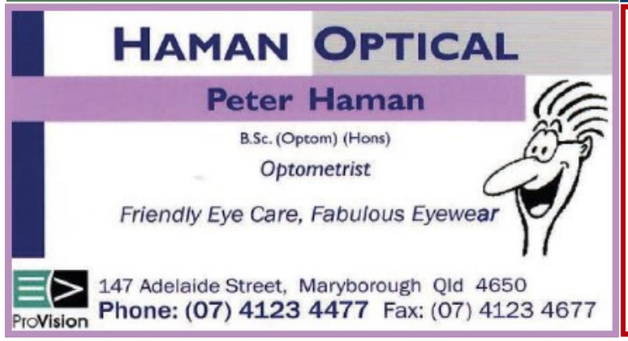
A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

"Your Catholic faith is woven through the many milestones in your life providing guidance, hope and strength. Making a gift of any size through your Will can support the mission of your parish, the Catholic Church and the faith of future generations." Please take a leaflet from the Church/visit Parish office for more details.

ROSTER	Sat 24th Dec.	Sun 25th Dec.	Sat 31st Dec.	Sun 1st Jan.
Welcomer	Ron	Tyson	Pilar	Tyson
1st Reader	Pamella	Eris	Beverley	Frank
2nd Reader	Tom	Catherine	Pat	Eris
Communion	Judy Sue	Rebecca Graham	Beverley	Con Rebecca
Servers	TBA	Sarah Byron	Thu Han Andre	TBA
Musicians	Rita	TBA	Robyn Janette	Robyn Theresa
Singers	Choir	Choir		
Mass set up	Beverley Lou	Lita Rebecca	Carmel	Lita Rebecca
Morning Tea				
Flowers	Sue Flavel and Anne Gilbert			



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PARISH MANAGER
Antony Manjooran Sebastian
OFFICE HOURS
8.30AM TO 2.30PM TUESDAY - FRIDAY

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Ron Wroe 0455 433 335

PARISH SCHOOLS
St Mary's Primary 41 215705
St Mary's College 41 902200

This Week's Mass Schedule

28/12/2022	Wednesday	**08.00am**
	Chelsea	**10.00am**
29/12/2022	Thursday	**12:00pm**
30/12/2022	Friday	**08:30pm**
31/12/2022	Saturday	**06.00pm**
01/01/2023	Sunday	
	Maryborough	**08.00am**
	Tiaro	**10:00am**

1st RITE OF RECONCILIATION
EVERY SATURDAY 5 - 5.30pm

READINGS

The Nativity Of The Lord - Year A (p.119)
- **1st** - Isaiah 52:7-10
- **Psalm** - 97 Resp. in hymns page
- **2nd** - Hebrews 1:1-6
- **Gospel Accl.** in hymns page
- **Gospel** - John 1:1-18

Next weekend's: MARY, the HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - Year A (p.142)
- **1st** - Numbers 6:22-27
- **Psalm** - 66
- **2nd** - Galatians 4:4-7
- **Gospel** - Luke 2:16-21

NEWSLETTER 25TH DECEMBER 2022
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YEAR A

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 .

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 actually 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 and a Happy New Year

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CAROLS

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

Winchester Old. CM; Christopher Tye

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!"

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

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!

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My Heart is a Stable

S. Sears

My heart is a stable, all lowly with animals.
My heart is a manger, all bedded with hay.
My heart is a wrapping, a mantle of swaddling bands.
My heart is a cradle where my Lord Jesus lay.

My heart kneels before him, my Jesus in a manger.
My heart pleads forgiveness for so mean a bed.
My heart offers incense and gold to this kingly child.
My heart lays these gifts at his feet and his head.

My heart is a stable he takes for his mansion.
My heart is a manger he takes for his throne.
My heart is a wrapping of thanks for his loveliness.
My heart is that cradle he takes for his home.

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Away In A Manger

1, v2: unknown; V3: John McFarland

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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Angels We Have Heard On High

traditional French carol (Les Anges dans nos Campagnes)

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

Refrain: Gloria, In excelsis Deo, Gloria, In excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song? ***Refrain:***

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

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of Angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise. ***Refrain:***

More Carols in a separate sheet ...

Entrance: O Come All Ye Faithful

John F Wade; trans. Frederick Oakeley

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;
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;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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Psalm Response: (Read)
All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God .

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Good News and great joy to all the world
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Communion: The First Noel

Traditional

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.

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: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Joseph Mohr; trans. John F Young

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.

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Recessional Hymn: JOY TO THE WORLD

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

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.

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Final Hymn: We wish you a Merry Christmas

Please remember in your prayers:

Those in ill health: Brian Berry, Karl Guerin, Rita Sempf, Daryl Sempf, Carmel Bird, Gregory Massingham, Patricia Thackeray, Dianne Hasselbach, Paul Massingham, Moira Hansen, David Brettell, Anna Pecar, Ame Cox and Laurel Dingle.

The Recently Deceased: Robert Glover, Ruth Mudge, Joseph Marshall and Bernice Brown

Anniversary of Death: Noelene Hogan, Joseph Hogan, Zita Hogan, Bill Steemson, Alice Bertram, Eslawa Alimpangog, Noel Francis Owen, Agustin Gertrudis, Carlos Pepito, Alfredo Martino Jas and Patrick Berrell.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

C. Wesley (1707 – 1788) , Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

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.

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Let Heaven Rejoice

R.Dufford

<u>Refrain:</u>
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."

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We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we travel afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect Light.

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold we bring to crown him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising gladly raising,
Worshipping God on high.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now be hold him a rise,
King and God and sacrifice:
Heav'n sings, "Hallelujah!"
"Hallelujah!" earth replies.

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What Child Is This

W.C. Dix (1827-1898)

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.

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O Holy Night

Words: Cappeau de Roquemaure, translated by John S. Dwight. Music: Adolphe Charles

O Holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear saviour's birth

Long lay the World
In sin and error pining
Till he appeared and
The soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope
The weary World rejoices
For yonder breaks
A new and glorious morn

Chorus:

Fall on your knees
Oh hear the Angel voices
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born, O night divine
O night, O night divine

Led by the light
Of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts
By his cradle we stand

So led by light
Of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men
From Orient land

The King of Kings lay thus
In lowly manger
In all our trials
Born to be our friend

Chorus:

Fall on your knees
Oh hear the Angel voices
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born, O night divine
O night, O night divine

Truly He taught us
To love one another His law is love
And his Gospel is peace

Chains shall He break
For the slave is our brother
And in His name all
Oppression shall cease

Sweet hymns of joy
In grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name

Chorus:

Fall on your knees
Oh hear the Angel voices
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born, O night divine
O night, O night divine

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