



The Parish Bulletin

4th Sun of Advent & Christmas, Yr B/2



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.

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.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29

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

2nd Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for
endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 1:38

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.

Communion Antiphon:

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

Gospel for 4th Sunday

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.



Christmas Message by Father James McCarthy

*Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth
peace to people of good will. (Cf. Luke 2:14)*



As we celebrate Christmas 2017, our parish is mindful of the pressing need for peace in our world, city and families. Jesus Christ came into the world to bring peace, and our prayer this Christmas will be for a renewed desire in all people to work and serve the mission of peace, mercy and good-will in our community and world.

Peace is not something that is achieved without the participation of everyone. Jesus comes to bring peace and the Shepherds, Magi, the Angels, and Mary and Joseph all share in bringing the Peace of God to the world. I invite you to become a part of this great adventure and mission to bring peace and joy to the world this Christmas and into 2018. Don't leave it to someone else. Our God and our world urgently need you.

On behalf of our whole parish – our parishioners and staff, I wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all heaven's blessings of peace and love come upon on you, your families and loved ones at this time.



Acknowledgement of the land

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoiria nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

Parish Directory

Parish Administrator: Fr James McCarthy

Parish address & contact number:

45 Maxim St, Meadowbank, NSW 2114

Phone: 9809-3536 Fax: 9807-5971

Email: office@stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

Office hours: Tuesday - Friday
9:00am-4:30pm

Secretaries: Lou Temprosa (Tue-Wed)
Marilyn Vallejo (Thu-Fri)

Bulletin Editor: Meynardo Talisayon

Parish Bulletin email address:

meynardo@laposte.net

Please submit requests for publication by
12 noon Wednesday.

Acolytes: Arthur Lee

Readers & Special Ministers of

Communion: Sue Metzmacher (Weekdays
& Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

Music Ministry - Coordinators for

6 pm Saturday Vigil Masses:

1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family
Mass)

2nd Saturday - David Foong

3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira

Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:

1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

1st SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

2nd SUN 10am - David Foong

3rd, 4th & 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

Youth Co-ordinator - TBA

Children Liturgy - Elsa Manu

Ushers/Collectors - Michael Wixted

Altar Society - Marie Bennett

Liturgy Committee - Sue Metzmacher

Finance Committee - Stephen Topple

St Vincent de Paul Society - Jim Lemcke

Catechists - Stephen Topple

Divine Mercy Devotion - Gloria Divine

Driver Roster - Felicity Donnelly

St Michael's Primary School

School Principal - Brian Story

53 Maxim St, Meadowbank, NSW 2114

Phone: 9808 2658 Fax: 9807 2330

Email: info@smpsmeadowbank.catholic.edu.au

Welcome to St Michael's Church - Meadowbank!

A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

**Christmas Reflection****At Christmas, the greatest gift comes wrapped.**

Christians gather at Christmas to celebrate. We celebrate the beauty of the Christmas story that brings us together and touches our hearts. We celebrate and reconnect with our families, and we celebrate and promote charitable giving, by especially helping the poorest of the poor.

One of the things I love about Christmas are Christmas presents. We give and receive presents. For generations the tradition has been that gifts are wrapped and that when the wrapping is removed, the person rejoices at the gift.

In St Luke's Gospel we hear: "You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Jesus, the gift of God to humanity, is wrapped at Christmas, he is lying amongst the hay in the cave at Bethlehem.

But Jesus is not only wrapped at Christmas, he is also wrapped at Easter. At Easter, after his death on the cross, Jesus is wrapped and is laid in a cave that becomes a tomb. St Luke uses the very same word 'wrapped' at the birth and at the burial of Jesus, drawing a beautiful parallel between Christmas and Easter. Jesus, the greatest gift at Christmas, emerges from his wrapping on Easter Sunday, and all the world is filled with joy. When we remove the wrapping from a present this Christmas, remember that Jesus was wrapped and that when the wrapping was taken off, Jesus's crucified body had been resurrected and glorified, and the salvation of the world was complete. Christmas gifts are a great opportunity to not only share friendship, but are an invitation to recommit to our faith that Jesus, the gift of God, is born, died and has risen again and that we have reason to rejoice forever.

In most traditions, Christians tend to eat a lot of food at Christmas. Christmas Pudding, Cake, Panettone, Nougat, Lollies, Chocolate, Ham, Turkey, Prawns and many others. An important part of the food we eat is the nourishment of Christ's body and blood. Catholics attend in very large numbers at our Christmas Masses, with a higher increase at Catholic churches than at any other Christian denomination. Food is important, and the food we eat at Christmas should remind us of the story of Jesus. Jesus was laid in a manger, but the manger he was laid in was not a cot or a baby's crib. Jesus was laid in the trough - the place for the food for the animals. From the moment of Jesus' birth, he was placed amongst the food and he became food, so that at the end of his life, at the Last Supper, he would give his body and blood to his followers by saying "Take and Eat, This is my Body". Whenever we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we receive Jesus from the manger at Bethlehem and we grow in a hope that we will all be united at the banquet of God in Heaven.

This Christmas, recommit to your faith, reaffirm your hope in eternal life and choose to live a life of love again by proclaiming the Kingdom of God in everything and creating a place where charity is not seen as an added extra, but as a part of who we are.



Gospel for Christmas Midnight Mass

(Luke 2:1-14)

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Gospel for Christmas Morning

(John 1:1-5,9-14)

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

St Vincent de Paul Society Meadowbank

thanks all who donated to the Christmas Appeal and to everyone who helped deliver Christmas hampers.

HELP WITH THE CHURCH LAWN MOWING.

We have one more lawn mower, which will make mowing much easier. Come and test it out by joining the team. Contact Don Smith 0414 748 302

Marie Breen, a parishioner of many years, has recently moved to Bayswater Nursing Home, 64 St Alban's Street, Abbotsford NSW 2016. Please keep her in your prayers.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

24 DECEMBER – SUNDAY

6pm — Christmas Vigil Mass
(including Children's Christmas Pageant)

11:30pm — Christmas Carols

12am — Christmas Midnight Mass

25 DECEMBER – MONDAY

8am — Christmas Morning Mass

10am — Christmas Day Mass

New Year's Day Mass

11am on Monday 1 January

Come and dedicate 2018 to Jesus Christ and the protection of Mary Mother of God on this Great Solemnity.

The Royal Commission's 10 Child Safe Standards

that all institutions are expected to value and implement.

1. Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
5. People working with children are suitable and supported.
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused.
7. Staff and Volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur.
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

(Taken from Pg6, Final Report: Recommendations, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.)

Become a Catechist Now.

All Christians are called through our baptism to teach others and help to bring others to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. A rewarding and outreach activity is to become a Catechist by sharing your faith with some bright young children in our local public schools. You may say, "How do I become a Catechist?" Easily! Ring Stephen Topple on 0422374989 and you are nearly there. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided with all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist. Make that phone call now!



CatholicCare's NDIS Therapy Team.

We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential. We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney. For more information, contact our friendly CCareline team on 13 18 19. connect@catholiccare.org | catholiccare.org

NEXT WEEKEND

Roster: 30 / 31 Dec. 2017

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Mark Pereira Prescilla Luzon	1 Sue Metzmacher 2 Sunitha Victor 3 Brian Maher 4 Carol Maher 5 David Doring 6 Joseph J K
8:00AM	Dominic Bui	Declan Thomas Gemma Evesson	Agnes Aldana Joseph D'Mello
10:00AM	John Fillion	Jeremy Billings Jonathan Ling	1 Joan D'souza 2 Maureen Richardson 3 Connie Buttigieg 4 Celeste Villarente 5 Michael Dunkin 6 Darryle Fernandes



Prayer to St Michael the Archangel.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Request for Mass and Prayers

SICK: 1. Pray for the people who are suffering from stroke, the mentally ill and sick children
2. Huang Hui – Juan – Recovery from her illness



PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: 1. Holy souls
2. Veronica Hornery

DEATH ANNIVERSARY: 1. Yvonne Lees – 34th Anniversary

Liturgy for this week (25 - 31 Dec. 2017)

<p>Weekday Masses: 9:15am - Monday <i>Communion Service only</i> 9:15am - Tuesday to Saturday</p> <p>Weekend Masses: 6:00pm - <i>Saturday Vigil Mass</i> 8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday <i>Children's Scripture Class at 10am Mass on Sundays</i></p>	<p>Communion Service on Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th December</p>
--	---

Christmas Offering Envelopes –

Please give generously. The Christmas Offerings assists priests in the Archdiocese who are often “out of sight” and can be easily forgotten. This includes sick priests, priests undertaking further studies, priests in special works and migrant chaplains. Please give generously to support them this Christmas.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:30pm-5:50pm

Devotions: Prayer for Priests: 8:45am every 1st Saturday

Morning Prayer (Lauds) 7:40AM every Sunday

Rosary: 8:50am on weekdays before the Mass (except Friday)
Friday before Mass : **Silent Prayer**

Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

8:15am-9:15am every Friday

8:15am-9:15am every Saturday

Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet - Wednesdays after AM Mass

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE WEEK.

- MON 25 DEC** The Nativity of the Lord
 - TUE 26 DEC** St Stephen, the first martyr
 - WED 27 DEC** St John, apostle, evangelist
 - THU 28 DEC** The Holy Innocents, martyrs
 - FRI 29 DEC** St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr
 - SUN 31 DEC** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Christmas continues for 8 Days (Octave).**

Roster for Christmas Masses	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
Christmas Eve 6PM	Stephen Topple Dominic Bui	J. Ling S. Van Wyk	G. Martin H. Jawher L. Tabuso J. Tabuso	M. Harrison K. Misquitta
Midnight Mass	John Fillion C. Buttigieg	P. Luzon M. Richardson	J. D' Souza C. Villarente	E. Fernandes D. Valliejo I. Kilmore A. Borges
Christmas Day 8AM	Meynardo Talisayon	G. Cheng C. Twomey	Mel Talisayon V. Moussa J. Orrock N. Gardner	T. Macmillan
Christmas Day 10AM	John Fillion E. Widjaja	S. Victor P. Victor	TBA	R. Victor

Altar Society. CHURCH CLEANING, LAUNDRY

OF THE ALTAR LINEN, FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. Join the Altar Society and help keep our church fit for God. A gold coin or coins donation is greatly appreciated for the on going cleaning and flowers for the church. There is a box at the back and side doors of the church for those gold coins.



St Michael's Church, Meadowbank A copy of this bulletin is also available from the FB Page.