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| Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~  ~ PARISH NEWS ~  **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~** |

We are all familiar with Luke’s story of the annunciation, a story that has inspired artists through the ages. God’s messenger, Gabriel, approaches a young Galilean Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth, and greets her as God’s graced one. The angel’s greeting to Mary is unique. No other person in the Christian scriptures is addressed as “favoured one” or “graced one”. The Greek form *kecharitōmen*ē contains within it the notion of grace, *charis* in Greek. It can also mean “mercied one”.

Mary is troubled by the angel’s greeting, succinct as it is. After being addressed as “favoured one”, she has been told only that God is with her. She knows the traditions of her people. She knows that those said to be the graced or favoured of God (Noah and Moses and Gideon and Samuel) are called to be agents of God’s saving action and to carry heavy responsibilities. Now a young woman is called to be God’s agent. In a formula that forms part of angelic announcements of birth, the angel tells Mary not to be afraid and reassures her by stating explicitly that she has been graced by God. The angel then proceeds to announce the conception and birth of the child she is to name “Jesus”. This child will reign forever. The prophecy of Nathan, recounted in today’s first reading, is to be fulfilled in the conception and birth of Mary’s son who is also, and especially, God’s son in the line of David who in his turn was first of many “sons of God” called to rule with the justice and the wisdom of God. In the face of almost constant failure on the part of the kings, later prophets projected Israel’s hope into the future and looked for one who would truly have the characteristics of God, who would truly be “son of God”.

Mary’s response to the angel, “How can this be…?” echoes the prayer of David that follows today’s first reading: “Who am I…and who are we that you have brought us to this point?” (2 Sam 7:18). Mary learns that God’s dwelling place is her own human flesh and that this extraordinary event will be accomplished through the grace of God and the power of God’s Holy Spirit. Mary is also to learn that her cousin Elizabeth with conceive a child despite her age “for nothing will be impossible for God.” The mysterious workings of God in our world invite the response of Mary: “How can this be…?” As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we might pause to wonder at the goodness of God at work in the lives of all who incarnate the grace and mercy of God in our world. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

***Sr.Veronica Lawson***

***Immaculate Conception Parish***

P O BOX 600 Tumut

Catholic Community

***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. Luke Verrell (Assistant Priest)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

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**‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

**Sunday: 10am (Children’s Liturgy)**

**Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

**‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm**

**Wednesday: 10am**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight - Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy**

**Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

**‘ROSARY’**

**Saturday at 8.45am**

**Exposition at 8.30am (1st Sat of month)**

**‘RECONCILIATION’**

**Saturday at 5.15pm**

**‘LITURGY MEETING’**

**Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

**‘PRAYER GROUP’**

**(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

**In remission until 31st January 2018**

**‘CONTACTS’**

**Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**4th Sunday of Advent Year B**

**December 24th 2017**

***Gospel Acclamation***

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

***Responsorial Psalm***

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

***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.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 23rd & 24th December | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 10am | |
| Acolyte | Peter Malone | Anne Huebner | |
| Reader | Trish Matthews | Kathy Shanahan | |
| Commentator | Maureen Cook | Cathy Purcell | |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | ----------- | |
| Musicians | Anna Quinn | Patricia & Monica | |
| Altar Servers | Chloe Turnbull & Lily Webb | Jude Moreno & Hunter Styles | |
| Church Care  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Joanne Little | Group 3: Yvonne, Lee, Mary, Colleen & Kath | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 30th & 31st December | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Christine Kelly | | Cathy Purcell |
| Reader | Kirsty Beavan | | Rod Little |
| Commentator | Maureen Cook | | Joanne Little |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | | ----------- |
| Musicians | Maureen Norman | | Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers | New Servers | | Jessica & Emily Kelly |
| Church Care | --------------------------------------- | | |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy Father’s**

R O S T E R S

**FEAST DAYS 25th December: The Nativity of the Lord 26th December: Saint Stephen 27th December: Saint John 28th December: The Holy Innocents**

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**CHRISTMAS WISHES TO ALL from Fr. Sijo & Fr. Luke**

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES Tumut** - Christmas Eve (outdoor) 7pm, Christmas Day 10am, **Talbingo** - Christmas Day 8am. **ARCHBISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2017** this year these funds will be used to continue the support for the Ecumenical Christmas Bowl**,** Diocesan projects locally and globally, Diocesan Seminaries and assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. Please give generously to this appea**l. CATHOLIC VOICE** December edition now available. **ENTRANCE CHURCH WORKS** most of the work has now been complete – awaiting our new church sign. **BAPTISM** we welcome into our community on Christmas Day Henry James Armagnac son of Aurelien and Tiana, all the way from France. We pray for all baptism families. **MANY THANKS** to all our dedicated volunteers who have helped make our Massess extra special during 2017.

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith:**

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Tim & Amy Twomey, Barbara Fuller, Chris Ballard, Tom & Merle Arentz, Harriet & Ruben Arentz, Kevin & Nola Arentz, Dulcie & Arthur Piper, Marie & Ray Cowan, Kevin Cowan, Kevin Hawthorne, Brian Muir, Jack Sunners, Joseph & Maureen Hetherington, Natalie Baker, Ian Barbour, Yvonne Harrison, Fr. Peter Quirk, Con & Ennis Twomey, Mons. John Twomey, Sr. M. Brenda Twomey, Sr. M. Canice O’Sullivan, Sr. M. Celine McCormack, Bert & Teresa Butler, Anne Lawrance, Joan & Bob Liddell, Mary & William Claffey, Margaret Peel, Ruby Harmer,Alan & Angela Guthrie, Hassel & Joy McGrath, Noel Cook, Hargreaves family, Family members & relatives of Tran family, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Ken Elliott, Jock Roberts, Ralph Klaus, James Kelly, Harry & Muriel Nancarrow, Harry & Pat Nancarrow, Christine Welsh, Allison Brady, Scott Payne, Ben Roddy, Paul & Nick Young, Robert Longford, Julie, Jack & Thelma Cobden, Jamie Nixon, Stan Kenny, Marzol family members, members of Young, Egan, Breward & Van de Brug families, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Hector, Annie & Kevin Turner, Jean Kelly, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Tiernan, Mollie Fuller, Joan Malone, Ken & Brian Gee & family members, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Marallo & Comai families, Celia Mullaly, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Timothy Blakeney, Madelin Fenn, Jan Salan, Maude Kelly, Norma Leyden, Reg Millgate, Lois Shallow, Helen Corbett, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Joan Stockwell, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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