

# CANBERRA CENTRAL PARISH

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24 Dec 2017

St Brigid's  
Cnr Bancroft & Wilshire Sts, Dickson

St Patrick's  
Cnr Donaldson & Cooyong Sts, Braddon Year B

To all who have joined us today. We hope that you feel 'at home' in our Parish Community. We are one Family.  
We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways, the Ngunnawal people,  
and thank them for their continued hospitality.

### PRESBYTERY & OFFICE:

2 Bancroft Street, Dickson  
Mail - PO Box 127 Dickson ACT 2602  
Ph. 6248 5472 Fax 6248 7468  
Email: canberracentral@cg.org.au  
Website:  
<http://cg.org.au/canberracentral/Home.aspx>

### Priests

Fr Bernie Patterson  
Fr Joshua Scott

### Parish Secretary:

Ms Lorraine Vahland

### Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Thu, 9 am-12 pm

### MASS TIMES

Saturday

6.00pm St Brigid's

Sunday:

8:00 am St Patrick's

9:30 am St Brigid's

9.40am Children's Liturgy St Brigid's

10.00 am St Patrick's - German Mass

### Weekday Masses:

Tues to Fri

9:00 am (St Brigid's)

12:30 pm (St Patrick's)

Saturday

9:00 am St Brigid's

Goodwin Homes: 1st Wed. 10.30 am

### Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 9:30 am - 10:00 am St Brigid's

Friday: 12:00-12:30 pm St Patrick's

### Pray the Rosary

Tues to Sat 8.35am St Brigid's

### MEETINGS

Community of the Risen Lord

Charismatic Prayer Group

Friday 7.00 - 9.30pm St Brigid's Hall

### Youth Ministry Fellowship and Activities

3rd Saturday 3.45 -5.30pm St Brigid's Hall,

For 13 to 20 year olds, further information

call 0481566050

### Friday Prayer Group - Fortnightly

(call 6241 7042 for next date if needed)

10-11.30am Parish Office

### Craft Group- Fortnightly

(call 6161 5797 for next date if needed)

Wednesday 12.30pm St Brigid's Hall

### Holy Hour

Thursday 10.00am The Gathering Place

### Catholic Radio

The Journey Catholic Radio Program Sun 1pm

On 1 Way FM 91.9 Canb or Rhema FM 94.3



### 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.

### Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be  
called Emmanuel.

*To be read as the Priest starts to consume the host*

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone who's visiting us today. Whether you're visiting Canberra, just having a look, or are searching out for a place to worship, we're delighted to have you here.

**ROSTERS THIS WEEK 23/24 Dec**

**Saturday 6.00pm St Brigid's**  
 Acolyte Paul Stewart  
 Altar Servers Group 2 Hycenth, Madhush, Emma  
 Readers Ann Collins, Pam Cunningham  
 Offertory Joanne Janakan, Edsal Sequeira  
 Chalice Bill Meani, Janet Munro

**Sunday 8.00 am St Patrick's**  
 Acolyte Ashely Bawden  
 Readers Mary Boyle, Michael Kelly  
 Offertory Vin Kane, Ros Wiley  
 Chalice Mark Cunliffe, Vin Kane  
 Visitation Vin Kane  
 Altar Society Audrey Healy

**Sunday 9.30am St Brigid's**  
 Acolyte Lorraine Vahland,  
 Altar Server Sebastian  
 Children's Liturgy In Recess until 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018  
 Readers Maria Hattori, David Johns  
 Offertory Anna Jacobs, Volunteer  
 Chalice Paul Maher, Dominica Rossi  
 Visitation Edsal Sequeira  
 Counting Paul Maher, Volunteer  
 Morning Tea Claudette Maher, Volunteer  
 Altar Society Maureen Rogers, Barbara Spencer, Betty Tuohy

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24 Dec**

**Sunday 5.30am - 6.00pm St Brigid's**  
 Acolyte Dominica Rossi  
 Altar Server Sebastian  
 Readers Elizabeth Baxter  
 Offertory Maher Family  
 Chalice Paul Maher, Domenica Rossi

**CHRISTMAS DAY 25 Dec**

**Monday 7.45 - 8.00 am St Patrick's**  
 Carols  
 Acolyte Ashely Bawden  
 Readers Mary Boyle, Vin Kane  
 Offertory Ros Wiley, Annie Ward  
 Chalice Michel Kelly, Frank Woods

**Monday 9.15 - 9.30am St Brigid's**

Carols  
 Acolyte Lorraine Vahland,  
 Readers Volunteer  
 Offertory Volunteer  
 Chalice Volunteer

Normal masses will resume 27 December St Brigids  
 New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> January 9.00am Mass at St Brigids  
 There will be no weekday mass at St Patricks  
 from 27<sup>th</sup> December until 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

*Please Pray for:*



Brenda Currer, Helen Hordern, Pat Kaneally,  
 Josephine Kinnidy, Frank Mines, Gabriel Hengkiarto Indra,  
 Tony Patterson, Peter Peters, Maria Pizzano, Charles Ryan,  
 Gail Sach, Pat Sforcina, Nicola Sheehan, Brian Shoebridge,  
 Ellalene (Lin) Seymour, Ted Whiley

*Please notify the Office when sick parishioners have recovered.*



For those who have died or whose anniversaries occur at this time

**ROSTERS NEXT WEEK 30/31 Dec**

**Saturday 6.00pm St Brigid's**  
 Acolyte Kevin Tee  
 Altar Servers Group 3 Shirmali, Imanthi  
 Readers Sandra Franceschini, Tammy Hackett  
 Offertory Bill & Arceli Meani  
 Chalice Pam Cunningham, Joanne Janakan

**Sunday 8.00 am St Patrick's**  
 Acolyte John Skene  
 Readers Therese Okwudike, Jenny Francis  
 Offertory Pat McCulloch, Mary Boyle  
 Chalice Ashley Bawden, Vin Kane  
 Visitation Ashley Bawden  
 Altar Society Mary Boyle

**Sunday 9.30am St Brigid's**  
 Acolyte Dominica Rossi  
 Children's Liturgy In Recess until 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018  
 Readers Rodney & Elizabeth Baxter  
 Offertory Paul & Claudette Maher  
 Chalice Rodney & Elizabeth Baxter  
 Visitation Rodney & Elizabeth Baxter  
 Counting Anne Prendergast, Margaret McGee  
 Morning Tea Volunteers  
 Altar Society Maureen Rogers, Barbara Spencer, Betty Tuohy

**Saints, Memorials and Feasts of the Week**

26 Dec Feast Stephen, First Martyr  
 Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service. Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit, as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people".



27 Dec Feast John, Apostle, Evangelist  
 First-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.



28 Dec Feast The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
 In an attempt to kill the child Jesus, Herod ordered the massacre of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents have been honoured as martyrs for Christ since the fourth century and their feast has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century.



29 Dec Optional Memorial Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr  
 Born in London 1118. Died as archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on this day in 1170. A deacon when he was appointed hancellor of England, he became a close friend of Henry II. His ordination as bishop brought an abrupt conversion of life and led him to oppose the king over Church rights. Returned to his diocese after six years' refuge in a French monastery, but careless words from the king inspired four knights to assassinate him. Remembered for the courage of his Christian convictions.





## PARISH MINISTRIES

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chair , Bill Meani

Barbara Anderson, Ann Collins, Liz Conway, Ursulla Gottlob, Remy Humphries, Shahandra Martino, Brian O'Donoghue, Fr Bernard Patterson, Dominica Rossi, Sr Genny Ryan, John Skene, Fr Joshua Scott Ray Toohey, Lorraine Vahland

### PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Paul Maher, Lincoln Gonzales

Advisors: Bill Meani, Lorraine Vahland

### PARISH LITURGY GROUP

#### 1. LITURGY PLANNING GROUP

Cindy Li, Ann Love rsj, Anne Derrick, Genny Ryan osu,

#### 2. SUNDAY POWERPOINT SLIDE ARRANGEMENT

Doreen Tan, Carmel Blake

#### 3. SUNDAY POWERPOINT OPERATOR

Wk 1: Henry Lee

Wk 2: Rosie Zielinski

Wk 3: Ryan Pranantyo

Wk 4: Manjula Angamma

#### 4. MUSICIANS

Wk 1: Tony Johns

Wk 2: Maureen Dawes

Wk 3: Kevin Tee

Wk 4: Tony Johns

Wk 5 Music: Risen Lord Community

#### 5. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wk 6pm Saturday/8:30am Sunday Mass

Karina Widjaja & Jimmy Kartadinata, Sr Genny Ryan osu

### CHILDRENS LITURGY LEADERS

Wk 1: Rachelle Ralime

Wk 2: Catherine Trinh

Wk 3: Christine Kearney

Wk 4: Rashmi Angamma

Wk 5: Sr Genny Ryan

### ROSTER CO-ORDINATOR

Ros Wiley

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Assisting people in need and combating social injustice in our community St Vincent de Paul representatives are:

St Brigids Ken Maher, Lorraine Vahland

## NOTICES

Tomorrow 25 Dec the second collection will be for the Archbishops Christmas Appeal

With your generous support we can, make a difference through our giving this Christmas.

If you know anyone who needs a twin pram, there is one available for free in the foyer at St Brigids.

## IN RECESS

Children's Liturgy until 11<sup>th</sup>February 2018 at 9.40am

Craft Group until 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm



## How would you feel and react if an angel suddenly appeared to you?

When the angel Gabriel appears to our Blessed Mother Mary, one of the first things he says is "Do not be afraid." Mary's reaction is that she is neither surprised nor fearful, but then we already know that Mary was not the average person. And finally she surrenders herself to God's divine plan, something each of us needs to do also. Our readings on this final Sunday of Advent remind us that we need to imitate Mary, to be open to God's work in our lives, and to have a place for Christ in our hearts.

The First Reading today is from the Second Book of Samuel. Because of the detail in many readings, we may become distracted from what is the basic message, or at least one of many basic messages. This reading is about King David and his desire to build a temple for God. The key fact here though is that David is examining his own heart with one question, "What can I do for God?" David is filled with gratitude and concern for God's glory, and he wishes to do something exceptional for the Lord. That is a question we need to ask ourselves. This is a time when we must concentrate on how we can best serve God. Advent is coming to a close, and if we have done nothing else during this holy season of preparation, we need to find ways to serve and to help build the Kingdom of God. Like our Blessed Mother it is essential we commit to doing God's work here and now.

The Second Reading is the conclusion, the final verses, of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. In a sense it is a hymn of praise, the kind of praise we should be reflecting in the final hours of Advent. The closing is simply, "...to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen." Throughout his letter to the Romans Paul makes it clear that his purpose in writing it is to let those "called by Jesus Christ" understand what gifts they have received from the Lord spiritually. As a preface to his closing statement quoted above Paul writes, "...to bring about the obedience of faith." Just as we should be asking how we can serve God, we also need to consider how we can obey God. The entire letter to the Romans is a casing for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: His purpose, His work, and His glory. That is where we are in relation to Advent. Christmas is upon us, and as we celebrate the coming of Christ, we need to prepare to take the next step in our journey by committing ourselves to being His disciple, not just at this time of year, but throughout our lives. One of the reasons St. Paul's letters are so powerful is that he is always reflecting on the wisdom of God's plan, and he reminds us regularly that God's wisdom is beyond us. His plan may not be ours; in fact it cannot be ours. Let us join with Paul in praising God and accepting the glory of His plan, of which Christmas is such an important part.

The Gospel Reading from St. Luke is so appropriate for this day, as it reminds us of St. Mary's conception and acceptance of God's will. The name "Mary" itself is indicative of her role. "Mary" is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Miriam, and it means, "exalted one." We are familiar with the term Jesus of Nazareth. Nevertheless, chronologically this is the absolute first mention of Nazareth in the Old or New Testaments. Perhaps the reason we have never heard "Nazareth" before (it never appears in the Old Testament) is to emphasize how unremarkable it is or was. Yet what occurred there is incredibly remarkable. A number of facts are made clear in this reading: First, Mary is clearly a "virgin." There is no ambiguity about that: "The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph." What's more, there were three stages to a Jewish wedding at that time. The first was engagement, a formal agreement made by the fathers of the bride and groom; the second was betrothal, a ceremony where mutual promises were made. At this time Mary and Joseph were "betrothed," but not formally married; and the third was the marriage that normally occurred about one year after the betrothal. Mary's acquiescence and acceptance of her role is such a great example of trust in God. Mary saw her role as fulfilling the purpose of God. That reflects what we have heard in the first two readings: we are called, and that calling should be the basic purpose of our lives. Like Mary, we should do everything we can to fulfill God's Word. - Catholic Stewardship Consultants

## 1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

A reading from 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.'"

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm Psalm 88:2-5. 27.29

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

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.**

'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.**

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.**

## 2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

## Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL LUKE 1:26-38

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture readings: LabOra Worship and Liturgy © liturgy Brisbane. Jerusalem Bible © 1966, published by Dalton, Longman and Todd Ltd & Doubleday & Co Inc