



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 24 DECEMBER 2023



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response:(R) Lord, hear our prayer

LEADER: Dear friends, God's promises of old came to fulfilment in Mary's "yes" to the angel's message. In the spirit of her trusting faith, let us pray for the salvation of the world.

READER: For Our Holy Father Pope Francis, that he will show us the way in extending love and care to the poor and needy. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all who profess faith in Christ, that they will be a shining beacon of hope in the darkness of the world's distress. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all who eagerly look forward to God's coming among us, that their eyes will be opened to see divine beauty and goodness in the whole of creation. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For those who do not grasp the true meaning of Christmas, that they will still work with all their hearts for peace on earth and good will to all. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all travellers that they may find safe passage and be surrounded by your protective grace this Christmas season. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the innocent women, children and men enduring terror, starvation and disease in places of bloodshed, that their cries for pity will be heard by those who persist in waging war. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the sick of our parish and all those who have asked for our prayers. For those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East. We pray **Hail Mary...**

LEADER: Faithful God, our everlasting rock, you revealed the mystery of your love to the young woman of Nazareth. Give us the courage to welcome your love as she did. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION DECEMBER For Persons with Disabilities

 We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

We pray for rural dioceses and parishes struggling with limited resources, that they will find creative ways to build community and continue proclaiming the Gospel.

We pray for the women of faith who enliven the church with their gifts, that through their courage and conviction the church will be lead on the path of renewal.



We pray for all who are sick, may the healing love of God strengthen their bodies, minds and spirits:

Donna Nash, Sally-Ann Thompson, Jane Nash, Keith & Barbara Brownlie, Wendy White, Barry Reed, Jim Parkes, Ashton, Danielle & Stewart Hurley, John & Anna Vincent, Marlene Kennedy, Kim Peisley, Val Perkins, Natalie Lestone, Marilyn Knight, Jen Farrell, Tom Kennedy, Patricia Guthrie, John Elliott, Betty Cowell, Peter Hopkins, Heather Whitby, Larry Bedingfield, Erika & Margo Birmingham



PARISH CALENDAR

Christmas Mass

Christmas Eve

Mass Delegate 5pm

Mass Bombala 7pm

With special thanks to
Fr Bernie & Sr Genny for assisting
Fr Mark with Christmas Masses
in the Monaro Mission

Mon: Nativity of the Lord

Tue: Saint Stephen

Wed: No Mass Bombala
Saint John

Thu: Holy Innocents

Fri: Saint Thomas Beckett

Sat: LW&HC Delegate 5pm

Sun: LW&HC Bombala 9am



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

December Anniversaries

Carol Badewitz, Vincent Crotty
Del Duffell, Tori Finnane
Kitty Guthrie, Nola Hehir
Jareth Hillyer, Brian Murphy
Toby Mustard, Brian Nash
Kevin O'Mara, Dot Ogilvy
Helen Parkes, Mort Smith
Jim Twigg



**"We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death."**

ADVENT WEEK 4

The fourth candle is purple and represents LOVE



READER: But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. **(4th candle is lit)**

ALL: God of light, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. In our daily preparations and busyness, help us to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day and prepare our hearts for your coming. Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING: FROM THE BOOK OF SAMUAL

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."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *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: 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL OF LUKE

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.

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1. Hail Mary, Gentle Woman Carey Landry

Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners now
And at the hour of death. Amen.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, Gentle mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father, you were chosen for the Son, You were chosen from all women, and for woman, shining one.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, Gentle mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.

2. O Come All Ye Faithful Various

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore Him, (x3)
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, (x3)
Christ the Lord.

PARISH BULLETIN

Please note that there will be no Parish Bulletin for 31 December 2023. Next bulletin will be 7 January 2024. Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a wonderful 2024. Anna, Chris & Greg



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most-High will cover you with its shadow.' The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb. A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan. We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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