

NEWSLETTER

◆ KEVIN SMITH parish priest ◆ GERRY CROOKS pastoral associate ◆ HELEN PRICE and HELEN COLE parish secretaries ◆ DAMIEN SULLIVAN acting school principal ◆

Fourth Sunday of Advent

How does wisdom work? The German Dominican philosopher of the 13th century, Meister Eckhart, said "wisdom consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart and finding delight in doing it." This time last year we may have been making all sorts of elaborate plans as to what 2020 would hold for us and what we were going to achieve. Now as this momentous and, in many ways, tragic year comes to a close, what is the next thing we have to do? How will we do it with our whole hearts and find delight in doing it?

Classical artists tend to picture Mary as a docile young woman, kneeling in prayer as they capture the scene of today's Gospel. Mary though is also eminently practical asking how all the angel says can come about. Mary is testing the wisdom of the message, after all expecting a child before living with Joseph could have meant her death and certainly the death of her reputation. The angel offers the pregnancy of Elizabeth as evidence of the power of God at work among us. Unlike Mary we know how the story of Jesus unfolds with its joys, heartbreaking sorrows, contradictions and challenges. But, like the uncertainty which has been the hallmark of this year, let us simply sit with the tensions and the challenges of what Mary was asked and be assured that it all worked out well for her as it will for us.

The dwelling place for God including a "house" for God also looms large in the Scripture today. House has the meaning of a physical building but, as we hear, house also meant David himself and his family line. It is this that in fact became God's house and it was fulfilled in Jesus. What type of house can we make for God this Christmas, at the end of a year in which our own homes may have been places of refuge and safety but also places of restriction and confinement, away from extended family and friends? What did we learn about the things that make our houses good places to be? Were these physical items or the way we use our time? Did we learn again how important it is to be really present to others even when we share the same house? Was the extra time used for me and what I want, or an opportunity to make contact with others via the many technologies available?

How can we be a clearer expression of the house of God as we celebrate and gather this Christmas? We can begin very simply because we remember the first house of Jesus was a stable and it was offered by strangers. Thankfully, Mary and Joseph knew the next thing to do. They did it wholeheartedly and they found utmost delight in doing it.

God bless,
Fr Kevin

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of Gladness, Alleluia.
Fill our hearts now. Maranatha
Word of Wisdom, Alleluia.
Come renew us. Maranatha.

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38



Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Cecily McKeon, Gloria Saunders, Maureen Twomey, John Clarke and Sr Mary Constable SGS recently deceased and also for John Fletcher, Les Kamp, Ross Kamp, Gary Fletcher, Stan Grzegorzolka, Patrick O'Connell, Mary O'Connell, Patricia O'Connell, Keith White, Patricia Vieyra, Begley and Bourke families, Josefina Torres, Leoncio Rodriguez, Cecil Thomson, Eileen Thomson, Karen Baker, Mike West, Vince Long, Muriel Jones, Roy Jones, Sandra Swales, Noel Nicholson, Les and Margaret Aylward, Frederick and Irene Stirling.



Please remember the sick in your prayers –
Veronica Corcoran, Patricia Desbrow, Carmen Turner, Jan Low, Monica Marron, Harold O'Connell, Pat Dugger, Clinton Fletcher, Brian and Catherine Kearney.

DATE CLAIMERS

Monday 21 December Advent Reflection Group
10am in the Parish Hall
Friday 1 January 2021 New Year's Day Mass 9am

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

- use the Giving App <http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>
- **Drop off your donation**
- **Give via direct debit or your Credit Card - please call the parish office or you can find a form on the website (Quick Links)**
- **Direct deposit donation to our bank account - BSB – 064 786 A/C - 006 031 500 (Ref: surname)**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO MASS BOOKINGS

WE ARE NOW ONLINE and bookings can be made each week by using the below link or QR code. Just click on the link and select your preferred Mass, choose number of people attending and fill in your details. Marshals at the church door will ask for your name to be ticked off on arrival. Similarly, scan the QR code using your camera on your smart phone and it will direct you to the website.

Bookings for Weekend Masses will open each Monday morning at 8am and close Friday morning at 9am.

Please book for **Masses** via this link-
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=686140&embed=true>



Christmas Masses are very popular and it is important for you to register a seat for your preferred Mass. Please book via the below link. If you do not have access to the internet, contact the Parish Office to register.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?embed&eid=686100>



There will be a retiring collection across all Christmas masses. Please place your donation in the collection boxes being held at the church doors.



Christmas Masses

Thursday - Christmas Eve (24 December 2020)
6pm (SCHOOL HALL) and 8pm (CHURCH)
Friday - Christmas Day (25 December 2020)
7:30am and 9:30am Mass

Come and worship
Christ the New-Born King



CHECK OUT THE PARISH WEBSITE
www.bulimbacatholic.com
GET THE PARISH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS – we urgently require assistance with the following ministries –

- Marshalling – Christmas Day 7.30am and 9.30am
- Altar servers – across all masses
- Collectors at the door (holding the donation boxes) – Christmas Day 7.30am and 9.30am

Please contact the parish office to volunteer. Thank You!

IMPORTANT: CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 6PM - many families have already booked for the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. This Mass will be celebrated in the Good Samaritan Hall behind the church at 6pm. For families attending this Mass, please note the following:

- Seating: there will be chairs set out, appropriately distanced. However, there will be a large area available in the space between the rows of chairs and the altar for families to bring their own rugs and sit on the floor. Please remember to socially distance from one family to another.
- Children are very welcome to dress up as angels and shepherds, etc, and be part of the Christmas tableau that will accompany the reading of the Gospel.
- To ease last minute congestion, please come early enough to secure a chair or an area of floor space. Carols will begin about 20 minutes before Mass.

NOTE: BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. With over 450 bookings already for this Mass, the space is filling fast. Please remember to go online at TryBooking (see QR Code or parish website) and lodge your booking – remember, if you are a group, include the names of each individual person who is part of your booking.

THE CHRISTMAS STAR- Next week, a unique event will take place in our skies: it is known as the 'Great Conjunction' of the planets Jupiter and Saturn. It will take place on December 21 when the two planets will be the closest they have been in almost 400 years. To the naked eye, they will look like one bright star, thus earning the nickname 'Christmas Star'. The best time to see this 'star', according to Vatican astronomer and Jesuit, Fr Guy Consolmagno, is just after sunset. Some astronomers have theorised that this conjunction of the two bright planets could be what the 'three wise men from the East' saw in the sky and followed to discover the Child Jesus, as recounted in Matthew's Gospel. (Interestingly, according to astronomers, a similar phenomenon has occurred at various times throughout history, a notable time was between 7BCE and 2BCE.) However, as Fr Consolmagno points out, 'it is impossible to know if the 'Great Conjunction' of planets has any connection to the Star of Bethlehem...and until we have a time machine where we can go back and interview Matthew, no one will ever know for sure. The important thing to remember is that the Star of Bethlehem is just a small part of the infancy narrative in Matthew's Gospel. The point of the story isn't the star – it is the Child.' (Source: CathNews)

WELCOME TO FIVE 'NEW' PARISHIONERS -



Our parish community welcomed five 'new' parishioners into full communion with the Catholic Church at Mass last Sunday evening. Following a lengthy preparation time, made all the more complicated by COVID, (from right to left) Rani Devlin, Elle Meech, Faye Campbell and Sarah and Rory Gove all made their Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church. The Profession of Faith was followed by Fr Kevin administering the Sacrament of Confirmation and, later in the Mass, all received the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. As a parish, we welcome our new Catholics and look forward to them becoming involved in our community.

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COLUMBAN CALENDARS on sale at church doors for \$10. Please place money in SVDP boxes. Thank you.



Liturgy this Week 21 December – 27 December 2020

MONDAY	-		-
TUESDAY	-		-
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm		Mass
THURSDAY	6:00pm 8:00pm	Christmas Eve	Mass (School Hall) Mass
FRIDAY	7:30am 9:30am	The Nativity of the Lord	Mass Mass
SATURDAY	-	St Stephen	-
SUNDAY	6:00pm (Saturday); 8:00am; 5:30pm		Mass: The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
<i>Readings – Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Luke 2:22-40</i>			
OTHER LITURGY AND PRAYER			
RECONCILIATION	Saturday at 9:30am and 5:00pm		
ROSARY/ANGELUS	Saturday before the 9:00am Mass		

ENTRANCE HYMN

COME LORD JESUS

*Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus. Maranatha! God with us.
Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus.
Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel.*

Give your hope to all the nations: *Maranatha! God with us.*
Give your joy to all who love you:
Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel.

As we gather at your table: *Maranatha! God with us.*
Bless the ones who call upon you:
Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel.

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PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the
Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God
from god, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not
made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose
again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his
kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the

world to come. Amen.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your
resurrection, until you come again.

COMMUNION HYMN

MAY WE COME TO KNOW THE LORD

CHORUS

*In the bread may we be broken.
In the cup may we be outpoured.
May we come to know the healer,
May we come to know the Lord.*

Though many are we, we are one in the Lord.
We are all welcome to his table of new life.

We come to the table to remember the Lord,
Who gave his life that we might live for ever more.

In breaking the bread, in sharing the cup,
May we be filled as we come to know the Lord.

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

LET HEAVEN REJOICE

CHORUS:

*Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad;
Let all creation sing.
Let children proclaim through every land:
“Hosanna to our king.”*

Sound the trumpet into the night;
The day of the Lord is near.
Wake his people, lift your voice,
Proclaim it to the world.

Rise in splendour; shake off your sleep;
Put on your robes of joy.
And in the morning you shall see
the glory of the Lord.

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