



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B

24 December 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
Fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as man,
so lead us through his suffering and death
to the glory of his resurrection,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the first and 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."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

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.



Reflection on the Gospel of Luke by Father Tony

The Blessed Virgin Mary is front and centre stage in the last Sunday of Advent:

'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her (Luke 1).

Mary and Joseph show '**creative courage**' and **acute acceptance** in and around the birth of Baby Jesus:

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion.

Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to **accept** the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to **embrace** them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history.

Unless we are **reconciled** with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain **hostage** to our expectations and the disappointments that follow (Pope Francis, Letter on St. Joseph, 2020).

We do exercise our freedom in decision making in life. Being pro-active is a good thing.

But, we also exercise our freedom in **accepting** what comes our way.

Mary and Joseph be close to us this Christmas, as we renew our love for the Child Jesus.

A blessed Christmas to you all,

Father Tony

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all women of faith, that their wisdom, experience and abilities will inspire the whole people of God to live the good news in spirit and truth. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for Pope Francis, all bishops and ministers of word and sacrament: that like Paul the apostle they will boldly proclaim the glorious mystery that is Jesus Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray 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. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray 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. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for our families and all with whom we will gather for Christmas: that we will celebrate the feast together with gratitude and generosity of spirit. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all who have helped make this Advent a season of prayer, peace and hope: that they will be blessed for their loving service of the community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Kerry Prothero, Val Goodsell, Des Pollard, Dennis Dempsey, Fr. Mick, Tony Riley, Jenny Bodman, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers. May they not suffer alone but be assured of the love and care of the whole community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for those who have died recently Darren Rowley, Gordon Stephens, Nona Callan & Janet Cargill . . . and for those we remember at this time, Moya O'Connell, Rita & Jack O'Connell, Bob Bradley, Harold & Ena Bradley, Kevin & Zita Hart, Norma Flack, Ray, Eileen, Gwen, Noeline & Laurie Reeson: that they will join Mary and all the saints in the glory of heaven. (Pause) Lord, hear us

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Lord, as Christmas draws near
make us grow in faith and love
to celebrate the coming of Christ our Saviour
who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen*

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Tony Percy M. 0431 225 574
Braidwood Contact Numbers: Ph. 4842 2444; Mobile: 0430 169 849 (Helen)

Parish email: braidwood@cg.org.au

Parish Website: <http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aspx>

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tues: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm **Closed January**

Mass: Saturdays at 6.00pm.

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am continues through January

Christmas Mass: Vigil 24th December at 5pm.

Graveside service for Gordon Stephens will be held on Thursday 21 December at 10.30am.

Special Ministers to the hospital: please note that the hospital is currently in covid lockdown and you cannot take Communion to our parishioners.

Parish Office closure: I am taking holidays in January. There will be a basic bulletin for each weekend coming to your inbox soon. If you have any items for the bulletin, please send them to me before the end of December. I will still be available on my mobile for any emergencies. Helen Hart

Readings for Mass: 1st: Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16. 2nd: Romans 16:25-27. Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Mass: Midnight Mass readings: 1st: Isaiah 9:1-7. 2nd: Titus 2:11-14. Gospel: Luke 2:1-14.

Radio Church: Sundays at 6pm

| Ministries for our Mass: | 23 Dec | 24 Dec 5pm | 30 Dec | 6 Jan | 13 Jan |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Welcomer: | Cathy F | Helen P | Geraldine | Helen P | Cathy F |
| Acolyte: | | Felix (when available) | | | |
| Reader 1: | Ann T | Tommy | Cathy | Tommy | Germaine |
| Reader 2: | Wendy H | Germaine | Michael | Bobbie | Wendy M-B |
| Ministries of service: | 24 Dec | 29 Dec | 5 Jan | 12 Jan | |
| Altar Decorating: | All please | Helen P | Cathy F | Joy | |
| Cleaning: | Pauline & Bobbie | | Bronnie & Felix | | |
| Counters: 1 st Sunday: | Pauline & Bobbie. | 2 nd : Sunday: Wendy H | | | |
| 3 rd Sunday: | Brenda | 4 th : Phil Owen | | 5 th Helen Bopping | |

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster or get a substitute from the list on the reverse side of the roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other,

Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.