

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday Nativity Play @ 5pm
Midnight Mass @ 11pm
Wednesday Christmas Day @ 9am
Thursday Boxing Day
Sunday Christmas 1 two services @ 7.30 and 9am

SAFE TRAVELS – for all members of our parish family who will be travelling this Christmas we wish you safe journeying and a happy holiday with your loved ones. We look forward to hearing all about your time away when you return. Photos are always great as well!

CHRISTMAS 1 – next Sunday we will be having two services at 7.30 and 9am as usual. In-between I hope you have a fabulous time celebrating our Lord's birthday with your family, or friends, or both. It really is a very special time of the year.

Please pray for: Paul; Keena; Cheryl; Elsie; Isla; Charlotte Marilyn; Cameron; Kieth; Bhav; Joyce; Gazza; Derek; Kate; Heather & Colin



This week Johnny is with Tony & Trish Laws



Happy birthday to Colin Croker on 24th

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Welcome to Worship

Advent 4

22nd December 2024



We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

Sentence: Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.
Luke 1:45

Collect of the Day

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son: as we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Today's readings:

Micah 5:2-5a
The Song of Mary
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Next Week:

2 Chron 24:17-22
Psalm 31:1-8
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-60
Matthew 10:17-22



Advent 4 – Luke 1:39-45

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb..."

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent each year shift the focus from Advent's call to preparation for the Messiah to setting the stage for the birth of Christ. In today's Gospel, Elizabeth proclaims her joy-filled faith in God's promise of salvation that will be accomplished through Mary's child and praises her young cousin for her "yes" to God's plan.

In Mary and Elizabeth's meeting and in our own similar "visitations," the Spirit of God is present in the healing, comfort and support we can extend to one another in such moments. In the light and hope of this holy season, may we "make haste" to bring such reconciling peace and healing justice in our own "visitations" to others, in our own encounters in which the grace of God enables us to see one another in God's eyes.

God's Spirit, who inspired the prophets to preach, who enabled the nation of Israel to enter into the covenant with Yahweh, continues at work in the world in new and creative ways. Jesus Christ is the ultimate and perfect fulfilment of that covenant.

The "mystery" of the Incarnation is not that God could become one of us – the inexplicable part is how God could give his love away so freely to his people, without expectation or condition. As St. Irenaeus preached: "Because of his great love for us, Jesus, the Word of God, became what we are in order to make us what he is himself."

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