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2nd Reader	Beverley	Gerard	John	Anne
Communion	Sue Warren	Con Anne	Wayne Judy	Rebecca Anne
Servers	Thu Han Chet	Elveena Elisse Pius	Nashe Aaliya Eugenia Frances	Xavier Felix Rafael
Musicians	Amy	Gail	Bong / Cody	Justin
Singers	Janette	Theresa	Filipino Choir	Theresa
Mass set up	Sophie Janette	David Rebecca	Beverley Lou	David Rebecca
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This Week's Mass Schedule

24/12/2024	**Wednesday**	**8:00am**
	Chelsea	**10:00am**
	Carols	**6:30pm**
	Christmas Vigil Mass	**7:00pm**
	Carols	**11:30pm**
	Christmas Midnight Mass (25/12/2024 Thursday)	**12:00am**
25/12/2024	**Thursday**	
	Carols	**7:45am**
	Maryborough	**8:00am**
	Tiaro	**10:00am**
26/12/2024	**Friday**	**9:15am**
27/12/2024	**Saturday**	
	Tiaro	**10:00am**
	Maryborough	**6:00pm**
28/12/2024	**Sunday**	
	Maryborough	**8:00am**
	Tiaro	**No Mass**

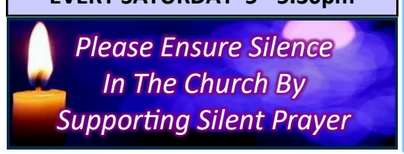
READINGS

Fourth Sunday Of Advent - Year A (p.115) in St Pauls Missal.
- **1st** - Isaiah 7:10-14
- **Psalm** - 23 Resp. hymns page
- **2nd** - Romans 1:1-7
- **Gospel Accl.** hymns page
- **Gospel** - Matthew 1:18-24

The NATIVITY of the LORD (p.132) in St Pauls Missal.
- **1st** - Isaiah 52:7-10
- **Psalm** - 98 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 A (p.137).**
- **1st** - Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
- **Psalm** - 128
- **2nd** - Colossians 3:12-21
- **Gospel** - Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

1st RITE OF RECONCILIATION EVERY SATURDAY 5 - 5.30pm



ST MARY'S MARYBOROUGH

NEWSLETTER 21ST DECEMBER 2024
4TH Sunday Of Advent - Year A

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.

A SAVIOUR WILL BE BORN: 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 today's Gospel. We are called to believe that what had been promised to 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? Let us consider and reflect on these four letters below:

R – espect. Everybody must 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 preparations 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 in need this Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus!
Fr Lucius

4th Sunday of Advent

Entrance:
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.

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

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Psalm Response: (said)

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Communion:
Bread Broken, Wine Shared

<u>Refrain</u>:
Bread broken, wine shared;
Jesus, here, Taking our lives, opening our hearts,
Making us whole, setting our loving free.

Take all our dreams, all that we are,
All we could ever be.
Lord of all life, we want to be Yours,
We take bread and eat.

Open our minds, open our hearts,
Let love set us free within.
Lord of all life, we want to be Yours,
We pour wine and drink.

Make us alive, filled with Your hope,
Living what's really true.
Lord of all life, we want to be Yours,
We know this is You.

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Thanksgiving: 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. (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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<u>Please remember in your prayers:</u>

Those in ill health: Josephine Toriaga, Chona Hall, Tom Massingham, Ewa Danda, Christine Waerner, Agnes Martel, Christine Chu, Vince Dollisson, Leo G. Amar, Alfonso Diaz, Rita Sempf, Jenny Camilleri, Bohdan Pastuch, Janet Jackson, Joan Lucas, Betty Hove, Evelyn Keys and Ame Cox.

The Recently Deceased: Thomas Shambrook, Loreta Hall and Ross Keys.

Anniversary of Death: Zita Hogan, Joseph Hogan, Alice Mary Bertram, Patrick Berrell, Terry Walsh, Leo & Ellen Clancy and Arthur & Eileen Walker.

Choir

All choir members who are available to sing at Christmas Masses are welcome.

Hymns for 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;

<u>Refrain</u>: ***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; . R/.

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; R/.

John F Wade; trans. Frederick Oakeley Public Domain

Psalm Response: Psalm 97

Today is born our Saviour, Christ, our Saving Lord.

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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:
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 Public Domain*

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.

<u>Refrain</u>: ***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.

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.

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Thanksgiving:
Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
we are family;
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson © Jan-Lee Music
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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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I am a poor boy too
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
I have no gift to bring
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
That's fit to give our King
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
Rum-pum-pum-pum
Rum-pum-pum-pum

Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum,
On my drum?

Mary nodded
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
The ox and lamb kept time
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
I played my drum for Him
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
I played my best for Him
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
Rum-pum-pum-pum
Rum-pum-pum-pum

Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum.

By Harry Simeone, Henry Onorati and Katherine K. Davis
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O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in the dark street shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King
And peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
Oh, come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Phillips Brooks
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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.

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CHRISTMAS: THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

My dear Parishioners and friends. As we gather this Christmas, we pause to remember the miracle at the heart of our faith: the birth of Christ. This humble arrival, not in a palace but in a stable, reminds us that God's love seeks us wherever we are—be it in moments of joy or times of struggle.

Christmas isn't just about gifts or gatherings; it's a celebration of hope. In a world that sometimes feels uncertain, the birth of Jesus assures us that we are never alone. His presence brings light in darkness, comfort in sorrow, and peace in our hearts. Let us open ourselves to this gift and share it generously with others, especially those doing it tough this year.

Let us remember that nothing can break us or make us forget that we are into the most wonderful time of the year – Christmas. It is a time to be proud of our faith and our contribution in building up the body of Christ, the church. Like the voices of St Paul and John the Baptist echoed through, on last week's readings, let us always be happy and learn to share our lives with one another as Jesus did for us.

Dear Friends, do not underestimate what your little act of kindness and generosity can do in the lives of others in this festive season. Remember, Christmas is a season of sharing, please do not hold back. It is the most beautiful time of the year, it is the most wonderful time of the year, it is Christmas, the birth of our savior, Jesus. May the joy of Christmas fill our homes and hearts. May we find moments of gratitude, kindness, and togetherness—not just today, but throughout the coming year. Let us carry the joy and love of Christmas into the world, making it better with every act of forgiveness, compassion and hope.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.
Fr Lucius Edomobi, pp

Christmas Carols

Christmas in the Scrub

At Christmas time the birds all sing,
The rabbits jump, the lizards crawl.
At Christmas time the outback rings,
And all for the birth of God.

Chorus
At the birth of God the wallabies hop,
For the birth of God the cockatoos squawk,
At the birth of God the platypus swims,
For the birth of God the kookaburras laugh.
For the birth of God was such exciting news
They'd never heard before.
They came from all the land to see
This baby in the straw.

And if you were there
You would've seen the wise old kangaroo:
'O, I've starved in droughts and swum the floods,
I've hopped around both up and down,
Through hills and plains I've never seen
Such a baby in the straw.'

And if you were there
You would've heard the wise little bandicoot:
'O, I've snuffled and fossicked the midnight scrub,
I've been in logs and fogs and bogs,
Well, bless my days, I've never heard
Of a baby in the straw.'

And if you were there
You would've heard the wise old noisy crow:
'O, I've flown this land, seen many a baby
Born in burrows, trees and furrows,
Yet this one outshines them all,
This baby in the straw.'

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Do You Hear What I Hear

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?"
Way up in the sky little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star,
Dancing in the night,
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the Shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?"
Ringing through the sky Shepherd boy.
Do you hear what I hear?

A song, a song,
High above the tree.
With a voice as big as the sea,
With a voice as big as the sea.

Said the Shepherd boy to the mighty king
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know?
A child, a child
Shivers in the cold,
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold ."

Said the king to the people everywhere
"Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace people everywhere
Listen to what I say!
A child, a child
Sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

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Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing on plain.
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly songs?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Holy Spirit lend thine aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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Mary's Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day.

Hark, now hear the angels sing,
A new King born today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day.

Trumpets sound and angels sing,
Listen to what they say,
And man will live forevermore,
Because of Christmas day.

While shepherds watched their flock by night,
Them see a bright new shining star,
Them hear a choir sing,
The music seemed to come from afar.
Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,
Come to Bethlehem that night,
Them find no place to born she Child,
Not a single room was in sight. *(Chorus).*

By and by, they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn,
And in a manger, cold and dark,
Mary's little Boy was born.
Long time ago in Bethlehem,
So the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ,
Was born on Christmas Day. *(Chorus).*

Jester Hairston

Little Drummer Boy

Come, they told me
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
A newborn King to see
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
Our finest gifts we bring
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
To lay before the King
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum
Rum-pum-pum-pum
Rum-pum-pum-pum

So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum,
When we come.

Little baby
Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum