



## The Nativity of the Lord - Year A Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2019



**God in heaven,  
You never forget Your people,  
and that is why You sent Your Son, Jesus,  
to dwell among us.  
We thank You for such a tremendous gift  
and praise Jesus, who is mighty God  
and Prince of Peace,  
now and forever more. Amen.**

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

I would like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy; I pray that all four of these would fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. I am grateful to God. This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate "Immanuel" -God with us. Without Christ's presence among us we would be lost. Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. I pray you have a fantastic Christmas.

Let us open our hearts to receive the king of kings who has become God's own child among us during this season of Christmas. It is a season of hope dawned on the horizon of humanity. It is a season of mercy in which God our father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. It is the season which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. It is the season of joy: a great joy for the poor, the lowly and for all the people. Let the child Jesus be born again and again in our hearts, in our families and very specially in the troubled world. We pray every day of our lives that may this Christmas season bring peace and joy to everyone especially where there is troubles and dispute

May the peace of God and the joy of the season illumine your heart and lead you to the heart of God, who has chosen to become one of us as Emmanuel — God with us. God wants to know our sorrows and brokenness. More to the point, God knows our hopes, dreams and prayers for our own selves and for the world. Symbols of Christmas with which we decorate our homes signify God's reality that defies the reality of the world we live in. We participate in God's reality as we grow closer to the heart of God through our prayers and actions. I pray that the Child of Light be born deep in your heart and begin the work of miracle, of reversal and transformation, as you ponder the true meaning of the season.

"When God is born hope is born. Where God is born peace is born. And where there is peace is born there is no longer room for hatred and for war and there will be joy"

At this great time of joy and thanksgiving, I would like to send my personal gratitude to each of you and your families for being a part of our faith-filled and dynamic community here at St. John the Baptist. May the beauty, peace and joy of this most blessed season envelop you all with the infinite love of God, and the wonder of the birth of His only Son, our Saviour Jesus.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:14)."

"Merry Christmas to you and your family, and to all your loved ones"!!!! - Fr. Thomas Kuruvila.



We pray for all who have died recently:

And for those who we remember at this time: Peter South, Flora De Cristo, Maria Frederiks, Hans Hauer, James Phyland, Donald Fraser, Chanake & Olga Aponso ,and the Johnson, Dalton, Mills & Bonacci Families.

### CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES

**Please note: there will be no weekday Masses on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December.**

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm Vigil & Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.: 9am & 11am.

#### The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January – New Year's Day Mass – 11am.

**Please Note: The normal weekday Mass schedule resumes at 9.15am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020.**

Rosters - Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2020	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Altar Servers	
Linen	Jean B
Lectors	9am Pamela E 11am Trish M
Counters	Tony & Steph
Gardens	Patrick, Harry.

ST JOHN'S PARISH GROUPS will take a break over the Christmas/January period and resume on the following dates. We wish everyone a happy and safe new year.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will resume in Term 1, 2020

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD:

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> December – Closed.

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Dec - Closed.

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Dec – Open 9.45 -3.45pm The office will be Closed between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, and will then open each Monday and Friday until normal Office hours resume in the week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

# The Nativity of the Lord

## First Reading

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 52: 7-10*

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**The Word of the Lord**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Response. All the ends of the earth have  
seen the saving power of God.*

## Second Reading

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

**1:1-6**

At various times in the past and in various  
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets; but in our own time, the  
last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the  
Son that he has appointed to inherit everything  
and through whom he made everything there is.  
He is the radiant light of God's glory and the  
perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the  
universe by his powerful command; and now  
that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he  
has gone to take his place in heaven at the right  
hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above  
the angels as the title which he has inherited is  
higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son,  
today I have become your father, or: I will be a  
father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he  
brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let  
all the angels of God worship him.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth.  
Alleluia!*

## Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word:  
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.  
A man came, sent by God. His name was John.  
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the  
light, so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the  
light. 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.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me because he  
existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have,  
all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace,  
since, though the Law was given through Moses,  
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

