

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC PARISH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 16th December, 2018 "Go Make Disciples"



CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Children's Mass

6.30pm Family Mass

8.30pm Mid Evening Mass

(Carols from 8.00pm)

12.00am Midnight Mass

(Carols from 11.30pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Christmas Mass



Mass Times

Saturday Sunday
6.00 pm 9.00 am
10.30 am

Weekdays

Monday 6.00 pm Tuesday 9.30 am Thursday 7.00 pm Friday 8.30 am

This Week at Resurrection

Monday 17th December 2018

5.00am Dawn Mass 9.15am End of year Mass

6.00pm Mass

Tuesday 18th December 2018

5.00am Dawn Mass 9.30am Mass

Wednesday 19th December 2018

5.00am Dawn Mass

9.30am Communion Service

10.00am Rosary

Last Day of School

Thursday 20th December 2018

5.00am Dawn Mass

9.15am Christian Meditation

7.00pm Mass

Friday 21st December 2018

5.00am Dawn Mass 8.30am Mass

9.00am Stations of the Cross

Saturday 22nd December 2018

5.00am Dawn Mass 9.30am Reconciliation

6.00pm Mass

Sunday 23rd December 2018 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5.00am Dawn Mass 9.00am Mass 10.30am Mass We pray in thanksgiving for Lola Bajada, Herman Maigue, Peter Watts and all those who have died re cently.

We pray for Rosa Vanek, Michael Angelo Formosa, George Borg and all those whose anniversary occur at about this time.

Please also pray for Justin Florenda, Marie Michel Rath, Justin Floranda and all those who are sick.

Dawn Mass at 5am

Did you know that a Mass at 5am is celebrated in our church from 16th to 24th December inclusive?

It is a gift brought to Australia from the Philippines by some of our parishioners. As in the Filipino tradition breakfast is provided after Mass. All is welcome.

Bishop Mark Edward will be celebrating Mass on the 19th December.

End of year School Mass

The end of year school Mass will be on Monday 17th December at 9.15am. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Ministry Sign ups

We need your help. Its ministry sign up time again for 2019. Every ministry sign up will help. Please consider what ministry or gifts you can bring forward to Resurrection. If you're not sure on what a ministry has involved please look up our ministry description, I'm sure there will be something for you. The ministry descriptions can be found at the Welcome Desk, Parish Office or on our Website.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed at noon Sunday 23rd December and will reopen on Monday 28th January. However, the office will be open each Sunday during the period.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy is run by the Young Adults group. Their 1st Children's Liturgy was taken place last Sunday at the 10.30am Mass. The team said they had a great turn out, with lots of information being shared and reflected about the Gospel. Save the date the next Children's liturgy will be on the 20th January 2019 at the 10.30am Mass. All children are welcome. All the group members have a current working with children's check.

Christian Meditation

Would you like to learn about mediation in the Christian tradition?

You are invited to join Fr Gerard in the Church on 6th, 13th and 20th December at 9.15am to learn and have an experience of Christian Meditation.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Some people have an image of God who must be obeyed out of fear. Rules of behaviour are kept as part of a deal to avoid punishment. But St Paul was imitating God when he told the Philippians that all he wanted was their 'happiness'. God's deepest desire is that we share divine bliss. St Thomas Aquinas tells us that the goal of human life is this beatific happiness.

Of course, there is a way of life which responds to the Divine Lover. John the Baptist insists on rules of social justice, particularly those which forbid taking advantage of the vulnerable. But these are the minimum. He envisages a response of extravagant generosity. It will take Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire to make this possible.

This was effected by the One foretold by John. He doesn't name him, but we know it was Jesus of Nazareth who had the power to unleash such over-the-top generosity. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost as if in wind and fire. This created a new community which, the Acts of Apostles tells us, responded with acts of unrestrained generosity to the vulnerable and needy.

We might pause for a moment to pray for a generous spirit responding in gratitude to the Divine Lover who, as Risen Lord, has the power and will to enable us to be filled with Divine Bliss.

Sudoku - Medium

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				4			5	
7				3	5			
	2	7			3			9
	2		5		8		2	
5			5 9			7	1	
			3	5				8
	6			8				
9					4	6		

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

- 'A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people.' Is there an expectancy growing in you as the coming of Christ draws closer?
- 'What must we do?' Are there things which you can do in your life in order to live more ethically? John's words offer a deep challenge to how people live.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Living ethically is not always an easy thing to do. What are some of the challenges of the present age which make it difficult to live ethically? How often do we hear' but everyone does it' and what are some of the circumstances about which such a statement is made? How should a Christian respond in such circumstances?

DID YOU KNOW?

Tax collectors at the time of Jesus were disliked immensely for two reasons: they collaborated with the Roman oppressors and they skimmed additional monies from the people for themselves.

The Jewish people of this time were hopeful that a Messiah would come to overthrow the tyranny of the Roman Empire and set them free.

The word 'Messiah' in Hebrew means 'anointed one'; the word 'Christ' has exactly the same meaning in Greek.

PRAYER

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

Cry out with joy and gladness:

For among you is the great and

Holy One of Israel.

GOSPEL REFLECTION The Secret of Happiness

One of the themes of today's readings is that of happiness. All of us want is to be happy. But what is the secret of happiness?

Once a shepherd sent his son to a wise man to learn the secret of happiness. When he arrived at the beautiful castle where the wise man lived, the boy told him he wished to know the secret of happiness. However, instead of explaining the secret to him, the wise man handed him a spoon filled with oil, saying, 'Take a look around the palace. As you go around, carry this spoon with you without allowing the oil to spill.'

The boy began to move around the palace. As he did so he kept his eyes fixed on the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the room where the wise man was.

'Well,' asked the wise man, 'what have you seen?

The boy was embarrassed, and confessed that he had seen nothing. His only concern had been not to spill the oil that the wise man had entrusted to him. 'Well then,' said the wise man, 'go back and observe the marvels of my world. You cannot trust a man if you don't know his house.'

Relieved, the boy picked up the spoon and returned to his exploration of the palace, this time observing all the beautiful furniture and works of art that adorned the rooms of the castle. Then he visited the garden, with its magnificent fountain and beautiful flowers and shrubs, admiring the taste with which everything was laid out. On returning to the wise man, he related in detail everything he had seen.

'But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?' asked the wise man. Looking down at the spoon, the boy saw that the oil was gone.

'Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you,' said the wise man. 'The secret of happiness lies in the ability to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil in the spoon.'

The boy understood immediately what the wise man was saying. A shepherd may like to travel, but he should never forget his sheep. The secret of happiness consists in being faithful to one's commitments and responsibilities while at the same time enjoying life. It's easy to be happy when we are doing what we want. But to find happiness in what we have to do, not simply in what we want to do, this is a blessing from God.

Happiness is not a shallow self-satisfaction. There can be no happiness for us as long as the things we do are different from the things we believe. And there can be no happiness without love. A sadness falls upon us when we say 'no' to love.

And we mustn't equate joy with pleasure. Pleasure is of the body; joy is of the spirit. You can quickly become tired of pleasures, but you never grow tired of joys.

In the end, only God can fulfil our dreams, and happiness is the best sign of his presence. The presence of God is the cause of our joy. Isaiah said to the people, 'Shout for joy.' What is the cause of that joy? Because 'God is in your midst.' And Paul said to the Philippians, 'I want you to be happy.' Why? Because 'the Lord is very near.' The joy that this world cannot give is the joy that comes from a sense of God and his love for us.



22nd & 23rd December 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30 A M		
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Lorenz Rena		
er Patelesio Valeliano		
Paul Bossini		
Queentexan Alexander		
Rachitha Antony		
Veronica Balinakandi		
Euphemia Kollie		
Lynette Pirotta		
Evelina Tuimauga		
a Josephine Medilo		
Imeleta Filimoeatu		
Lilian Libang		
Marian Bernardo		
Marissa Medilo		
Owen D'Cruze		
Natalie Anderson		
owers during Advent		
b Chege		
NING: Doris Cauchi		
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Next Week's Readings — 23rd December 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent



Reading 1

Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading 2 **Heb 10:5-10**

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God."

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."



Reflection

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord Jesus, come into our weakness. Come into our fears.

Come into our anxieties.

Come into our failures.

Come into our divisions.

Come into our grieving.

Come into our loneliness.

Come into our darkness

Come into our doubting.

Come into our despair.

Come into our poverty of heart.

Come into our joys and hopes.

Come into our dying

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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