

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 4  
22nd December  
2019

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Kieran Adams OP

**Assistant Priests**  
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP  
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

**Holy Rosary Church**  
Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

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PO Box 900, Dickson

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**Office Staff**  
Jacquie Cortese  
Jim Smith

**Office Hours**  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9.00am—12.30pm

**Parish Council**  
Andrew Blakey

**Mass times**  
Wed 5.30pm  
Tues & Thurs 6.45am  
Fri 5.30pm

**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**

9am Mass Saturday & Public  
Holidays  
excluding Mondays

**Pray the Rosary**  
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass  
Saturday after 9am Mass  
and First Saturday each month  
3.30pm

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday 12pm—12.30pm  
and 4pm—4.30pm

**ACU Chapel Signadou**  
Thursday—12.30 pm

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	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.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.
<b>READINGS</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14    Romans 1:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

**END OF ADVENT**

This Sunday is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. As our religious preparation time draws to a close the secular preparations increase – shopping and cooking, deciding which of the in-laws/parents you'll visit on which day over the Christmas period, Christmas parties and doing those last minute tasks seem to take away the enjoyment of Christmas. Perhaps then, the best present you can give yourself and your family, is time. Be kind to yourself. It's much easier to radiate the Christmas joy and kindness if you're not feeling stressed. Spend some time being grateful for your blessings.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 23:1-6**

Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER 2020**

The Liturgical Roster for the new year January to June 2020 are now on the table in the foyer. Your name is on your roster. Please do not forget to pick up your copy on the way out. Your **BREAK OPEN THE WORD** can collect their copy from the Sacristy .

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES**

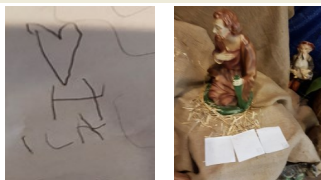
Christmas Offering Envelopes are available from the containers next to the Holy Water fonts and in the foyer.

**OFFICE HOURS**

The office will be closed from Friday 20th December and reopen Thursday 5th January. If you are in urgent need of a priest please call **6248 8253**.  
Church enquires call Jim 0448 737 700

**'TIS THE SEASON...'**

Thank you to the young parishioner who left a heart felt message with Joseph in the Manger after the 10am Mass. May God bless you.



'Be happy is the moment - that's enough.  
Each moment is all we need - not more.'

Mother Teresa

**PARISH RENEWAL**

Over the past year, a group of parishioners, inspired by Plenary Council conversations, have been praying and reflecting on Parish Renewal in Blackfriars Parish. As part of this process Fr. James Mallon's book "Divine Renovation" was the focus of two parish reading groups over the last couple of months. Now, following on from this, there is a desire to explore running an Alpha course in the parish next year. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith based on a series of short films. Each film looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. It is run in cafés, churches, universities and homes around the globe. The three key elements are: food, a talk and good conversation. It is currently being run in several dioceses in Australia, including ours. If you are interested in participating in Alpha in the parish next year, you are warmly invited to get in touch with: Roger Paul (0421612572; [rpaul2572@gmail.com](mailto:rpaul2572@gmail.com)) or Siobhan Tanzer (0432 292 498) for more information.

**NORTH CANBERRA  
ECUMENICAL NATIVITY FESTIVAL**

Thank you to Keith and Anna Linard who kindly allowed us to view their large Nativity Collection during the festival. Thank you to Rosary school for providing the art work. Hundreds of people viewed the collection.



**CAROLS EVENING**

All who attended the Ecumenical Christmas Carols at St Margaret's / Holy Cross Church had a lovely evening singing our favourite Christmas Carols. Rev Tim entertained with a rousing rendition of Feliz Navidad. Thank you to St Margaret's Anglican Church for hosting this year's event.



In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill, Una Bell, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mary Martin, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Maureen Blood, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris, June Pollard, Paul Neddrie, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Frank Zobec, Mimma Giampietro, Zelma McManus, Catherine Feehan, Pamela Sandy, Margaret Sullivan, Fr Joe McGeehan, Charlotte Woolner, Angela Fleming, Alphonsa Bankovsky, Ann & Bernard Slammon, Ivy-Pearl Simpson
Our deceased	Patricia Smith, Mary Boyle, Joan Lever, John Coggan, Maria Cuc Dong
In Memory	Paula Savas

## PAUSE A WHILE AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!

Birth announcements are such good news! New parents, wishing to share the joy of a new life and a new member of their family, customarily send cards to friends and relatives. Vital statistics such as the name of the baby, its weight, the date and time of birth, and sometimes, even a footprint or photograph are included in the announcement. In today's gospel, Matthew shares with his readers the good news of Jesus' birth. But there is no mention of Jesus' weight or date and time of birth; rather, Matthew's birth announcement is a Christological statement which identified Jesus and defined the purpose of his existence. Part of the infancy narrative with which Matthew prefaced his gospel (Matthew 1-2), the announcement of Jesus birth also introduced the first of a series of formula citations or texts from the Hebrew scriptures. Also called fulfilment citations, these texts (about 10 or 12 in all) are woven throughout Matthew's gospel and offer support for his proclamation of Jesus as the promised messiah-saviour of humankind. Each reference to the Hebrew scriptures (usually from the prophets and in particular from Isaiah) was introduced by a *formula* which indicated that the event in Jesus' life was to be perceived as a fulfilment of the Old Testament text. In today's gospel, the formula, "all this happened to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet" (vs. 22) served to introduce the Isaian text (Isaiah 7:14), which the early Christians believed to have been fulfilled in Jesus. Matthew's reasons for structuring his gospel on the support of these formula citations were probably two-fold. First, the citations were *apologetic* in character, aimed at guarding the faith against those who denied Jesus' messiahship and who rejected those who accepted him. Secondly, the citations served the evangelist's *didactic* intentions; Matthew used the texts to offer his readers a solid support for their growing understanding of and faith in Jesus.

In addition to presenting Jesus as the fulfiller of Jewish messianic prophecies and aspirations, Matthew's birth announcement proclaims the significance of Jesus' name and mission. As indicated in verse 21, Joseph, in a dream, was instructed by an angel-messenger (in scripture, dreams and angels function as vehicles of divine revelation) to name the child, Jesus or Yeshuah. A derivation of the name Joshua, which meant *Yahweh saves*, the name of Jesus also defined his reason for being. Through him, and in his words and works the saving power of God would be made manifest. A further description of Jesus is provided in the citation from Isaiah (vs. 23). His name and his mission among us shall be *Emmanuel* because through him, God is with us!

Through Jesus' *saving Word*, *saving Cross* and *saving Bread*, God continues to be with us. . . pause a while today, and say "yes" to his absolute closeness.

Patricia Datchuck Sánchez <http://www.ncrpub.org>

I alone can not change the world. But I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. Mother Teresa

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr Gregory Murphy OP looks at the fundamental choice that confronts Joseph and each of us.

Matthew in today's gospel calls our attention to the names given to Jesus – names which focus our attention on this child's role in the history of God's acting to save his people: Jesus, which the Evangelist glosses as "the one who is to save his people from their sins"; and Emmanuel, which, echoing Isaiah's prophecy, we're told means "God-is-with-us". We are, then, assured that God comes to us to save us from our sins – to rebuild the communion between heaven and earth, to open for humankind once more the way into sharing God's life, a life that transcends our merely human limits and living. And it is important that we realise, echoing the jubilee year of mercy just ended, that God comes to us as we are, not as we'd like to be: in all our frailties, imperfections, hurts received and inflicted, our anger, shame and bitterness, in short in our estrangement from God and each other we call 'sin'. God comes to us as we are, to heal us and bring us into his peace. So, as Paul reminds the nascent churches in Rome, we too are called to holiness through the grace and mission we have received from the Son through the Spirit, called to live in holiness in honour of his name, called to be saints, manifesting God's grace and peace through the manner of our lives.

God is with us, God comes to us in a manner long expected and hoped for yet in a manner that could scarcely have been anticipated. The God who makes things new begins his salvation of humankind from its self-inflicted shipwreck in an entirely unforeseen way. Joseph, in the annunciation he receives in a dream from the angel – echoing the true dreaming of his patriarchal namesake in the book of Genesis – is told not to be afraid, a note that resounds time and again in the gospels when Jesus demonstrates his divine power, but challenged rather to respond positively to God's saving, surprising act, to take his wife to his home. He does so, despite his fears, his injured pride, his entirely reasonable suspicion, in human terms, that his betrothed had betrayed him.

It is useful to compare Joseph's response to God's creative act with the example in Isaiah's prophecy in our first reading. At first glance, we might assume that Ahaz is acting out of piety, for it was a long tradition in Israel that one should not put the Lord to the test. But this was a confrontation between prophet and king; a confrontation which demonstrates where the hearts of each sought salvation. Isaiah, as the prophet of God, has given an assurance to the king that faith in God will save, even in a political crisis. Ahaz has been warned that only this will save his kingdom of Judah from his enemies in the North, the kingdom of Israel and the far more threatening power of the Assyrians. Now, in a defiant challenge to the king, the prophet invites him to ask for a sign, to test whether the prophet speaks God's truth. Ahaz evades the issue, because he does not want to subject his policies and stratagems to the claims of faith, of belief in God and God's commandments, because he wants to preserve his autonomy. And that brings him to disaster, signalled by the oracle he is given; the oracle spoken by the prophet of "my God", no longer the God of Ahaz, for he has in effect rejected God, abandoned his ways. Ahaz' example can be uncomfortably close to our manner of living in the present – do we listen for God's voice and respond, as Joseph did, even when it seems extraordinarily challenging, even foolish; or do we cling to our own stratagems, our cunning plans, which will likely bring us, eventually, to disaster?

Yet the hope that the promised child brings is not so easily lost. Matthew begins his gospel with the assurance that God is with us, Emmanuel; and closes it with the promise of the Risen Lord to his disciples just before he in his humanity ascends fully to God's presence "know that I am with you always, yes, to the close of the age". In confidence then that God is with us, might we risk loving each other as Jesus, Emmanuel, showed us is possible?

<http://english.op.org/torch>

## IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email, phone or in writing if you would like to a Mass Intention, Memorial Mass, Baptism, or use of the Parish Centre a **minimum two weeks** notice for Wedding bookings **six months** notice is required.

**If you DO NOT book through the Office we cannot guarantee your request.**

If you would like a loved one in the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday 9am** of that week.

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS** - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. In recess until next year.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet the **third Thursday** of each month at Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our friends & welcome newcomers.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

**DOMINICAN LIBRARY** will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Contact the Office.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For information - Letty 0418 518 033

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

## ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2019 is conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

Our support will continue for the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in bringing hope and opportunity to those in need in Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Jordan, Sri Lanka and Tonga. Contributions will be made to support Diocesan projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria. Other international endeavours will include support towards: enabling the rebuilding of houses in the flood affected communities of Kozhikode and Malappuram within Thamarassery Diocese, India; Projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India; And further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. Assistance will also be given to Bush Fire affected Dioceses in Northern NSW towards their recovery endeavours.

Bread is like the sun,  
it rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.

## ROSTER 28 / 29 December

Saturday 5pm	
Acolyte / Server	T. Johnson
Readers	M. Pentony J. de Riva O'Phelan
Presentation of Gifts	Higgins Family
EMOE	K. Murphy
Sunday 8am	
Acolyte / Server	K. Linard
Readers	M. Falk J. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	P. Zorzi
EMOE	N. Clarke
Sunday 10am	
Acolyte / Server	H. Beasley
Readers	C. Rheinberger J. Schwinghamer
Presentation of Gifts	Collett Family
EMOE	E. Musolino M. Musolino
Sunday 5pm	
Acolyte / Server	S. Sedgwick
Readers	T. Malone T. de Luca
Presentation of Gifts	Hall-O'Brien Family
EMOE	K. Sneddon Volunteer
COUNTERS	W. Wade J. Smith

### 31 DECEMBER - NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

AMICUS New Year's Eve Celebration on Tuesday 31.12.19 meet at the Austrian Club Mawson for dinner & dance contact: Patricia 0412 351 548

### 31 DECEMBER - THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

Everyone is invited to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Canberra New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil at St Brigid's Church, Dickson commencing at 8.00pm. First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm - Second Cenacle at 9.00pm Third Cenacle at 10.00pm - Fourth Cenacle at 11.00pm Exposition from 8.00pm until 11.45pm concluding with Benediction. For further inquiries phone Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202

## TRANSPORT

Due to bus timetable changes a couple who live in the Ainslie area are unable to attend the 10am Mass. If you can help with transport please contact the office.

## TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down.

If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or by email [tribunal@cg.org.au](mailto:tribunal@cg.org.au). All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

## FOOTPRINTS

Last night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord and across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to me, the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of life, there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of my life. This really bothered me, so I questioned the Lord about it. 'Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you most, you would leave me.' The Lord replied, 'My precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you during times of trial and suffering. When you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.'