

## CHRISTMAS MASS

### TIMES

**Christmas Eve - No 9:15am mass**

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

**Children's special mass.** Children are encouraged to come dressed in Nativity costumes (we would love to see Marys, Josephs, Angels, Shepherds and Wisemen)

### Christmas Day

**8am:** Tuross (36 Craddock Road)

**9:30:** Bodalla (62 Princes Highway)

**10am:** Sacred Heart, Moruya

**No Saturday vigil mass.**

**Sunday 26 December 8am:** Tuross, **10am:** Sacred Heart, Moruya (no Bodalla 3pm mass)

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Tickets are on sale and are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Prizes include: Southlands Butchery \$150 voucher, Cameron's Hardware \$100 voucher and various wines. Tickets will be available at every weekend mass up to Christmas. The raffle will be drawn on Christmas Day after 10am mass.

**ARCHDIOCESAN ZOOM GROUPS FOR ADVENT:** Join an Archdiocesan ZOOM Advent discussion group 4pm this Sunday or 10am this coming Tuesday. Log on as an individual or as a group using: Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96186839540> Meeting ID: 961 8683 9540 Or use the resource [www.cgatholic.org.au/ADVENT](http://www.cgatholic.org.au/ADVENT) at a time that suits you. Enquiries [lara.kirk@cg.org.au](mailto:lara.kirk@cg.org.au) 0429 192 869.

**ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will again be held at all Christmas masses. To offer a helping hand to others this Christmas can be a way of stirring the great hope of Christmas especially as Covid-19 continues to impact all our lives. Generosity in the face of COVID challenges will again be needed to enable us to reach out and assist our neighbours in need this year.

**CARING GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY:** On Thursday, 2 December, 40 parishioners gathered from the Tuross Head Men's Shed, the Tuross and Moruya Caring Groups to celebrate the joy of Christmas. Lots of fun was had by all ... especially the parishioners who acted out the twelve days of Christmas! Thank you to Leslie Willmouth who made the beautiful festive cake and Joy Bourke who assisted with the cutting and also thanks to Annie Jones who entertained the group with the playing of Christmas Carols.



# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:moruya@cg.org.au)

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

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

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

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm. Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am

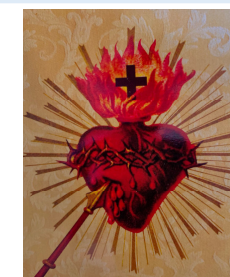
Tuross Mass: Sun: 8am Bodalla: Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am and Fourth Sunday of the month 3pm

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 before/after mass. Adoration & Benediction Fridays 9.45—10.45am



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR C -

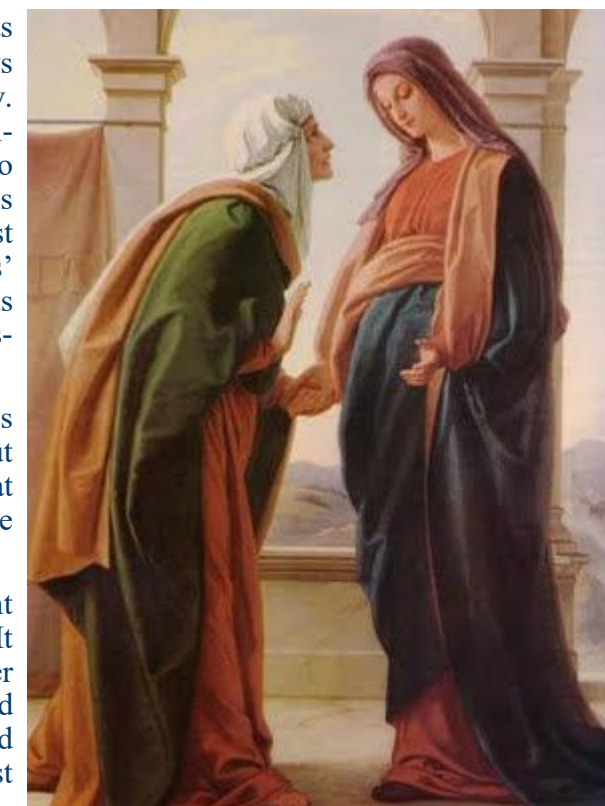
December 18 & 19 2021

**Elizabeth said to Mary “Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”**

Today's readings prepare us for the upcoming feast of Christmas by bringing together the major themes of the first three Sundays of Advent, namely promise, repentance, transformation and joy. They remind us that the mystery of the Incarnation comes to ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the openness to do God's will, and the willingness to respond to God's call. Today's readings suggest that we should not celebrate Christmas as just an occasion for nice feelings. Instead, commemorating Jesus' birth should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect obedience to His will, and thus to become true disciples.

In the **first reading**, the prophet Micah insists that God chooses what is humanly insignificant and unpromising to bring about His own loving purposes. Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promises, that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem He will send them the long expected ruler.

In the **Gospel**, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women came to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin, who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.



### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

**Priest:** Lord, Jesus Christ, you are the Saviour of the world. We ask you to bless this advent wreath which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption when you will come to reign as King for ever.

### **Prayer for the lighting of the Candle**

**All:** O God, we remember the promise of your Son. As light from this candle, may the blessings of Christ come upon brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Saviour bring light into the darkness of our world and to us as we wait for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**(one candle is lit and then the following prayer is said)**

**All:** O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ desire of every nation, Saviour of all people, come and dwell among us.

**Priest:** During this Advent season may almighty God let the light of his Son shine upon us. May he fill our hearts with joy at his coming and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.



# Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth,  
gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers  
will come back  
to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on  
he will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

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

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
**(R.)**

## Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts

or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded  
in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am!

I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Lk 1:39-45

P: The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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) We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did.** We can make a real difference in the lives of others by carrying Jesus to them. However, we cannot give what we do not possess. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing his rebirth within us. Thus he enables us to share his love with all whom we encounter by offering them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate caring. Sharing Jesus with others is the best Christmas we can give. God wants each of us, like Mary, to carry to those around us the Lord of Life. It is easy to send flowers, Christmas cards and gifts. To give the gift of oneself, however, is the greatest gift of all. Let us take the time to visit others this Christmas, to bring some inspiration into their lives, and hopefully to bring them closer to God. Let us share with them the Spirit of God, the Spirit of consolation, of courage, of peace and joy, just as Mary did. During the Christmas Season, God calls us into action as He did Mary. Is there anyone we know who is lonely, in a nursing home, ill or bedridden? Can we help him or her with a brief visit? Is there extra food in our pantry that a poor family could use? Organisations as St Vincent de Paul can find such a family for us.

**2) We need to bless and encourage the younger generation.** Elizabeth demonstrates the responsibility of the older generation to inspire the younger generation. We need others to recognize our gifts, to honour our true being, and to pronounce "the goodness of God upon us." Grandparents and parents, teachers and leaders have the responsibility of encouraging those around them by saying "You are an important person, valuable to God and to me". During this Christmas week, parents and older people might convey a blessing to others, especially the young. Complimenting and encouraging one's spouse, children and friends. Let us make them know how valuable they are to us and to God.

**3) We need to recognise the real presence of the Emmanuel (God Is With Us) and say "yes" to Him:** The Visitation of Mary reminds us that, through his holy ministry, Christ continues to be present among his people. The same Christ "dwells among us" in the Bible, in the sacraments and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right there in our sanctuary. The same Jesus who dwelt in Mary's womb and who caused John to leap in Elizabeth's womb now dwells amongst us in our liturgy and in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus has come—he lives with us and in us through the Holy Spirit. What is expected of us during the Christmas week is the readiness to say "Yes!" To the Father, "Yes!" to Jesus, "Yes!" to all that we will experience in the coming year and "Yes!" to every call that God makes and will make of us.

**4) Mary's pilgrimage should be our model:** As we journey with Mary to the hill country, we shall continue to contemplate our own life's journey—its joys and sorrows, its triumphs and its tragedies. Our Christian journey began in Christ at the Baptismal font where he joined himself to us forever. Our journey continues with Christ as he nourishes us along the way with the food of his Word and the food of his flesh. It will end with Christ as we await our blessed end and join him and all his saints in heavenly splendour. It is up to us to prepare for that great day by spending our lives glorifying God in serving others with love and commitment.

**CONDOLENCES:** We are saddened to advise Cath Hulse passed away after a courageous battle on Saturday, 11 December. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cath's family. May she rest in peace.

Our deepest sympathy to Teagan Croese and her family on the death of her aunt Fay Bird in Canberra. May she rest in eternal peace also.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Sylvia Heffernan, John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysen, Trish Tarlinton, Anthony Morris, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Paul Rummery Jnr, Sandra Spellacy, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Kaye Shephard and Phil Jasprizza.