

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



The Nativity of the Lord—Mass During the Day

25 December 2023

today's readings

Isaiah 9:1-7
Psalm 95:1-3,11-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

in a nutshell

I bring you news of great joy. We share the joy of the angels and the shepherds as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. He is one with us, in times of darkness and hardship, in joy and celebration.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.
For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Psalm Response

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

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

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.)

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary
Tuesday—9:00am
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Friday—8:00am-8:45am

Exposition
Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:
smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: stmarysmtevelyn.org.au

Email: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy ...

“Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy ...; for to you is born this day ... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10–11).

Today! This “today” which resounds in the liturgy does not refer only to the event which took place two thousand years ago and which changed the history of the world. It also refers to this Holy Night in which we are gathered here, in Saint Peter’s Basilica, in spiritual communion with all those throughout the world who are celebrating the Solemnity of Christmas. Even in the farthest reaches of the five Continents there resound tonight the angelic words heard by the shepherds of Bethlehem: “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy ...; for to you is born this day ... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10–11).

Jesus was born in a stable, as the Gospel of Luke recounts, “because there was no room for them in the inn” (Lk 2:7). Mary, his Mother, and Joseph had not found a welcome in any house in Bethlehem. Mary had to lay the Saviour of the world in a manger, the only cradle available for the Son of God made man. This is the reality of the Lord’s Nativity. Every year we return to it: thus we rediscover it, thus we experience it every time with unchanged wonder.

The birth of the Messiah! It is the central event in the history of humanity. The whole human race was awaiting it with a vague presentiment; the Chosen People awaited with explicit awareness.

A privileged witness of this expectation, throughout the entire liturgical season of Advent and also at this solemn vigil, is the Prophet Isaiah who, from the distant centuries directs his inspired gaze to this single, future night at Bethlehem. Although he lived many centuries earlier, he speaks of this event and its mystery as if he were an eyewitness of it: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given” — “Puer natus est nobis, Filius datus est nobis” (Is 9:6).

Such is the historical event imbued with mystery: a tender child is born, fully human but at the same time the only-begotten Son of the Father. He is the Son, not made but eternally begotten, the Son of one being with the Father. “God from God, light from light, true God from true God”. He is the Word, “through whom all things were made”.

We shall soon proclaim these truths in the Creed and add: “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man”. Professing our faith together with the whole Church, this night too we shall acknowledge the amazing grace which the Lord’s mercy bestows on us.

Israel, the People of God of the Old Covenant, was chosen to bring to the world, as a “shoot from the stump of David”, the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of all humanity. Together with an outstanding representative of that People, the Prophet Isaiah, let us therefore turn to Bethlehem with our eyes lifted in expectation of the Messiah. In the divine light we can glimpse how the Old Covenant is being fulfilled and how, with Christ’s birth, a New and Eternal Covenant is being revealed.

Saint Paul speaks of this New Covenant in the Letter to Titus which we have just heard: “The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men” (Tit 2:11). Precisely this grace enables humanity to live “awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ”, who “gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds” (Tit 2:14).

Dear Brothers and Sisters, this message of grace is today addressed to us! Listen, then! To all “whom God loves”, to all who accept the invitation to pray and keep vigil on this Holy Christmas Night, I repeat with joy: God’s love for us has been revealed! His love is grace and faithfulness, mercy and truth! By setting us free from the darkness of sin and death, he has become the firm and unshakeable foundation of the hope of every human being.

In God is the fullness of glory. On this night the glory of God becomes the inheritance of all creation and, in particular, of mankind. Yes, the Eternal Son, the eternal object of the Father’s pleasure, became man, and his earthly birth on Christmas night testifies once and for all that in him every man is included in the mystery of God’s love, which is the source of definitive peace.

“Peace among men with whom he is pleased”. Yes, peace to humanity! This is my Christmas wish. Dear Brothers and Sisters, during this night and throughout the Christmas Octave, let us implore from the Lord this much needed grace. Let us pray that all humanity will come to know in the Son of Mary, born in Bethlehem, the Redeemer of the world who brings us the gift of love and peace. Amen!