



THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / A

MASS DURING THE NIGHT / DAY MASS

25 DECEMBER 2025

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

FIRST READING

Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater; you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2: 11

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2: 10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world: / today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm Young Adult's

Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Fri 26 Dec: St Stephen

Sat 27 Dec: St John

Sun 28 Dec: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Thanksgiving



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 1:14)

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess, Pam O'Reilly, Bernie Smith, Marie Gaudry

** Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.*

Recently Deceased: Madona Gomez

Death Anniversary: Audrey Sheehy



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.

Young Adults & Youth Mass - 27 December 2025

We look forward to celebrating Mass with the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17. For the slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators; to support the Young Adults and also to guide our Youth at Mass and during fellowship.

This will be the first gathering after the recently concluded ACYF-2025. Please encourage our youth and young people to attend.



Fr Pat's Birthday Celebration

Fr Pat's 90th birthday is on 30th January 2026. We, together with our sister Parish of St Anthony's, will celebrate the occasion on Sunday, 1st February at St Anthony's Parish Hall after the 11am Mass.

We seek expressions of interest in forming an organising team. Please contact the Parish Office.



Parish Office Hours

Our Parish Office is now closed for the holidays. We will resume regular working hours on Friday, 2nd January 2026.

Meanwhile, all telephone messages and emails will still be attended to intermittently.



St Vincent de Paul Society
CAULFIELD SOUTH & ELSTERNWICK *good works*

Columban Calendars

Still on sale after each weekend Mass. \$10.00 each.



Christmas 2025 & New Year 2026

St Joseph's, Elsternwick
Holy Cross, Caulfield South

Christmas Eve * Wednesday 24 December

6:00pm Carols, 6:30pm Vigil Mass - St Joseph's

8:30pm Carols, 9:00pm Vigil Mass - Holy Cross

Christmas Day * Thursday 25 December

9:00am Mass - Holy Cross

10:30am Mass - St Joseph's

New Year's Day * Thursday 1 January

10:00am Mass - Holy Cross



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor123

23rd December 2025

Pastoral Letter on the Conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
Peace be with you.

As the Jubilee Year 2025 journeys toward conclusion in our local churches on 28 December, I write to you with gratitude - gratitude to God above all, and gratitude to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the way you have received this year of Jubilee with faith, trust, hope and generosity.

From the initiation of this Jubilee, we have been invited by Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope. This invitation has been about recognising that our Christian life itself is a pilgrimage - lived day by day, step by step, often quietly, always together. Across our Archdiocese, many have taken up this invitation through prayer, reconciliation, pilgrimage, service, and renewed participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

I have been especially heartened by the response of our Pilgrim Places - parishes, shrines, and communities who opened their doors and their hearts to welcome pilgrims from across the Archdiocese and beyond. In offering spaces of prayer, reflection, hospitality, and mercy, these communities reminded us that the Church is most fully herself when she is a place of welcome, encounter, and hope. I thank the clergy, religious, parish leaders, volunteers, and all the faithful who made this possible through their generosity and care.

What has marked this Jubilee most clearly for me has been the faithfulness of ordinary people: people who prayed, who welcomed, who listened, who served, and who walked with one another. In these simple but profound acts, the hope that does not disappoint has been made visible - not as an idea, but as a lived reality grounded in Christ.

As we now mark the formal conclusion of the Jubilee Year, we do not bring its spirit to an end. Rather, we are invited to carry it forward. The call to be pilgrims of hope remains with us - in our families, our parishes, our workplaces, and our communities. We are sent forth to continue walking together, attentive to the presence of the Lord who journeys with us, and responsive to the needs of those we meet along the way.

I encourage you to hold fast to the practices that have sustained you during this year: prayer that opens the heart, the sacraments that nourish and heal, and a generosity of spirit that reflects the mercy of God. May the seeds sown during this Jubilee continue to grow, bearing fruit in lives shaped by faith, hope, and love.

With every grace and blessing,
Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

'What is this hope we wish each other?'

A Christmas Message from Archbishop Comensoli

When we wish someone a 'Happy Christmas', there's a quiet gift that comes with those words. Hope is that gift. We are saying, I hope that you and those you love may be well, whatever your circumstances.

'Happy Christmas' is more than a seasonal greeting. It's a small ritual of kindness that says, 'I want what is good for you, even if life is imperfect.'

Hope is a kind of glue. It binds our relationships together across time. At Christmas especially, hope takes on a gentle but persistent strength - the belief that peace and joy are possible, even in difficulty.

For children, hope at this time of year looks like anticipation: presents, surprises, family moments. It is immediate and tangible.

For us adults, especially parents, hope often becomes an intentional responsibility: the desire to provide, to make each day a blessing, even under pressure.

For grandparents, and those gone before us, hope is often about peace, endurance and unity. They cherish what they have, knowing how fragile life can be.

In our Christian life, hope goes far deeper. It is not merely a feeling; it has become enfleshed in a person. Our hope has a name: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel - God-with-us.

At Christmas, we remember not only the child in Bethlehem but the God who came through to us and for us, and who continues to do so.

This is hope beyond optimism. It is a light the darkness cannot overcome. Christian hope is the light of the world.

The birth of Jesus is part of each of our stories. His coming assures us that this broken world is still destined for goodness and beauty.

In your challenges, burdens and suffering, take heart: God's love and peace are truly present for all who thirst for him.

So, when someone wishes you a 'happy Christmas' in the Christian sense, they offer more than goodwill. They offer a gift: You are not alone. Hope is real - today and every day.

I wish you and your families a joyful and hope-filled Christmas.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli



May the blessings of the new-born Baby Jesus be with you, your family & friends!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Greetings from
Fr. Leenus, Fr. Pat and Br. Lindsay

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful on the mountains, / are the feet of one who brings good news, / who heralds peace, brings happiness, / proclaims salvation, / and tells Zion, / 'Your God is king!' / Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, / they shout for joy together, / for they see the Lord face to face, / as he returns to Zion. / Break into shouts of joy together, / you ruins of Jerusalem; / for the Lord is consoling his people, / redeeming Jerusalem. / The Lord bares his holy arm / in the sight of all the nations, / and all the ends of the earth shall see / the salvation of our God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97: 1-6. R. v. 3

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

**A SERVICE OF THE
SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn/acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia Alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



**TODAY IS BORN
OUR SAVIOUR,
CHRIST THE LORD!**