



ST LUKE'S PARISH

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Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

23 December 2018

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16.

18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. *(R.)*
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. *(R.)*
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. *(R.)*

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (Lk 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL).

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HYMNS	
285	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
193	One Bread, One Body
410	Praise to the Holiest in the Height
473	The Lord's My Shepherd

NOTICES

Baptism News

Today we welcome Elizabeth Judith Egerton into the Church. May God always look down on her, cherish her and keep her safely in His care.



Thank You Parishioners

Thank you to all parishioners who have supported the parish and ministries throughout the year, and we look forward to many more becoming involved in 2019.

Thank you

WELCOME

Welcome Louie

This week we welcome Louie, a third year seminarian, to St Luke's Parish. He will be staying in the parish and assisting with liturgies over the coming weeks.

A Christmas Message
From Monsignor Peter



I pray that the peace and joy of Christmas will be with you and your family during this graced season.

Parish Office Christmas Closure

The parish office will close on 24 December 2018 and will reopen on 2 January 2019. Please contact stluques@bne.catholic.net.au if urgent. We wish all St Luke's parishioners a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year.

If you have an item you would like considered for the newsletter please contact the Parish Office.

Yesterday, we blessed and interred the ashes of Carolyn Harrod into the St Luke's Columbarium. We pray for the repose of her soul and that God blesses and consoles her loved ones at this time.
"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her."

Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve

Monday 24 December,
5pm.

Followed by canapés, champagne and other refreshments served on the front lawn.

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December,
8am.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

Available from the churches this weekend for \$2

This week's edition includes:

- ❖ 'Lights of Christmas' attracting thousands to CBD
- ❖ Federal Government moves to protect religious freedom in 2019 under new legislative proposals
- ❖ Sister of Mercy Angela Mary Doyle sits down to talk with Donna Lynch about life, faith and the Mater

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St John the Evangelist was a son of Zebedee and brother of James. John and James (the Greater) were apostles of Jesus, who referred to them as the 'sons of thunder'. He was a witness to many events including the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. As he stood at the foot of the cross, John was told by Jesus to accept Mary as his adopted mother. John was the first to reach the tomb when told of the resurrection and the first to recognise the Risen Lord when he appeared to them at Lake Tiberias. Towards the end of his life, John wrote the fourth Gospel as a witness to the Divinity of Christ. He also wrote three epistles contained in the New Testament, and is traditionally, though perhaps not correctly, identified as the author of the Book of Revelation.