

# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



Issue 04

20 December 2020

Year B

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*

**Fr Mannes Tellis OP**

(To contact Please Text)

0414 396 532

*Assistant Priest*

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

**Dominican in residence**

Br Francis McKinnon

**Holy Rosary Church**

Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

**Postal Address**

PO Box 900, Dickson

Ph. 6248 5925

**Office Hours -**

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday

9am to 12.30pm

**Office Staff**

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[www.cg.org.au/watson](http://www.cg.org.au/watson)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/Holy-](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson)

[Rosary-Parish-Watson](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson)

**Mass Times**

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday

6:45am

Wednesday & Friday

5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am

Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,

5:00pm

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm

and 4pm—4.30pm

**Adoration - Holy Hour**

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

**Pray the Rosary**

First Saturday each month 3.30pm

**If you are in Urgent need of a Priest  
out of office hours call - 6248 8253**



Love - The Lord is with you

**If you are feeling unwell please DO NOT come to church.  
Please scan the QR Code & record your name, alternatively please write  
your name and contact number on the register provided.  
PLEASE sanitise your hands on entering the foyer or parish centre.  
Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, if you are not taking  
it home put it in the bin.**

**You will  
conceive  
and give birth  
to a son,  
and you are  
to call him  
Jesus.**



## 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.

## FIRST READING

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

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."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm: 88:2-5. 27. 29**

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.

'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.'

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.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## SECOND READING

**Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

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.

## COMUNION ANTIPHON

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

## QR CODE - CHURCH CAPACITY

Please make sure you arrive before the start of Mass to register either by scanning our QR CODE with your mobile phone AND leaving your name on the register or writing your name and telephone number on the register. Our capacity has increased but we are still required to record numbers.

## PARISH RENEWAL – 2020 AND BEYOND



Last year, the Plenary Council provided a catalyst for parish meetings that supported parish renewal.

Two groups of parishioners read and discussed *Divine Renovation – From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish* by Fr James Mallon, and what that might mean for the parish's mission.

### 2020

Out of that, the parish embarked on the Alpha journey – a journey towards 'a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It enables people to ask their questions, share ideas, build friendships and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit [<https://www.alpha.org.au/catholic-context/>].'

We started that journey in the Parish Centre in February this year and finished the first Alpha series of about 11 weeks online after the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions began (see bulletin of 14 June 2020).

As a way of keeping connected during the lockdown, the parish started Connect Groups that enabled contact between groups of parishioners by phone, email and online video conferencing. The hope is that groups such as this will continue as the virus restrictions loosen, facilitating the building and maintaining of a spirit of connectedness within the parish.



In June, the second parish Alpha started, this time wholly online (see photo), showing how we could still explore our faith in community with others – praying; viewing videos on topics like 'How does God guide us?', 'Who is the Holy Spirit?'

and 'How can I make the most of the rest of my life?'; enjoying hymns; and discussing questions and sharing ideas – when circumstances made face-to-face meetings difficult. We were also fortunate to have participants from outside the parish (including one from the Gold Coast) join us. And the online format didn't stop us from having fun, playing games and celebrating the completion of the second Alpha.

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has started in the parish since Holy Rosary Church has reopened. Adoration has been celebrated to pray for Alpha participants and also for the general spiritual life of the parish.



### Going forward

With the support and broader engagement of parishioners, the hope is that parish renewal continues to build in 2021 and beyond. Alpha – the next one planned to start in early February 2021 – will continue to be offered to all interested in exploring and discussing Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

## PARISH RENEWAL – 2020 AND BEYOND

Cont... We would like to gauge interest in a daytime Alpha that might suit, for example, young mothers and in a Youth Alpha, potentially organised on an ecumenical basis with nearby parishes.

For those who have completed Alpha, or more generally are looking for ongoing Christian formation, consideration will be given to running programs such as *Life in the Spirit*, *Evangelium* (encompassing The Creed, The Sacraments, Morality and Prayer), study of St Marks's Gospels, a *Laudato Si'* (*On Care for Our Common Home*) discussion group and/or various other spiritual and theological programs (some face-to-face and others online).

We hope to also build connections through parish social events and would like your ideas on different ways of doing this.

Doing this requires your input, participation and leadership.

Next year, there will be a parish survey that gathers your responses on these matters. The survey will go beyond the regular parish census, so will list not just existing groups and activities. It will include those referred to above that would be new to the parish, as well as groups and activities beyond the parish that provide opportunities to join with others in service and to share our faith with others.

In the meantime, if you have any thoughts, questions or ideas about any of this or parish renewal more generally, we invite you to let the Parish Office know by email at [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au) (or by contacting Roger Paul on 0421 612 572 or at [rpaul2572@gmail.com](mailto:rpaul2572@gmail.com)).

Thank you to Fr Mannes, and Happy Christmas.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our new Parish Priest, Fr Mannes Tellis OP, for his support and guidance as we embarked on the Alpha journey and to ask parishioners to support him as he leads us in the parish's ongoing renewal. We also take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Parish Renewal Team

December 2020

### ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

See <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/archbishop-christophers-2020-christmas-message/> or [www.cg.org.au/watson](http://www.cg.org.au/watson)

### ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2020 is conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

Our support will continue for **the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal** and its work in Australia, Africa, Asia and Oceania. Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan** projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria, Tamarassery, India and Gizo Diocese PNG. Within Gizo Diocese assistance will support construction of a multipurpose hall at a school for migrant children from Kiribati and Malaita in Nusabaruku.

Other international endeavours will include support towards: **projects** focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province and by the Society of the Oblates of the Sacred Heart (OSH) in India; and further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

**VOLUNTEERS** - Volunteers (acolytes, readers, registers, musicians, Renewal / Alpha Team etc.) who have helped out throughout this very difficult year, please go to the sacristy after Mass.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please check the notice board in the foyer for Covid 19 rules for the Church.

### HOUSE OF GOLD

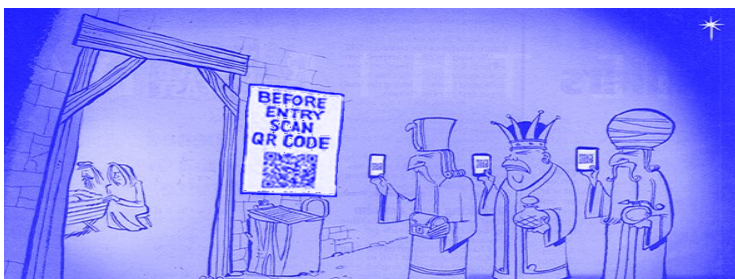
*Fourth Sunday of Advent.*

*Fr Leon Pereira OP*

*urges us to accept Our Lady as our Mother,  
in accordance with Christ's command.*

Everyone seems to have an opinion on 'What Would Jesus Do', the catchphrase of our times. In contrast, Catholicism is not about what we can do for God; it is about what Jesus does for us. It is not about wondering 'What Would Jesus Do' in this or that situation. Catholicism is the affirmation of what Jesus did do: he founded the Catholic Church, he sent her the Holy Spirit, he established her on Peter and the apostles, he promised that the Gates of Hell would never prevail against her. The dream for (pre-)apostolic 'purity and simplicity' – one which differs radically from the nature of the Catholic Church – is a vain and fond illusion. Instead, the reality we inherit – of bishops, priests, and deacons, the seven sacraments, the teaching authority of the Church – are all what Jesus left us. If we truly want what Jesus wants of us, we become members of his body on his terms, not ours. It is not something we do for God, but something he does for us. Yet King David, psalmist par excellence, provoked God by conducting a census, the implication being that David – not God – was in charge, and later sought to build God a temple. The Lord, through the prophet Nathan, told David, 'Would you build me a house to dwell in? ... the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house' (2 Samuel 7.4, 11).

In the Gospel, Mary is asked by God to become the Mother of Jesus. And she replies that she is God's handmaid, that without him she would be nothing. Through her God does build himself a house. In fact, God fulfils his promise to David in Mary. Mary knows she cannot do anything without God's grace. The angel greets her 'Hail, full of grace', but this grace is something she has received freely and continued freely to receive. Through her God builds himself a house: the Body of Christ. Jesus and his followers who are part of his body, a kingdom which will never end, the Catholic Church perfected in glory. Our Lord begins his ministry with this challenge: 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days'. But the temple he spoke of was his body (cf. John 2.19, 21). The other temple, the one David proposed to build and his son Solomon completed (and was rebuilt later by others) became theologically redundant. Only the house built by God, the Body of Christ, is to endure. When considering what Jesus actually did do, we should not neglect the fact that He gave Mary to us to be our mother (John 19.27). She, the Mother of the Messiah (cf. Rev 12.5), is revealed also to be the mother of those 'who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ' (Rev 12.17). If what matters is what Jesus actually did, then receiving his mother as our own must rank high in our priorities, no matter our preferences. In her company, we watch and pray for the Lord to come, and that his will be done. Amen.



### In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Alexia Harris, Maria Martiniello, Greg O'Neill, Moya McGrath, Carol Hallam, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Frank Zobec, June Pollard, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Zelma McManus, Elizabeth Webster, Joe Schimizzi, Bob Hackett, Elsie Laughton, Paul Neddrie, Pamela Sandy, Beth Delos Santos, Terry Stephens Maureen Blood, Anna Linard, Bernard Druett, Mary Lou Pentony

### Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.

Marie Bartlett, Elizabeth Tisdell, Mary Bogue, Corazon Ronas

### In Loving Memory

Paula Savas, Vivian Lynda Ruiz, Labib Jazrawi, Nawall Affas, Petronila Rico

### PARISH

**PARISH GROUPS ARE NOW IN RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 2021  
WATCH THIS SPACE**

**PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is NOON TUESDAY  
Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)**

### CHOIR

## No choir practice on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

### CHRISTMAS TIMES

Christmas Mass Schedules are now on the exit tables. Please take one home. Parishioners will need to book for Christmas Masses by sending an email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au) or calling the office on 6248 5925, with the names of people attending and one phone number. To expedite seating please arrive early to book in. If you are available to volunteer for the Christmas liturgies, please put your name on the sheet in the foyer.

We will require at least two people to record details of people entering the church for Masses. It is important to keep the people moving on entering to prevent a large queue at the entrance.

**Accept what is, let go of what was,  
and have Faith in what will be.**

ROSTER 26 / 27 December		
Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	K. Markcrow	M. Kraaz
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	T. Klekner	M. Falk
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	Q. Vu	
Readers	C. Barbaro	P. McDonald
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	D. Gomez	
Readers	M. Proctor	