



Readings for
this week:

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-17
Luke 1:26-38



Readings for
next Sunday:

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Liturgical Jottings

Blessings 4 - Advent Meals

Christians, whether alone or with companions at table, say grace before and after meals to thank God for his goodness in providing their daily food. As they gather at table and see in the food they share a sign of God's blessings on them, Christians should be mindful of the poor, who lack even the bare minimum of food that those at table may have in abundance. Models for the use of families at table should be given a tone that is in keeping with the festive or penitential character of the various days and seasons of the liturgical year. Book of Blessings contains prayer texts for Advent and Christmas. nn. 1030-32, 1038-1048



Looking at the Readings

David, now secure as the victorious king was confronted by God through the prophet Nathan about building a great house for the ark of the covenant – magnificent temple for all the people to admire and see the splendour not only of God but also David the builder. But God had other thoughts. Nathan told David that the House of God is to be a holy people, the presence of God to be among the generations of this new nation. The presence of God to be born ultimately as the Messiah, the Christ.

Mary was chosen to be the Mother of God and Joseph from the house of David to be Mary's spouse and the Lord's protector. The gospel account today presents the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel to Mary. Nathan's prophecy is realised. Luke's account is sensitive, divinely inspired and tells of Mary's experience and her concerns and her humility, faith and acceptance.

Advent Prayer

Here in our midst, O God of mystery,
you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages.
For you we wait, for you we listen.
Upon hearing your voice may we, like Mary, embrace your will
and become a dwelling fit for your Word.
Grant this through , our Lord Jesus Christ
whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.


Advent Customs: Kris Kringle

'Kris Kringle' or 'Secret Santa' - a type of gift exchange between work colleagues or friends - is a popular Australian Christmas tradition. Typically, you will agree as a group on a gift price, such as \$10, and then each person will purchase a gift for someone else in the group after drawing their name from a hat. This means that everyone in the group can enjoy a gift without breaking the bank! During Advent the secret givers would leave their elected persons pleasant surprises or good cheer notes.

On the Lighter Side

"And the Grinch stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." Dr. Seuss



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Allan McGrath
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Carolina Colloca (Italy)
	Our sick and their carers	Gillian Taylor, Marg Normington
	Blessed Prayers for the Souls of	Giuseppe Casuscelli, Vincenzo & Giuseppina Casuscelli, Michele, Serafina, Michelina and Caterina Pietropaolo (Italy) Antonio & Antonietta Casuscelli (Italy)

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 18 December

Weekday Mass

Mon 25 December No Mass
 Tue 26 December No Mass
 Wed 27 December No Mass
 Thur 28 December No Mass
 Fri 29 December No Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 30 December No Mass
 Sun 31 December 10:30 am Mass

Weekday Mass

Mon 1 January No Mass
 Tue 2 January No Mass
 Wed 3 January 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 4 January No Mass
 Fri 5 January 9:15 Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 6 January 6:00 pm Mass
 Sun 7 January 10:30 am Mass

Reconciliation

Sat 6 January 11:30 am

Last Week's Plate Collection and Envelops

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of our Parish. May God bless you always.

Last week's collection was \$653.65

A Note from Ryerson

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great joy they Bishop Shane has accepted my application to join Corpus Christi College. As I commence my formation for the priesthood in February 2024, I will keep you all in my prayers.

Please keep me, my fellow seminarians and priest in your prayers, and may we all continue to pray for more vocations.

God Bless,
 Ryerson De Lai

Thank you to Fr Michael Grace

A big thank you to Fr Michael for stepping in to help Fr John with Christmas Mass at Sacred Heart Tatura.

From everyone at Sacred Heart Parish

Thank you to St Donato Committee

Sacred Heart Parish would like to thank the St Donato Committee for their generous donation towards the major works that we have to undertake to replace the Power Pole that supplies power to St Mary's Hall and the Convent.

Rosters

Sunday 31 December – 10:30AM

Commentator: – Carol Coulston
 Reader: – Mary Gale
 Gospel Procession: - John Keane
 Gifts: – Shelia Gregg & Barbara Miller
 Special Minister: – Debbie Worm

Saturday 6 January – 6:00 PM

Commentator: – Carol Coulston
 Reader: – Peter Crombie
 Gospel Procession: - Shelia Gregg
 Gifts: – M Vraca & C Alexander
 Special Minister: – Not Required

Sunday 7 January – 10:30AM

Commentator: – Mary Gale
 Reader: – Dean Filgate
 Gospel Procession: - Steve De Lai
 Gifts: – A Basile & M Sgammotta
 Special Minister: – Ross Kelly

Christmas Message from Fr John

I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt wishes for a very Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

As we celebrate the joyous Nativity of Jesus, we are filled with gratitude towards God for the abundance of blessings He has showered upon us. From the precious gifts of life, family, faith community, friends, and neighbours, we celebrate God's love for us. I am grateful to God for His presence among us, which is what this season signifies "Emmanuel" (God is with us). Without our Lord Jesus Christ, we would be lost, but through His divine presence working within us, we are healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole.

As a humble servant of our Parish of the Sacred Heart, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you for being a source of immense blessings to our congregation, generously offering your time, talents, and financial support. I am forever grateful to the volunteers who have dedicated themselves to serving the needs of our parish with passion and love.

I would also like to take a moment to express my appreciation to the staff and students of our school. I am particularly grateful to Pauline and Dom for their unwavering support and dedication to both myself and our parish. It has been such a joy to have the children join us for Mass most Fridays and for the celebration of the Sacraments. This has been an incredible blessing for us all.

May the blessings of this holy season be with you, filling your hearts with warmth and joy.

Fr John Paul Pasala



Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice, and reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura.
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tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
The presbytery office is open on
Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am until 1pm

Christmas Message from Bishop Shane

In early November, I was meant to be attending a conference in Jerusalem. Like so many other events and pilgrimages, it had to be rearranged following the brutal attack on Israel by Hamas fighters, and the subsequent military action by Israel in Gaza. Of course, the inconvenience for people like me is completely insignificant by comparison with the ongoing suffering and loss caused by the violence for those who are caught in it. Sadly, as is so often the case, those who are suffering most are civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

So, as our thoughts turn to Bethlehem again this Christmas, there is a great sense of sadness at the suffering of those who live in the land where Jesus lived, and at how difficult it is to imagine peace in the place where Jesus' birth was acclaimed by the angels as giving glory to God and bringing peace on earth.

As well as the Holy Land, there are many other places where violence and conflict continue this year: the people of Ukraine continue to bravely resist Russia's invasion, and armed conflict of one kind or another continues to inflict great suffering in places like Sudan, Myanmar and Colombia.


At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. At least part of why that is so important for us is because we are aware of how much we need peace, and of how difficult it is to find peace and to build it up. In our own families and communities, we all know of situations where division, hurt and mistrust have grown up, leading to animosity or even separation. So when we come together at Christmas, we experience tension and disappointment alongside the joy and excitement of gathering together. More broadly, the failure of the Voice referendum this year has highlighted divisions in our national community, and perhaps even made them worse. We will only be able to build reconciliation and justice if we renew our commitment to ensuring that each person in our community is valued and respected, that their voice is heard, and that practical actions are taken to respond to the needs around us.


We are about to celebrate Jesus' birth, which is always an occasion of great joy and hope. We celebrate the faithful love of our God, who cares so much for us that he comes to enter fully into our lives, taking on our very flesh and blood. We celebrate the peace that he proclaimed and we acknowledge our need for God to build that peace in our hearts and in our world.


So, as we celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, we are also invited to recommit ourselves to carrying on his unfinished mission, remembering that the God who sent him amongst us also raised him from the dead, and continues to walk faithfully with us, asking us to shape our world ever more into one where his love and peace is known and celebrated, and where all people are recognised as his beloved sons and daughters.

I wish each of you and those you love the joy, peace, and hope of this Christmas season.

Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay
Bishop of Sandhurst

 *Readings for the Night:* Isaiah 9:1-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

 *Readings for the Dawn:* Isaiah 62:11-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:15-20

 *Reading for the Day:* Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18



Liturgical Jottings

800th Anniversary of the Christmas Crib.

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of livestock has no scriptural support other than the manger and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.

"I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in homes. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in using the diverse materials to create small master-pieces of beauty."

Pope Francis 1 Dec 2019

Looking at the Readings

Ask a child (or even most adults) to describe the scene at the birth of Jesus and you will hear a confused combination of the two scriptural accounts with several non-scriptural additions. It is a shame that the two versions have merged into one as each is deserving of its own integrity. The Matthew account emphasises Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy and has Wise Men as the witnesses to his birth in a house. It is from Luke that we have the much humbler birth in a manger witnessed by the lowly shepherds. Each has something different and distinct to say about Jesus and his mission.

Prayer for the Day

Let All Christians Rejoice

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born.

Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their saviour is born.

Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.

Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.

Let free men and woman rejoice, for their Liberator is born.

Let All Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born. — *St. Augustine*

A Grace before Christmas Dinner

Lord of All, we give you thanks for your abundance, and for all the great things you have given us, especially the birth of Your Son on this day.

We ask your blessing upon this food, and upon our friends and family.

We also pray that in your great mercy, you would look kindly upon all those in need this day.

We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Quote for the Day

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.
Mother Teresa

On the Lighter Side

The parents began to assemble a special Christmas gift for their children. They had ordered a tree house kit. However, the materials they received were for a sailboat. They called the company who replied: "While we regret the inconvenience this has caused you, it is nothing compared to that of the man who is out on a lake somewhere trying to sail your tree house."

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