

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

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

You will conceive and bear a son.

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.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE ANNUNCIATION

On the eve of Christmas, today's Gospel reminds us of how the birth of Jesus is possible. Luke's narrative describes God sending the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. It is a familiar story to us, yet nothing of it is in our realm of experience.

This event is reported in a series of stories paralleling the annunciation and birth accounts of John the Baptist and Jesus. The narrative will present John as herald of the arrival of Jesus as Messiah when the time of his public ministry arrives, fulfilling God's promise.

Rightly this is an account of God's activity via Gabriel announcing first to Zechariah and then to Mary. Here is a moment bathed in God's grace. God's incarnation will occur in a natural human manner, born of a woman. Yet take a focus on Mary and imagine again the appearance of an angel. No surprise that she might be perplexed (Luke 1:29). Yet Mary responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (v. 38).

Mary also hears of her cousin Elisabeth's fortunate conception and sets off to see her. Their meeting, the centrepiece of the double annunciations and births, reveals these two women in embrace, together they usher in the birth of the Son of God. Today, the focus is on Mary's embrace of her mission but she is part of a larger story, God's story. Mary is a courageous woman who in the face of an impossible challenge steps forward in faith.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

24 DECEMBER 2023

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

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.

RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. 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

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

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.

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Croker
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 Parish Secretary:
 Mrs Sharon Nesbitt 02 8331 7608
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www.cg.org.au/Jindabyne

www.cg.org.au/Bombala

ST PATRICK'S PARISH FAMILY THREE PARISHES TOGETHER



Baptism Request forms can be located on Parish website/at Parish Office, Fr Mark will be available to celebrate during mass on 2nd Sunday of the month

CatholicMarriagePrep.com
 <hello@catholicmarriageprep.com

St Patrick's Cooma Mass
 Mass Sunday's at 10am
 Cooma Sacrament of Reconciliation
 As requested following Mass
 St Patrick's Weekday
 Mass: Tues, Thu, Fri 10am
 Except Third Friday of Month
 Nursing Home Mass
 9.30am Yallabee Lodge
 11am Sir William Hudson
 Adaminaby volunteer required-

Nimmitabel
 Mass 3rd & 5th Sunday
 *5pm Sat Vigil Mass
 1st 2nd, 4th Sun- LITURGY Sat 5pm

Numeralla
 Mass 4th Sunday at 5.00pm
 LITURGY 2nd Sunday 5.00pm

Berridale
 Mass 2nd & 4th Sunday of month
 Vigil Mass Saturday's at 3.30pm
 1st 3rd & 5th Sunday Liturgy
 of the Word 10am Sunday

Jindabyne
 2nd 3rd & 4th = Vigil Mass 5pm Sat
 1st & 5th Sunday Liturgy 5pm Sat

Please Pray for our Recently Deceased,

"We have loved them in life, let us not forget them in death":

Gloria Sellars, Bob Maguire, Tim Ferguson, Joan Duffy, Glen McRitchie,
 David Cant, John Rudd OAM, Bill Russell

Anniversaries & Special Intentions: "In loving memory of"
 our departed family and friends. Tom Duffy, Brian Ferguson,
 Dale Maguire

Prayers for our Sick: "We pray for the sick: may they feel the healing power of Christ and find comfort and hope in His constant presence" Shirley Blyton, Tania Giuliani, Jara Gregor, Judy Tozer, Don McDonald.



Baptism: Welcome to Ariana Sophia Jackson to St Patrick's Parish family. We are overjoyed to welcome you into our faith! Wishing you all the love, joy, and grace, today and always. Your baptism is the beginning of a long, beautiful faith journey. Best wishes as you take this next step in your spiritual journey together with your parents Jesse and Charlotte.

Christmas Day Mass

St Mary's Adaminaby
 8am Christmas Day
 St Patrick's Cooma
 10am Christmas Day



St Columbkilles Jindabyne
 10 am Christmas Day
 New Year's Day Masses
 Monday 1st January 2024 at Cooma 10am

This year's Christmas MASS -One Collection will be taken, which will then be split 3 ways, for the 1st Collection the 2nd Collection and the Christmas Appeal. Thank you for your support

We thank Bran for his presence in our Parish community during December and wish Bran all the best for his spiritual journey, we look forward to when our paths cross again in the future.

Fr Mark's Jokes:

Q: Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber?

A: It needed to be trimmed!

Q: What is an elf's favorite kind of music?

A: Wrap music!

Q: What kind of photos do elves take?

A: Elfies!

Q: What is an elf's favorite candy?

A: Orna-mints!

Symbols of Christmas

Christmas Tree

- Evergreen tree is a symbol of the eternal life that God has.
- Jesus also promised to give us eternal life.
- The colour green is a sign of hope, especially the hope that comes from Jesus.

The lights symbolize Jesus the light of Christ.

Candles

- Jesus is the light of the world and shattered the darkness.
- Placement of the candles in church (ambo, altar, sanctuary light, congregation)
- Candles used to be put on trees in the olden days to symbolize the light of Christ; Now electric lights.

Roster	24 th Dec 10am Mass	Christmas Day 10am (Please assist)	Sun 31 st DEC
Acolyte	Richard Cmunt	Kaitlyn Bosco	Kaitlyn Bosco
Usher	Carol Byrne		Kathleen Bashford
Reader/Commentator	Susan Tighe/Tony Goodwin	Susan Tighe /Tony Goodwin	Jo-Anne Brown/Tony Goodwin
Special Minister	Bran	Colin Tighe & Bran	Susan Tighe
Mass Servers	Bosco family		
Linen			Jolanta Zieja
Church Care	Blyton and Barrett family	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Sue McPhie Leah Baker Bernadette Moser
Hospital	Kathleen Bashford		Joan Simpson

FLOWERS: Claire Neumeyer

Next weekend Readings

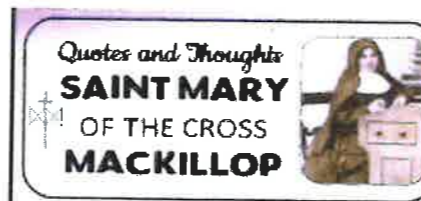
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph/ B

1st Reading Gen 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3
 2nd Reading Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,17-19
 Gospel Luke 2:22, 39-40



We have an extra Devices
 TAP n Go is available in
 Church entrance for your
 cashless

donations(Archdiocese
 split 70/30: 1st & 2nd
 JUST TAP! The New Smart
 Device at door has the
 option



May our good God grant you all a holy and truly happy Christmas.
 We can all meet together in spirit at the Crib of our loving Infant and
 can recommend our several wants and pray for one another.
 I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love.
 (19.12.1881)