 our God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-6

R. 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

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 says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord. **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

John 1:1-18

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory. 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 this 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.