



The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN

Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.



**Emmanuel-God-With-Us,
You realize the themes of waiting, expectation, hope,
unconditional love and repentance.
May we listen, hear, touch, taste and see
the Good News of Your love;
and make room for others in our hearts.
Emmanuel-God-With-Us,
hear our prayer**

We wonder

'I am the handmaid of the Lord', said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' LUKE 1:38

The Mary Candle

Today we honour Mary's role in our Salvation: She gave Jesus to the world.

Among our many Advent traditions is that of the Mary Candle

- A white candle tied with blue ribbon -

which stands witness to Mary's many months of expectancy and hope. In your home you might also light a Mary Candle as an added reminder of your hope in Jesus, the light of the world.

MARY'S PLACE IN OUR HERITAGE:

Pregnancy and birth are among the most common experiences of life - yet almost every pregnancy is extraordinary. We think of our Mothers who are expecting, and today too, of many Mothers who have lost their babies.

Like all mothers, Mary experienced the hope and expectation of her new child along with great physical and lifestyle changes. She was also on the threshold of a unique relationship with her God.

WHAT DOES MARY MEAN FOR US?

Firstly, Mary was human. She accepted God's call, but she still struggled with the meaning of much that she experienced.

It is clear that faithfulness does not mean an easy path, free of doubt and struggle.

Such example is relevant today in a world of many changes and challenges.

Secondly, it is also an appropriate time to acclaim the place of the feminine in our Church, as Mary exemplifies; the place of care and constant support, the willingness to remain faithful in times of trauma as well as times of joy. In a world that is thankfully growing in the recognition of the place of the feminine, we of the Church can look to Mary's response as a source of inspiration.



It is nearly Christmas! We light the four candles on the wreath, wrap presents, catch up with friends and family. And we remember that we do this in the name of Jesus, who comes to heal the world and inspires us to listen to God and live our lives in response to God's hopes for us.

4th Sunday of Advent - Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Eliza-beth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.'

'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Reflect

If Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit—defined as charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, gentleness, and chastity—then obviously the child she gestated will radiate those qualities.

We awaken the Christ-child when we smile at charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, gentleness, and chastity until they begin to smile back. What comes back is the power of Christmas, a baby's power to transform a heart, divine power hidden in human weakness. We have to help make Christmas happen.

(Ron Rolheiser, 29 December, 2002)



The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 23-24 December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Arsenio Tuazon

Pastor Emeritus: Fr. John Dupuche

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

120 Oban Road, Ringwood North 3134

Phone: 70369395

Email: Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.holyspiritparish.org.au

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, closed Mondays

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE (Wednesday to Friday)

Jacinta Bibby jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au

PARISH SECRETARIES

Ruth Frangeskakis ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au

Jenny Philp jenny.philp@cam.org.au

HIGH SPIRITS COORDINATOR

Elma Gama

PARISH HOSTESS

Mary Yeo

MASS TIMES: Friday 9:15am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9am
1st Saturday of the month 9:15am (not January)

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—Holy Spirit

Duncan Arendse —9876 1103

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Secretary ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au

FETE COMMITTEE

Adam Stone (Chairperson) - fete@holyspiritparish.org.au

PARISH OF ST GERARD AND ST ANNE

St Gerard's: McCulloch Street, Warrandyte 3113

St Anne's: 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards 3114

Phone: 7064 3922

Email: ParkOrchards@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte

PARISH SECRETARY

Kerry McGowan

Office Hours:

TUES 1.30pm to 3.45pm
WED 1.30pm to 3.45pm
THURS 11.30am to 3.45pm
FRI 12.30pm to 3.45pm

Masses:

Tuesdays 9am St Gerard's Warrandyte
Sundays 10:30am—1st Sunday of the month @
St Anne's, every other Sunday at St Gerard's.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—St. Anne's

Michael Edmonds—9876 1533

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST—RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: June and Leo Taffe, Mick McLachlan, Rod Daily, Bruce Peck, John Hogan, Murray Bouchier, Vincent Ryan, Flo West and Justin and David Crowe

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK: Stella & family, Sean Hill, Valerie Mason, Adrian Ness, Carol Vallance, Chris Neate, Edna Danelutti, Helen, Justine, Christian Heskett, Will Laussen, Kerry McIntyre, Lyn Read, Heather Doy, Evelyn Reinecke, Melanie Saba, Arthur McConnell, Penny Mifsud, Patricia Higgins, Sharon Cass, Kellie Nagle

Readings this week: Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

The Word, Spirit Magazine and "Spirit Extra" are available online at www.holyspiritparish.org.au

Holy Spirit Parish Vision

At Holy Spirit Parish, we are an inviting community inspired by the Holy Spirit; welcoming everyone to worship, grow, belong and serve together as Disciples of Christ.



Holy Spirit is a child safe parish. At Holy Spirit we hold the care, safety and well being of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

Christmas Celebrations at Holy Spirit

Everyone is invited to join in our celebration
of the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve

24th December

5:00pm Children's Mass, Holy Spirit Church

7:30pm Mass, Holy Spirit Church

10:30pm Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel

Christmas Day

25th December

9am Mass, Holy Spirit Church

Children are encouraged to come dressed
as Angels, Shepherds, etc.

Carols will be sung before each Mass,
please arrive early!

EVENTS THIS COMING WEEK - 25th-31st December 2023

MONDAY	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED—REOPENS TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	6.00 pm Rosary via Zoom
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel (continues throughout January 2024)
SATURDAY	6.00 pm Vigil Mass, Holy Spirit Church
SUNDAY	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 9.00 am Mass, Holy Spirit Church NO 5.00 pm Mass - resumes Sunday 4th February 2024

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 30th-31st December 2023

Mass Coordinators:

6.00 pm: Mary Ryan

9.00 am: Bill Lanigan

5.00 pm: Resumes 4th February 2024

Lectors:

6.00 pm: Maureen Chamberlin

9.00 am: Linda Parlee

Welcomers:

6.00 pm: Jean Smith

9.00 am: Nola Ryan

Ministers of Communion: **6.00 pm:** Maureen and Etta

9.00 am: Silvio and Ada Volombello

Tea and Coffee: **9.00 am:** Chris and Vicki Morris

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR ARSENIO. On the first Christmas night, more than 2000 years ago, the Saviour of all humankind came to us as a humble and precious baby. We can find renewed hope and joy when he came into the world as a blessing. He became the light of the world. New light is kindled in each of us.

Regardless of our current circumstances, we need his light more than ever, the light of Jesus Christ. It is not just about what we say but also about what we do. We need those who seek the Lord, who serve the Lord, who reflect his light. There is no better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus than by serving, loving, and lifting others as the world needs the light of Christ. Jesus changed the world for each of us. He is the light we need to hold up and fills us with goodwill toward people. Let us be in this season his life of loving kindness and testify that he lives as a light. Wishing everyone a warm celebration this Christmas full of love and joy!- Fr. Arsenio

Arrangements in January.

Please note: the office will be "closed" from 4pm Friday 22 December 2023 to Tuesday 9th January.

All phone messages and emails to the parish office will be monitored and responded to as quickly as possible. Fr Arsenio will be taking a short break during January. Fr John will celebrate the weekend Masses. Wednesday morning Masses will not be celebrated during January. Friday morning Masses (9:15am) continue throughout the holiday season and January. Wishing everyone a peace filled joyous Christmas!

SUNDAY 5PM MASS IN THE CHAPEL Sunday 5pm masses will resume after the Christmas/New Year holiday period on Sunday 4th February 2024.



"Thank you to all who contributed to our "bumper" double edition of The Spirit magazine. We hope you enjoy it! Please take a copy to deliver to anyone you know who would like to catch up on parish news. Help us fulfill The Spirit's mission of outreach. Thank you".

To read the Spirit online please follow this link: <https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Spirit-Magazine>

On Saturday 9 December, Vinnies delivered approx. 85 Christmas hampers and 3 gifts per child under 14 years old in the North Ringwood Community . The recipients were very grateful as the hampers & gifts will provide a happier Christmas. Our thanks to the generous parishioners of Holy Spirit & St. Anne's and the teachers, staff and parents of our 2 primary schools .



Holy Spirit Web Site - www.holyspiritparish.org.au:

Stay in touch with our parish website.

- "News, Events": ref menu
- "How we stay connected", online resources such as Masses, Prayers, Newsletters, Next Zoom: ref home page

Parish Database Update Please remember to advise the parish staff of any changes to phone and email details so we can update our database via email to Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au or phone 7036 9395.

Tuesday Meditation Tuesdays @ 9:15am in the Holy Spirit Chapel (not during School holidays). Please contact Len on 0401 519 727 if you have queries. **Resumes Tuesday 6th February 2024.**

Charismatic Prayer Group Resumes Tuesday 6th February 2024.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH ZOOM ROSARY (Continues weekly throughout Holiday Season)

Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm—Meeting ID: 631 950 8706 Passcode: 2p7ssZ

Hosted by Ambrose & Philomena Cornelio

Prayer requests may be emailed to Ambrose: acornelio@connecteast.com.au for inclusion weekly.

Collection Notice For information on the Parish's policies regarding information collection and privacy please refer to: www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Collection-Notice

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Celebrant:

Dear Friends in Christ. During this time of Advent, may we be ready to recognise and welcome the Lord who leads us out of any darkness in our lives into the glorious light of God's Kingdom of Justice, Peace and Joy.

Reader:

We pray that we may never lose faith in God's loving presence with us, no matter what the circumstances of our life may be.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for our priests and bishops, that like Mary, they might believe in the promise made to them by the Lord and deepen their trust in God's sustaining presence in their lives.

LORD HEAR US.

That we may be people of faith like Mary and Joseph, withholding any hasty judgements about ourselves and others and trusting that, in due course, the grace of God will unfold in our lives.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for all new parents and those awaiting the birth of a child; that they may welcome with joy God's action in their lives and nurture the gift of life entrusted to their care.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for the bereaved who mourn the loss of family members and friends at this time; that they may be comforted in their sadness and experience healing and peace through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the loving care of others.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: June and Leo Taffe, Mick McLachlan, Rod Daily, Bruce Peck, John Hogan, Murray Bouchier, Vincent Ryan, Flo West and Justin and David Crowe.

May they rest in the loving arms and peace of Christ.

LORD HEAR US.

Celebrant:

Loving God, Your saving grace embraces all people in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and brother. Hear these prayers that we make to You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION: Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

On the Journey this week: On the Journey this week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says Christmas Eve is a time of preparation, joy, and primarily it's a time of anticipation. Mother Hilda says when you utter the words, Happy Christmas, pray swiftly in your heart for that person; "May you know that he came for you." Fr Tony Percy says faith gives us a great light to see God, but also to see ourselves and to see others in the human condition. Fr Sean Cullen says Christmas is radiant light, like a new sunrise and Sr Mary Helen Hill OP asks as we kneel before Jesus during these Christmas days, what will we offer him? How will we give glory to his holy name? Plus, more great music! Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen any time

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

The Lord will protect the dynasty of David forever.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 Now when David, the king, was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
2 the king said to the prophet Nathan,
“See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.”
3 Nathan said to the king,
“Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.”
4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5 “Go and tell my servant David:
Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
8 I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep
to be prince over my people Israel:
9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
10 “And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,
so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies.
“Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.
12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors,
I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.
14 “I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.
16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne, David, shall be established forever.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 26+28, (R.1a)

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

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. **R.**
3 You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:
4 I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.” **R.**
26 He shall cry to me, “You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”
28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm. **R.**

SECOND READING

Romans 16.25-27

The mystery, so long held secret, is now revealed to all.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

25 To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery
26 that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to
all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God,
to bring about the obedience of faith—
27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMAT I O N

Luke 1.38

Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the servant of the Lord:

let it be done to me according to your word.

Alleluia

GOSPEL

Luke 1.26-38

You will conceive in your womb and bear a son.

A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came to Mary and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

36 "And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

