

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. YEAR A.**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-14**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above." 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

This is the word of the Lord.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM..Ps 23:1-6. R. v 7-10.**

***Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.***

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. ®

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. ®

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.. ®.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations

and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mt 1:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A virgin will give birth to a son: his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.**

**Alleluia!**

### **GOSPEL. Matthew 1:18-24.**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

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 had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Please join us for a 'cuppa' to welcome Fr. George after the 10am Mass.

**OUR LOCAL CHURCH TO  
THE PLENARY COUNCIL**

Archbishop Prowse is inviting clergy and laity to discern if they feel called to nominate as one of two delegates who will join with the Archbishop, Fr Tony Percy, our diocesan Vicar General and Mons John Woods our diocesan Episcopal Vicar for Education.

Further information is available from the parish office including an Expression of Interest form to be completed.

Any person who expresses their interest in being called by our diocese to be a delegate to the Plenary Council must be available for the following dates:

Melbourne 18-20/6/20, Brisbane 25-27/6/20,  
Sydney 16-18/7/20, Perth 23-25/7/20.  
Plenary Council General Assembly 4-11/10/20  
and 28/6-3/7/20.

Anyone who cannot be available for all of these dates, unfortunately is ineligible to be called.

Expressions of interest to be sent by 25th January, 2010.

*Please pray for the sick:*

Lee and Jerome Maat, Gail Moss,  
Kay Morton, Laurie-Anne Foran, John Bolton,  
Norman Collins.

**For the souls of:** Ack Wayman, Nic de Grave, Yvonne Dunn, Marie Irwin and Adalbert Planinsic whose funeral was held last Friday and Katherine Harris's father (3 weeks ago) and her mother last weekend.

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL 6PM**  
**CHILDREN'S SPECIAL.**



Dear Parents, All the children of the Parish and our school are invited to attend the Vigil Mass on Tuesday 24th December at 6.00pm in the school hall. This celebration of the birth of Jesus will begin at 6pm with the singing of Christmas Carols. The children are invited to dress us as the characters of the Christmas story (e.g. angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Kings) and are invited to be seated around the altar.

*Welcome Fr George Azhakath MSFS*

*to the Sacred Heart Parish Moruya and Districts.*

Father George was born in central Kerala state in India. He is the fourth child of Varghese and Teresa and belongs to the Syro-Malabar Rite. He studied at the Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Bangalore, India. He was ordained a Priest in 1989 and is a member of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (SFS), a French Order.

Father worked for 14 years in India in various capacities as assistant priest, finance procurator, minor seminary assistant rector, administrator of a Spirituality Institute, SFS Publications, etc.

He came to Australia and worked in the Archdiocese of Sydney for twelve years and then in the Diocese of Parramatta for two years.

**Fourth Week of Advent. Prayer for lighting the candle.**

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

~AMEN.



## **CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH INVITATION.**

All are invited to attend the Christmas Day lunch held in: the Anglican Red Door hall in Page Street, Moruya on Christmas Day at noon.



Come and be company for others and perhaps for yourself. There is no charge and you just turn up.

If you would like to know more contact:  
Ilonka 0428213787.  
Everyone is welcome.

## **NELLIGEN BOAT TRIP.**

All are invited to join us on Thursday 16th January as we travel up the Clyde to Nelligen. The boat leaves at 11.30am. Cost is \$45 pp, \$22 child 5—14 years old. The cost includes the trip, fish and chips for lunch and afternoon tea on the way back. We will be able to have a close up look at the new bridge being built. If you have grandchildren bring them along, families are welcome too, it is why we have chosen January. We can car pool.



**PLEASE INDICATE ON THE LIST AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.** We just need an indication of those interested.

Contact either Caring Group for more information or Pat.

## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL.**

Vinnies held a retiring collection last weekend. If you were unable to donate to their wonderful works of charity last weekend, please drop your donation into the shop. Contact Vinnies if you wanted to make a direct debit, for their banking details.

## **ARCHBISHOPS'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.**

The Christmas Season gives us a great opportunity to reflect more deeply on the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ in the humble manger in Bethlehem.

Like all newly born babies, Jesus is totally defenceless. By defenceless I mean that he is totally dependent on his parents. Mary and Joseph look after him in every way as any loving and caring parents would for their new born babe.

At the end of the life of Jesus we find Him again being totally defenceless on the Calvary Cross. Now as an adult, taking the sins of the world on Himself, he goes from the wooden manger to the wooden cross and is totally dependent on God, our Heavenly Father, to raise him up at the Resurrection.

Also, during the life of Jesus, from birth to death, he is often heard expressing his total dependence on his Heavenly Father, who He calls "Abba".

Let us unite with the defencelessness of Jesus at this Christmas time. Let us therefore become totally dependent, like the new born babe Jesus, on the Lord while facing the challenges of our daily life.

We become defences when we listen really carefully to others rather than talking. As we gather with our family and friends over Christmas time, let us be conscious of listening and building bridges by becoming vulnerable and defenceless in the face of everyday family challenges. At the same time, many of those on the periphery of life find they are totally defenceless regarding their need of the basic necessities of life, things you and I take for granted at Christmas time. Let us be extra sensitive to their needs.

Happy Christmas to you all and may God bless you and your families.

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse.**

**Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn  
December 2019.**

## **MORUYA CARING GROUP.**

The group is still in need of more volunteers. If you would like to know more please phone them.





# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A.

21—22/12/2019.

### Moruya Sacred Heart Parish.

36 Queen Street.

(P.O. Box 23)

Moruya. NSW. 2537.

Fr. George Azhakath.

Office: 02 4474 2024

Email: Moruya@cg.org.au.

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

### REGULAR MASS TIMES:

Sat: 6pm. Moruya.

Sun: 8am 'The Pines' Tuross Head.

10am. Moruya.

Mon: 9.15am Communion Service

Tues: 5.30pm Mass

Wed: 9.15am Mass

2.00 pm Mass Banksia Village

Thurs: 9.15am Mass

First Thursday of the month

10.30am. Mass. IRT. Moruya

Fri: 9.15am Mass

**Rosary:** After mass.

**Reconciliation:** 10—10.30 am Sat.

**Baptisms, Anointings, Weddings  
and Funerals by appointment.**

### CARING GROUPS:

Tuross Head 0497 315 534.

Moruya: 0431 354 993.

### SCHOOLS:

St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817.

Carroll College Broulee: 44715600.

### WEEKEND MASSES 2019:

21/12. 6pm. Moruya.

22/12. 8am Tuross Head.

10am Moruya

23/12 NO MASS

### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

24/12 6pm. St Mary's School Hall.

Midnight Sacred Heart Moruya

### **Christmas Day 25th/12**

8am Tuross Head

10am Moruya

\*8 am. Bodalla

Please note the new time for Bodalla .

## Emmanuel "God—is—with—us"

### "Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David"



The story of the virgin birth is at the heart of our Christmas celebrations. Hence, today's readings focus on the story of the virgin birth.

In the first reading the prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz of Judah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" Matthew considers this one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future messianic king, Christ, to be born as a descendant of David. In the second reading, Paul also asserts that Jesus was a descendant of David and thus the Messiah (from David according to the flesh"). Paul explains that Jesus was made Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead. Then he provides a sweeping summary of God's mighty acts in history through Jesus Christ.

Today's gospel, from Matthew, focuses on the person and role of Joseph. In order for Jesus to fulfil the messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Hence, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph. But because Joseph was the husband of Mary at the time Jesus was born, Jesus was legally the son of Joseph and thus a descendant of David. Fr. George.