


Prayer for Rain: Almighty and eternal Father, Give your blessing of rain to our land. May your rain fall gently on our farms, our stock and our native life. Give courage, strength and hope to our farmers and graziers and their families and to our rural townspeople as we wait patiently for your providence. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord. Amen. Thank you dear Lord for the rain we have received.

ROSTER	Sat 23rd Dec	Sun 24th Dec	Sat 30th Dec	Sun 31st Dec
Welcomer	Tom	Susan	Mary	-----
1st Reader	Ron	Mary	Felicity	Eris
2nd Reader	Pat	Catherine	-----	Christine
Communion	Gerry -----	Con Rebecca	Judy David	Con Rebecca
Servers	Thu Han Andre	Gerry	TBA	TBA
Musicians	Bong Jearen	Justin	Robyn	Rita/Justin
Singers	Filipino Choir	Theresa	Janette	Theresa
Mass set up	Beverley Lou	David Rebecca	Carmel	David Rebecca
Morning Tea		Perry		Parish Council
Floral Arrgmt	Sue Flavel, Anne Gilbert, Jennifer Williams, Harry Rackemann and Geraldine Ward			



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Rev. Fr Lucius Edomobi
Email: edomobil@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH MANAGER
Antony Manjooran Sebastian

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NEWSLETTER 24TH DECEMBER 2023
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

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 .

His name will be Emmanuel: "God is with us"

On this fourth and last Sunday of Advent, the Holy Mother Church calls us to take a cue from the spiritual bonds shared by Mary and Elizabeth in Luke's Gospel today. We are called to believe that what was promised us by the Lord would be fulfilled, and then to act on the strength of that faith by making ourselves channels of the joy that flows from it. Let us therefore listen and hear the footsteps of God who has gifted us with His only begotten son to redeem us and to set us free.

The question we might like to ask ourselves this week is; what gifts are we prepared to give this Christmas? Last Sunday the Holy mother church asked us to rejoice because the birth our saviour is not too far away as the prophecy of Isaiah comes to fulfilment. Let us therefore consider and reflect on these four letters below:

R – espect. Everybody has to be respected even little ones and those we consider less-important. I must respect your idea and everything in you.

O – penness. I am open to all possibilities. Especially in my relationship with others.

S – ensitivity. I can easily understand your feelings at any given moment and try to respond to it with care and compassion.

E – mpathy. I am willing to feel your pain and to place your needs above mine.

Combining the four letters will give us ROSE which symbolizes love. Are you prepared to give someone ROSE this Christmas?

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, as we begin the final preparation to Christmas, let us pray for the generosity to open our hearts for the light of Christ to shine through to those we come in contact with this festive season. May the Father of mercies open our eyes to see his Son's face in each other and may our hearts leap with joy at the sight of our brothers and sisters this Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus!
Fr Lucius

This Week's Mass Schedule

- 24/12/2023 **Sunday**
•Carols: 6:30pm - Vigil **7pm**
•Carols: 11:30pm - Midnight at 12
- 25/12/2023 **Monday**
Maryborough **8:00am**
Tiaro **10:00am**
- 27/12/2023 **Wednesday** **8:00am**
- 28/12/2023 **Thursday** **12:00pm**
- 29/12/2023 **Friday** **8:30am**
- 30/12/2023 **Saturday** **6:00pm**
- 31/12/2023 **Sunday**
Maryborough **8:00am**
Tiaro **10:00am**

1st RITE OF RECONCILIATION
EVERY SATURDAY 5 - 5.30pm

READINGS

- 4th Sunday of Advent - Year B**
(p.514 in St Pauls Missal)
- **1st-** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
 - **Psalm** - Luke 1:46-50, 53-5484
Resp. hymns page
 - **2nd** -1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 - **Gospel Accl.** hymns page
 - **Gospel** - John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Nativity of the Lord (p.132 in St Pauls Missal)

- **1st-** Isaiah Isaiah 52:7-10
- **Psalm** - 97. Resp. hymns page
- **2nd** -Hebrews 1:1-6
- **Gospel Accl.** hymns page
- **Gospel** - John 1:1-18

Next weekend: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph-Year B(p.520)

- **1st** - Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
- **Psalm** - 104
- **2nd** - Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
- **Gospel** - Luke 2:22, 39-40

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Merry Christmas!



ROYAL IMAGERY IN THE BIRTH OF JESUS

By situating the birth of Jesus during the reign of Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius, Luke provides a subtle but pointed comparison between earthly and divine power.

Bethlehem was in Judea, a province of the Roman empire. Augustus, who established the Pax Romana ('Roman Peace'), was arguably the greatest of Rome's emperors. A measure of his self-conception and public persona is evident in his titles: God and Saviour. Yet, Augustus feigned humility by refusing the title 'king' or 'emperor' and referred to himself instead as 'princeps,' or 'first citizen.' The long arm of Rome reached into each of its provinces which were ruled by the strong hand of its regional magistrates; Quirinius ruled Judea. Luke's mention of Augustus and Quirinius reminds readers of Rome's imperial power which is illustrated by the census that was ordered for 'the whole world' (2:1). Enrolling people was a way of assessing personal wealth for the purpose of taxation. Rome ordered, people obeyed; Rome taxed, people paid. Ironically, however, the imperial command fulfils God's ancient purpose: that Jesus be born in Bethlehem, the 'City of David' (2:4, 11; Micah 5:1).

The gospel also stresses the royal dignity of Jesus, descendant of the family of David (2:4), unarguably the greatest of Israel's Kings. David had ruled, not by virtue of personal power or military might, but by divine election (1 Samuel 16:1, 12) and promise (2 Samuel 7:12-16). Jesus is the heir to that divine promise. Jesus' royal and divine dignity is signified by his titles: Saviour, Christ (= Messiah; see Advent 3), and Lord (2:11); the reading from Isaiah adds another four titles (Wonder-Counselor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace) and asserts his right to rule. Jesus' birth fulfils David's kingship, brings glory to God and peace to people (2:14).

Yet for all his royal and divine power, Jesus will not stretch out his hand to dominate but to heal. His humility is genuine, not feigned: though divine, he is born as human; though royal, he is laid in a manger; though ruler, he is attended by shepherds.

Merry Christmas Everyone
Fr Lucius

(Liturgy Brisbane, 2023)

ENTRANCE: ADVENT CHANT

TWILIGHT, THEN DARKNESS, NIGHT FALLS AND CANDLES GLOW.
GENTLY SURROUNDING US, A NEW BIRTH OF HOPE.

WATCHING, WAITING, AWAK'NING A NEW BIRTH OF HOPE.

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O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in Her ways to go. R./

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe. R./

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PSALM RESPONSE: (SAID)

FOR EVER I WILL SING THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

COMMUNION: A TRUSTING PSALM

Refrain:

**Lord, let your mercy be on us
As we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithfulness and love.
His love can never be measured.
His beauty is like nothing we have ever seen,
So let us place our trust in him. R/.

The word of the Lord means a patient, gentle God.
His love can never grow weary.
His mercy is as though our sins have never been,
If we can place our trust in him. R/.

The word of the Lord is fire burning strong.
His love can never grow weary.
He will seek and save the lost until we all return,
So let us place our trust in him. R/.

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THANKSGIVING: PRAYER FOR PEACE

Love before us, love behind us,
Love under our feet.

Love within us, love over us,

Let all around us be love.

(Repeat)

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RECESSIONAL: JOYFUL IN HOPE

Joyful in hope, Your people pray.

Joyful in hope, we're on our way.

Though the road may not be clear,

We believe, Lord, You are near,

In the smile and open heart of a friend.

Joyful in hope, Your people pray.

Joyful in hope, we're on our way.

There's sunshine after rain,

There's laughter after pain,

And I am with you always, so rise again.

Mary, so open to the Lord,
When you answered, "Yes,"

Our hope was restored.

Though you couldn't understand,

In trust you took his hand.

So, joyful in hope, we live again.

Michael Herry © Michael Herry

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INVITATION TO SUNDAY MORNING TEA

Each Sunday after the 8am Mass we host a morning tea. Please join us. Meet and talk to your fellow parishioners.



Please remember in your prayers:

Those in ill health: Justin Percival, Marceline & Gabriel Burton, Margaret Twomey, Betty Hove, Brian Hodges, Brenda Dreger, Evelyn Keys, Carmel Bird, Gregory Massingham, David Brettell, Anna Pecar and Ame Cox.

The Recently Deceased: Cecilia Hynes, Michele Hughes and Ariston Cortes Jr.

Anniversary of Death: Alice O'Connell, Barry Foot, Dominguita Hones, Zita Hogan, Alice Bertram, Joseph Hogan, Angelina Edomobi and Patrick Berrell.

Christmas Carols

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.



"To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God on high,
Who thus addressed their song:



"All glory be to God on high,
And to the Earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease!"

Winchester Old. CM; Christopher Tye
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Away In A Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He
lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.



The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

1, v2: unknown; V3: John McFarland Public Domain

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.



traditional French carol (Les Anges dans nos Campagnes)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"



**Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"**

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.



Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give us second birth.



C. Wesley (1707 - 1788) , Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)
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What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?



**Refrain:
This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.**



Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.



W.C. Dix (1827-1898)
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Christmas Mass

ENTRANCE: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;



Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

John F Wade; trans. Frederick Oakeley
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PSALM RESPONSE: (SAID/SUNG)

TODAY IS BORN OUR SAVIOUR, CHRIST, OUR SAVING LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

You are the Christ everlasting,
Born for us all of a virgin,
You have conquered death, opened heaven to all
believers.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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COMMUNION: THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angels did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep

**Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**



They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. R/.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest:
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.



Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh, and frankincense.

Traditional

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THANKSGIVING: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!



Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Joseph Mohr; trans. John F Young
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RECESSIONAL: JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing'
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The saviour reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: I. Watts (1674-1748) Music: G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
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