

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

6pm: Vigil mass Sacred Heart, Moruya (36 Queen Street)

Special Children's mass. Children are encouraged to come dressed in Nativity costumes (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Wisemen)

Christmas Day

8am: Tuross (36 Craddock Road)

10am: Sacred Heart, Moruya



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au

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

Priest: Fr Eden Langlands

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9am—2pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 5:15pm-5:45pm before Mass

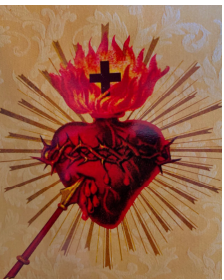
Tuross Mass: Sun: 8am

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am Adoration 40 mins before weekday Mass



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR A -

December 17 & 18 2022

**“Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph,
a son of David”**

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel”

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. Our **gospel** lesson is from Matthew and it focuses also on the person and role of Joseph. In today's **gospel**, Matthew understands the passage from Isaiah as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future messianic king, Christ, to be born as a descendant of David. In order for Jesus to fulfill this promise, Joseph had to accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. 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. The **second reading** also asserts that Jesus the Messiah was a descendant of David.

Prayer for the Parish

Almighty God, we pray for Your blessing upon our parish and all who share in the life and work of the parish.

Mother Mary, pray for us, so that God's will may be done in all things regarding our parish. Grant us the grace to provide good pastoral care, and help us to be joyful, spirit-led people of deep faith, fully equipped to assist others to encounter Christ in a deep and meaningful way. Amen



FR EDEN FAREWELL: Fr Eden's last day in the Parish will be on **Sunday, 1 January**. A Farewell Morning Tea is being organised after 10am mass. If you would like to make a contribution towards a gift, please see John Munce or John Gillet or pop into the office Wednesday or Friday between 9am-2pm.

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Parishioners are invited to write their prayer intentions and place them on the Christmas tree at the front of the Church. These intentions will be remembered at mass.

ST MARY'S YEAR 6 GRADUATION:

Year 6's Graduation Mass was held on 8 December. Thank you to all involved for a special celebration. Congratulations to all our Year 6 Graduates!



A warm invitation

Community
**Christmas
Day Lunch**

11.30am for 12 noon

Red Door Hall
next to St. Johns Church
corner of Page & Campbell St
Moruya

Lunch is free. All welcome.
small gifts for all

for bookings leave message: 4474 0300 or come on the day



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 Immanuel,
a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

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.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

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 Mt 1:18-24

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you O Lord

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) Like Joseph, trust in God, listen to Him and be faithful. We are here in this Church, seven days before Christmas, because like Joseph, we are faithful and we trust in God. We are not like Ahaz—we do not rely on ourselves; we rely on God’s power and God’s mercy. But for many of us Christmas is a difficult time, especially for those who have suffered losses of loved ones. Some are concerned about losing their jobs, others have problems making ends meet financially, and still others have conflicts in relationships. And yet, like Joseph ... and Mary, we are called to be faithful and to trust in God—not to rely on our own schemes to get through life, but to truly trust in God and listen to Him in fervent prayer and listen to Him speaking through the Bible. So we promise God that we will trust him, and that we will remain faithful. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God’s goodness and mercy and welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives this Christmas.

2) Experience Emmanuel in our lives: God, who entered our world through Jesus 2000 years ago, is at work in the world. But the question is if God has come to be present in our lives and our world, then why are there so many lives which are unhappy and unsettled? Why are people so hostile, having each other, and why do so many love relationships turn sour? Why is there domestic violence and child abuse? Why is there war in at least a dozen countries of God’s good earth at any given time? Why are there so many people homeless and hungry, even in prosperous countries? The good news and the consoling message of Christmas is that the child Jesus still waits today to step into our hearts—your heart and mine—and to change us and the world around us by the beauty of God’s love, kindness, mercy and compassion. Let us take some time to let the Christ child enter our hearts and lives this week so that He may change our world of miseries with the beauty of that love.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, and the sick members of our Parish: Ben Pollock, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry, Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Jenny McCaskill, Annette Moore, Annette and John Nader, John Harnett, Ross Hay, Bernard Carroll, Taine Woodford, Jaijing Greenwood, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales and Lyn Timms.

BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday to Susie McCosker who celebrated her special day on 13 December and John Munce who celebrates his on 22 December.

CONDOLENCES: We have been advised of the recent passing of John Hughes. Please keep the Hughes family in your prayers.

ADVENT PRAYER GROUP: We will continue to meet for prayer and discussion in the Church after 5:30pm Mass each Tuesday during **Advent**. This is a wonderful opportunity to spiritually prepare ourselves for the Feast of Christmas.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION: The Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated next **Wednesday, 21 December at 6:00pm** in the Church. We are all encouraged to avail ourselves of this wonderful sacrament as we prepare to welcome Christ anew into our hearts this Christmas.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. 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. **(R.)**
2. 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. **(R.)**
3. 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. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 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