



# Catholic Parishes Kangaroo Point East Brisbane and Buranda Newsletter



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

24 December, 2023

## Mass Times

ST LUKE'S CHURCH  
43 Taylor St, Woolloongabba  
**Friday: 9.00am Mass**  
**Sunday: 8.00am Mass**

ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH  
81 Mowbray Tce, East Brisbane  
**Wednesday: 8.00am Mass**  
**Saturday: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH  
26-36 Leopard Street,  
Kangaroo Point  
**Sunday: 9.00am Mass**

Reconciliation: By appointment

## Your Prayers

We ask you to pray for fellow parishioners:

*Brian Prove, Michael Mulligan, Pauline Burnett, and Jeanette McMahon.*

## Reminder — Concert

Brendan Toohey — Clarinetist and saxophone musician at St Luke's Church, Buranda on Thursday 28 December at 2.00pm. Please let the Parish office know if you would like to attend on 0467 775 862.

## Office Closure

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from 23 December, 2023 till 8 January, 2024.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a holy, happy and safe Christmas.

## Fr Peter's Message

There are many things I don't know, but what I do know is that Christmas Day will be hot and Australia will win the Boxing Day cricket test. I know that we will eat and drink half our own body weight over the public holidays, and we will once again convince ourselves that we don't really mind the crowds and that we actually need everything on offer at the post-Christmas sales. I know that Pope Francis will continue to inspire us with examples of humility and courage in the face of criticism. I know that parishioners with a true understanding of their faith will continue to minister to each other and persevere in trying to heal a sometimes-broken Church. I know that our parish churches will fill up with once-a-year worshippers and God will continue to smile upon them and our parish communities and its many members throughout 2024. I know this because our God who gave us his only child, will not deny us anything we need in life to be happy, truly happy. Apparently, it's all here for the taking. May the God of certain things and promised peace be with you and your family this Christmas and beyond. *Fr. Peter Dillon PP*

## THE DATE OF CHRISTMAS

Early Church documents show that the birth of Christ has been celebrated in Rome on 25 December since the early fourth century. How and when was it decided that this was the date of Christ's birth?

The most common theory is that Christians took over the date of the pagan feast of the Unconquered Sun which was proclaimed by the Emperor Aurelian in 274 AD. As the days stopped getting shorter and the hours of sunlight began to increase at the time of the winter solstice (December 25 in early calendars), people celebrated the sun's rebirth. Christians, who saw Christ as the true unconquered light of the world, celebrated his birth date on the same day.

Other researchers suggest a different theory. Scripture gives the date of Christ's death as 14 Nisan, the fourteenth day of the spring moon. It was calculated that the equivalent date in the Roman calendar that year was 25 March. Early Christians believed that the lives of patriarchs spanned a whole number of years from conception to death. This resulted in their conviction that Christ was conceived on the same date that he died, 25 March. In fact we celebrate the Annunciation on that date. Adding exactly nine months (because Christ is the perfect human being) gives 25 December as the date of his birth.

This connection between Christmas and Easter reflects a theological link. If it had not been for Christ's passion, death and resurrection, we would not be celebrating Christmas at all!



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Administrator: Fr Peter Dillon | Priest in Residence: Fr Stephen Camiolo

# Around our Parishes

## Feast Days

Tues: St Stephen  
Wed: St John

## Parish Lucky Number (KPEB)

The winner of last week's lucky number was: **Wes Williams**.

Any parishioners interested in being part of the Lucky Number Draw simply need to speak with Isobel at the foyer of St Benedict's Church at Mass on Saturday evening.

Proceeds of the lucky number draw go to support the St Vincent de Paul and other social needs in the Parish.

**GOOD LUCK!!!**



## MANAGE STRESS and MENTAL HEALTH during the Christmas Break



**PLAN AHEAD**  
Have a plan in place for all your Christmas activities.



**STAY ACTIVE**  
Exercise is a great way to deal with Christmas stress, and anxiety.



**BE REALISTIC**  
Don't stress yourself out by trying to create the perfect Christmas.



**DON'T WORRY**  
Don't feel obligated to complete every small thing on your list.



**JUST SAY NO**  
If you have too much on your plate, let your friends and family know.



**ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FEELINGS**  
Be aware of how your feeling. This will help form deeper connections with those around you.



**SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES**  
Enjoy each other's company and talk about topics that bring happiness.

## SVDP CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE—THANK YOU!!!

A photo of the members of the St Vincent de Paul preparing to deliver **30 hampers** to various individuals and families within our Parishes seeking assistance. This is all due to the generosity of our Parishioners. Please continue to keep these people who need our help in your prayers this Christmas. To the parishioners at St Benedict's, St Joseph's and St Luke's please accept our gratitude for your numerous donations to ensure we could supply these hampers. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## 4<sup>th</sup> of Sunday Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" - Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



## Christmas Mass Times

Kangaroo Point East Brisbane  
Christmas Eve: 5pm at St Joseph's (Carols at 4:30pm)

*Children are welcome to come dressed as a Nativity character.  
Please join us for refreshments after Mass.*

Christmas Day: 9.00am  
at St Benedict's, East Brisbane



St Luke's Buranda  
Christmas Eve at 5.00pm  
*Followed by drinks and nibbles at St Luke's Green*  
Christmas Day Mass at 8.00am



# The Order of the Mass

## GLORIA (when spoken)

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,  
heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus  
Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: **2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.**

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: **Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29.**

**R. See v2**

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## SECOND READING: **Romans 16:25-27**

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: **Luke 1:26-38**

*You will 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.' 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.

## APOSTLES CREED

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.**

# Hymns

Buranda Parish

## ENTRANCE

### Come, O long expected Jesus

Come, O long expected Jesus,  
Born to set your people free,  
From our fear and sins release us  
In your heart our rest shall be.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope to all you shall impart;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born, your people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now your gracious kingdom bring.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
May his will for me be done.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## OFFERTORY

### Quiet Music



## COMMUNION

### The coming of our Lord

*Tune: "Go now you are sent forth"*

The coming of our Lord  
With eager minds we greet,  
And joyful, hasten on our way  
His glorious reign to meet.

The everlasting God,  
A virgin's son we see;  
He takes a humble, servile form  
To bring us liberty.

In glory from his throne  
Again will Christ descend,  
And summon all that are his own  
To joys that never end.

## RECESSIONAL

### Immaculate Mary

Immaculate Mary,  
We praise God in you;  
His pow'r and his mercy,  
His grace giv'n to you.

*Refrain:*

*Ave, ave, ave, Maria.  
Ave, ave, ave, Maria.*

Predestined for Christ  
By eternal decree,  
God willed you both virgin  
And mother to be.

To you, by an angel,  
The Father made known  
The grace of his Spirit,  
The gift of his Son.

Most blest of all women,  
You heard and believed,  
Most blest in the fruit of  
Your womb then conceived.

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