

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

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

Special Children’s Mass. Children are invited to come dressed in Nativity costumes (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds & Wise men)

Christmas Day

8am: Tuross (36 Craddock Road)
10am: Moruya, Sacred Heart

CHRISTMASS OFFERINGS:

Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the Church foyer.

ARCHBISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Again this year, at Christmas Masses, there will be a 3rd leaving collection. Your generous support is needed for life saving assistance for refugees fleeing violence; this includes evacuation, food and shelter as well as student assistance in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Solomon Islands.

We wish all our Parishioners and visitors a happy and holy Christmas

Parish Christmas Party photos



**Thank you to
Mark and the
Strahlendorf
family who have
kindly made and
donated a new
Donation Box
for the Parish**



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 George Azhakath
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass
1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass
Schools: St Mary’s Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

4th Sunday of Advent - YEAR B - 23 & 24 December 2023

**“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.

Today’s **gospel** surprises us by telling us that this King would be born to an ordinary virgin, not by means of a sexual relationship but through the Holy Spirit, and that Jesus would be a descendant of David through his stepfather, Joseph, Mary’s betrothed husband as he was “of the house of David”.

The **gospel narrative** surprises us also by reminding us that God’s promise is best fulfilled, not in buildings or even in great kings like Solomon, but rather in humble souls like Mary, who trusted in God’s promise.

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 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

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

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.’ **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

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

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 Elizabeth 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.

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 say a courageous and generous “Yes” to God as Mary did: True obedience comes from a free choice made in the light of what is true and good. It often requires a great deal of courage, because it can involve going against the tide of social expectations. True obedience also aims at putting oneself at the service of something/someone that is greater than oneself by accepting what God clearly wants us to do or what He wants to through us. Jesus’ own moment of greatness came, like his Mother, when he said “Yes” to his Father and Jesus’ own obedience is our model. Will we surrender to God and allow God to do what, from our human point of view, seems impossible? Will we surrender our agenda, our will and our kingdom to God and allow God’s agenda, will and kingdom to become a reality for and through us? It is by saying, with Jesus and Mary, a wholehearted and totally unconditional “Yes” to Jesus that he will be re-born in me or maybe even born in me for the first time. By my saying “yes” Jesus will be born or reborn in others too.

2) We need to try to learn God’s plan for our lives: The good news in today’s scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. Just as God called Mary, He calls every mother to raise her child in the awareness of God’s nurturing presence. His unconditional love and his guiding commandments. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out, fits into God’s plan in ways that we cannot yet understand. God desires, not the skill of our hands, but the love of our hearts. The babe in the manger reminds us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ. “*Behold here I am Lord, your humbled and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to Your word*”. St Francis said “*We are the mother of Christ when we carry him in our heart ... and we give birth to him through our holy works which ought to shine on others by our example*”.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysen, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave and Brian Fee.

BODALLA MASS: There will be **no Mass at Bodalla Church** this Sunday due to it being Christmas Eve.