



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Parish Priest:** Father Kim Ha  
**In Residence:** Bishop Geoffrey Robinson  
**All parish bulletins are online at parish website**



Dear parishioners,

Another Christmas is upon us! It happens so quickly and regularly, we forget how special Christmas really is. We give each other presents and wish each other Merry Christmas, sing carols and decorate our homes. Do we know the true reason why Christmas is merry and joyful?

The word Christmas is a compound word for Christ's-Mass. A mass is an offering or sacrifice to God. We see at the beginning of Jesus' life born in a manger that holds food for animals, will become an altar. Jesus' life will be the sacrifice and food for the whole world. He is the gift we are all searching for if we want to experience Christmas like Mary and Joseph.

He is the gift that goes on forever! Jesus is the gift that never expires. Within this gift, God gives all other gifts. There is a secret that I want to reveal to you to be successful in life and in love. This secret is revealed each year at Christmas.

It comes about 2017 years ago, amongst a love between Mary and Joseph, amongst their plans for their lives, their poverty, confusion, hardship, rejection, and uncertainty. But consented by Mary, a young girl, now known for her greatest Yes in the world: "Let what you said be done unto me. I am the handmaid of the Lord."

She consented to the very life and love of God and taking flesh in her womb, born as a baby boy. No one knew the true identity, origin and potential of this baby until he reveals his glory at the age of 30 years old. What we have in baby Jesus is the perfect life and love to it's full potential. They say even for the most intelligent person, only 10% of our brain capacity is used. I wonder how much potential of our heart has been exercised? I think if we can use our hearts to the same potential as our mind, the world would be a much better place for everyone.

What we have in baby Jesus as he grows bigger and stronger into a man, is a life and a love force stronger than anything the world has ever witnessed. It is the very life and love of God made flesh. Whoever finds him finds abundant life and love.

At Christmas, we do well to hold baby Jesus in our arms, to love him, adore him, kiss him, and cuddle him. But Jesus will prove himself and challenge us to what is life and what is love. He will prove that in him alone is the truth of life and love. Jesus will encounter strong opposition to his teachings and way of life. But no matter how strong the opposition is, Jesus' love, peace and joy never diminishes. It proved itself to be indestructible even in death will never disappoint us. This is our joy and our Merry in Christmas. That eternal life, love and joy has become flesh and is among us!

Fr. Kim

## SUNDAY MASS 24 DECEMBER 2017

Normal Mass times at 9am & 10:30am celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent, followed by Christmas Vigil Masses below.

## CHRISTMAS MASS CELEBRATIONS



Sunday 24th December 2017  
 Carols 5pm & 7:30pm  
 Mass 5:30pm (with children) & Mass 8pm  
 Midnight Mass 12am  
 Christmas Day Monday 25th December  
 Mass at 9am & 10:30am

Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December 9:15am  
 New Years Day Monday 1 January 9:15am

## SACRAMENT PROGRAM 2018

**RECONCILIATION** Year 3 and older.  
 Enrolment Date Saturday 5th May 2018 at 4pm. **Sacrament Date:** Thursday 28th June at 6:30pm.



## CONFIRMATION

Enrolment Date Sunday 6th May at 4pm.  
**Sacrament Date:** Saturday TBA June 10am & 2pm.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Enrolment Date Saturday 4th August 2018 at 4pm.  
**Sacrament Dates:** September Sat & Sun weekends 15th, 16th, 22nd & 23rd.

## RECONCILIATION Year 2 and older.

Enrolment Date Saturday 27th October 2018 at 4pm.  
**Sacrament Date:** Thursday 29th November 6.30pm.

## ROSTERS

The new extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the sick, and cleaners rosters are now available for collection at the entrance of the church under the Pope Francis photo. Please collect your new rosters.

## ROSARY & STATUE OF OUR LADY THIS WEEK

Will be with Derick Chaves, 83 Portland St, Enfield.  
 Please call Derick on 9747 5168 if you would like to attend and pray with the group.

## PRAYER GROUP

Prayer group resumes Wednesday 24th January 2018.

## HEALING MASS CHOIR PRACTISE

Will be held Friday 29th December 7:15pm.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS OF ST JOSEPH'S ENFIELD

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11*



## JANUARY HEALING MASS

Friday 5th January 2018  
 Celebrant: Fr. Yacub Barkat  
 Rosary 7pm, Reconciliation 7-8pm,  
 Prayer & Praise 7.30pm, Mass 8pm  
 Exposition (after Mass)  
 Prayer Ministry available after Mass.  
 For more information contact Rose 0412 115 961.

## Are you a Doctor, Nurse or Allied Health Professional?

Please sign this open letter against the legalisation of assisted suicide. Proposed legislation to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia will be debated in the Parliament of New South Wales on 16 November. Similar bills are expected to be introduced in other states in the near future. Let your members of parliament know that you support increased access to better aged care and mental health services, disabilities assistance and excellent palliative care, rather than the legalisation of assisted suicide and euthanasia which would place the most vulnerable patients at risk as well as undermining the relationship between patients and healthcare professionals which is based on trust and mutual respect.

Visit <http://www.healthprofessionalsayno.info/> for more info and to sign.

## The Archdiocese of Sydney App

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney had released a Smartphone App (for iPhones and Androids only) for parishioners in the Archdiocese, featuring parish Mass times, the latest news from the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Catholic Church in Australia, information about upcoming Archdiocese events, as well as announcements from the Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney. The App is available to download for free – search for "Archdiocese of Sydney" in the Google Play and App stores.

## Parish Office

**Administration**  
 Tue, Wed, Thur, Frid  
 9am - 3pm Linda Roberts  
**Fr. Kim is not available on Mondays**

**Sacrament Co-Ordinator**  
 Heather Donnelly  
[sacraments@stjosephenfield.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stjosephenfield.org.au)

**Catechist Co-Ordinator**  
 Margaret Drake  
[margaret.drake1@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.drake1@gmail.com)

## Mass Times

Sat: 5:30pm (Vigil)  
 Sun: 9am, 10.30am, 6pm  
 Mon - Thur: 9.15am  
 Frid - Sat: 12 Noon

**Family Mass** with Children's Liturgy: Sunday 10.30am

## Sacraments

**Reconciliation**  
 Sat 11.30am - 12 noon  
 4.45pm - 5:15pm

## Baptism

2nd & 4th Sun of the month at 12 noon

## Marriage - Sat & Sun

1.30pm - 3pm (at least 6 months notice is required)

## Devotions

**Cenacle**  
 Every Monday 8am

## Daily Prayer

Church is open from 8am - 3.30pm

## Rosary & Prayer

Monday 8.30am  
 Thurs & Saturday 11.30am  
 Sat Adoration 11am-12noon

## Holy Hour of Mercy

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri  
 2.30pm - 3.30pm  
 Adoration, Prayer's and Chaplet of Divine Mercy

With St Joseph we pray ...

**For the sick**  
 Lee Tilliam  
 Eddie

Fedorowicz Family  
 Sokolowski Family  
 Sharon Holliday  
 Sarah Holliday  
 Zachary Marsh  
 Sue Brancatisano  
 Bishop Geoffrey  
 Nikranicz Family  
 Waslowicz Family

Michael Abou-Antoun  
 Douglas Edwards  
 Helen Bache  
 Lan Fon Yu

Anna Pezzuto  
 Sonia Grigoriou  
 Chris Dimitriadis  
 Barbara Mitchell  
 Lina Grande  
 Michael Tucker  
 Antoniette Serci  
 Sean Da Silva  
 Alfonso Costantini

Joseph You  
 Martin Fleming  
 Sam Shepherd  
 Patrick Morris  
 Rocob Shi

Haishong Andy Shi  
 Theresa Lee  
 Urban Fernandez  
 Beatrice Fernandez

**For the Souls of**  
 Angela Indo-Garigali  
 Thomas Flanagan Galway  
 Gregory Panasiuk

Domenico Calabretta  
 Maureen Di Nola  
 Martin Maher  
 Lorna Maher

Guiseppe Di Nola  
 Maria Di Nola  
 Sid Cowan  
 Mary Cowan

Des Maher  
 Emily Barron  
 Mary Rose Raffaeala  
 Anthony Raffaeale


Souls of the unborn children  
 All Holy Souls in Purgator

**Recently Deceased**  
 Dr George Martinus  
 Claudio Spinetti

**Special Intentions**  
 Zamperetti Family  
 Faccin Family  
 La Greca Family  
 Raffaeala Family

Week 5 – 30/31 Dec	5.30pm	9.00am	10.30am	6pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	Allen	Tom	Richard	Chris
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reader</b>	Elizabeth	Kate	Sabrina	Julia
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reader</b>	Henry	Marianne	Vesna	Josephine
<b>EMHC</b>	Rose C & Jenny	Sue & Rose T	Silvia & Marie-Ange	Sonia & Carla
<b>Music (Please advise the parish office)</b>	Heather & Choir	Justine & Choir	To be advised	To be advised
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>Counters</b>	Pat Gerardis & Thomas Au			
<b>Ministers to the Sick</b>	Carla/Lucy Touma Sr. Helena <b>Clover Lea - Permanent Commitment Amy Alarcon</b>			
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays			
<b>Church Cleaning 25-31</b>	Sue Chidiac, Gladys Touma, Miriam Fernandez, Mary Falcone			

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**School Motto**  
 Live Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with Our Loving God.

For all new enrolments please call 9744 2811, or email school at [info@stjenfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stjenfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal Mrs Maria Maiorana

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/B

24 DECEMBER 2017

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.

**R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED  
*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I AND II OF ADVENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he**

**who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Isa 7:14

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;**

**and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

### MARY'S FAITH: THE CHANNEL OF GOD'S POWER

With the Gospel of the Annunciation to Mary, we arrive today at the events leading directly to the Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth.

Following a greeting and word of reassurance, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is to be the mother of a child, whose title ('Son of the Most High') and future role indicate that he will be the long-awaited Messiah: a virtuous, just ruler of David's line who, it was hoped, would restore freedom, justice and prosperity to Israel.

Mary, understandably, asks how the birth is to occur. She is married but, in accordance with the custom of the time, is still living in her parental home and not yet having relations with her husband.

The angel's majestic explanation lifts everything to a new level. The birth will not come about through relations with her husband but through her being 'overshadowed' by the power of God's Holy Spirit. The child to be born from her will be uniquely God's 'Son', his divine status far outstripping conventional messianic hopes.

The explanation requires of Mary faith in the highest degree. Unlike Zechariah in connection with the birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1:11-19), she does not simply have to believe that God will overcome infertility and old age to bring about the promised new life; she has to believe that God's power will take the place of the male parent in an unparalleled way. Her faith is the channel for a unique entrance of God's presence and power into the world in the mystery of the 'Incarnation'.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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The devotion of the Angelus in honour of the Incarnation dates from the thirteenth century. The Collect of today's Mass serves as its concluding prayer. It is a daily reminder that the incarnation, the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, the Son of God, are all facets of the same mystery whose object it is that we may be brought to share in the glory of the same resurrection. *Maranatha*. Come, Lord Jesus.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Isa 45:8

**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.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent*

## COLLECT

P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**

*The kingdom of David will always stand secure before 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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

**R. I will sing for ever of your love, O 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, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.*

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.

**R. Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 1:38

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

**GOSPEL** Lk 1:26-38

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Listen! You are to 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.'