

**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 16th Dec	Sun 17th Dec	Sat 23rd Dec	Sun 24th Dec
Welcomer	Anne	Tyson	Anne	Tyson
1st Reader	Beverley	Gail	Beverley	Gail
2nd Reader	Warren	Johnmae	Warren	Johnmae
Communion	Gerry Marion	Con Rebecca	Gerry Marion	Con Rebecca
Servers	Stazio Han Thu	Xavier Byron	Thu Han Andre	Gerry
Musicians	Bong	Rita	Bong	Rita
Singers	Children's Choir	Choir	Children's Choir	Choir
Mass set up	Carmel	David Rebecca	Beverley Lou	David Rebecca
Morning Tea		Deem Sisters		Perry
Floral Arrgmt				

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**NEWSLETTER 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**  
REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS;  
AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.  
INDEED, THE LORD IS NEAR.

**This Week's Mass Schedule**

20/12/2023	Wednesday	8:00am
	Fair Haven	10:00am
21/12/2023	Thursday	12:00pm
22/12/2023	Friday	8:30am
23/12/2023	Saturday	6:00pm
24/12/2023	Sunday	
	Maryborough	8:00am
	Tiaro	10:00am

**1st RITE OF RECONCILIATION EVERY SATURDAY 5 - 5.30pm**

**Christmas Mass Times**  
**Sunday 24th December - St. Mary's**  
•Carols: 6:30pm - Vigil Mass: 7pm.  
•Carols: 11:30pm - Midnight Mass: 12am.  
**Monday 25th December**  
•Mass: 8am St. Mary's.  
•Mass: 10am Sacred Heart, Tiaro.

Please Ensure Silence  
In The Church By  
Supporting Silent Prayer

**READINGS**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B (p.510 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  
**Next weekend: 4th Sunday of Advent - Year B (p.514)**  
•1st-2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12,14, 16  
•Psalm - 88  
•2nd - Romans 16:25-27  
•Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

**"Gaudete Sunday"**  
**The ordinary story to the birth of an extra-ordinary man**  
One of the reasons why some Jews did not accept Jesus as the Messiah was because of the realities behind his ordinary birth. They expected a messiah to come from a wealthy Jewish Royal family, but instead what they saw was an ordinary humble son of a carpenter who was born in a manger.

Like the Jews of old we also wait for the coming of God among us, for our Immanuel (God with us). Maybe we should take a moment and ask ourselves, how do we expect God to come among us? How does God work among us? This is necessary because sometimes the problem is not that God is not with us, the problem rather is that we do not recognize the ways of God's presence and action among us. We act often like Jacob in Bethel who awoke from his sleep and exclaimed, "So the LORD is in this place - and I did not know it!" (Genesis 28:16).

The coming of the long awaited Messiah, the light of the world, the king of the Jews and the head of our families, in such an ordinary way, reminds us that God comes in ordinary, normal, daily circumstances of life. God comes to us in the people we see around us being born, growing up, ageing and dying. Yet it is still hard for us to see God in the people who are familiar to us, not to talk of in our own very selves. But if we see the incarnation of the Son of God as a bridge between heaven and earth, between the divine and the human, between the order of grace and the order of nature, between the sacred and the profane, maybe we will begin to discern the presence and action of God more and more in our daily lives.

Today also is "Gaudete Sunday"! That's why we are using rose candles and vestments today. "Gaudete" is a Latin word for "rejoice". The Church invites us to rejoice because Christmas is closer. The eclipse is nearly over and the sun is set to shine again. So we are called not only to rejoice but to prepare our hearts and minds and listen and hear the footsteps of God who comes into our lives in ordinary ways, through ordinary people and at ordinary moments of our lives. No need to look up to the mountain top or the depths of the ocean, for he is always with us and it is in him that we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

**Come, Lord Jesus!**  
**Fr Lucius**



### Roster for Christmas

We kindly request the Welcomers, Readers, Communion Ministers, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Musicians and Singers to have a look into the list available near the Piety Stall and support to complete the roster for Christmas Masses.



### Choir Practice

\*Tuesday 19th December at 4pm.

This is for Carols and Christmas Masses  
All Choirs and Parishioners are invited.

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the main entrances. All the offerings that we receive through Christmas Offerings this year will be set aside to support the Parish Youth Group.

Christmas Offering



### Christmas Week Mass Times

• Saturday 23rd December  
Mass: 6pm St. Mary's.

• Sunday 24th December  
Mass: 8am St. Mary's.  
Mass: 10am Sacred Heart, Tiaro.

### Christmas Mass Times

Carols: 6:30pm  
Vigil Mass: 7pm - St. Mary's.

Carols: 11:30pm followed by  
Midnight Mass: 12am St. Mary's.

• Monday 25th December  
Mass: 8am St. Mary's.  
Mass: 10am Sacred Heart, Tiaro.

### RCIA 2024

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Presentation of the Candidates: 17-Dec-23 Sunday  
8am Mass.

- **Session 1:** Thursday 4th January - 5-6pm.
- **Session 2:** Thursday 18th January - 5-6pm.
- **Session 3:** Thursday 1st February - 5-6pm.
- **Session 4:** Thursday 15th February - 5-6pm.
- **Session 5:** Thursday 29th February - 5-6pm.
- **Session 6:** Thursday 14th March - 5-6pm.

Celebration - Easter Vigil Mass - 30th March - 6pm.



**Volunteers needed:** Parish is seeking volunteers with experience and equipment to help with trimming, pruning and hedge trimming at the Church garden before Christmas. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Lucius or Parish Office.

### The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### God's Word 2024

is now available for \$15.

### Columban Art Calendar 2024

is now selling for \$10.

### Christmas Cards:

A new collection is now available.

### 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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### LET HEAVEN REJOICE

**Refrain:** *Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad;  
let all creation sing.*

*Let children proclaim through ev'ry land:  
"Hosanna to our king."*

Sound the trumpet into the night;  
The day of the Lord is near.  
Wake his people, lift your voice,  
Proclaim it to the world.

Nations tremble, wise men amazed  
A child is born this night  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God  
Our Father, Prince of Peace

Songs of angels,  
"Glory on High, And Peace to men on earth.  
I bear glad tidings: Born this day,  
Your Savior and Your God."

R. Dufford  
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### PSALM RESPONSE: (SAID)

MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

### COMMUNION: JESUS YOU ARE BREAD FOR US

**Refrain:** *Jesus, You are bread for us.  
Jesus, You are life for us.  
In Your gift of Eucharist  
We find love.*

When we feel we need a friend  
You are there with us, Jesus.  
Thank you for the friend You are.  
Thank you for the love we share. R./

When we feel that we need love  
You are there with us, Jesus.  
Thank you for the friend You are.  
Thank you for the love we share. R./

When we feel that things aren't fair  
You are there with us, Jesus.  
Thank you for the friend You are.  
Thank you for the love we share. R./

In communion we believe

You are there with us, Jesus.

Thank you for the friend You are.

Thank you for the love we share. R./

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### THANKSGIVING: PRAYER FOR PEACE

Light before us, light behind us,

Light under our feet.

Light within us, light over us,

Let all around us be light.

(Repeat)

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### RECESSIONAL:

### PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light.

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson © Jan-Lee Music

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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, Ariston Cortes Jr., Philomena Grimwade and Patricia Thackeray.

**Anniversary of Death:** Barry Foot, Dominguita Hones, Zita Hogan, Alice Bertram, Joseph Hogan, Angelina Edomobi, Patrick Berrell, Arthur & Eileen Walker and Leo & Ellen Clancy.