



# ST LUKE'S PARISH

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Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

25 December 2018

## First Reading Is 9:1-7

*A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

*(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. *(R.)*
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. *(R.)*
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. *(R.)*
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth *(R.)*

## Second Reading Ti 2:11-14

*God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

## Gospel Acclamation (Lk 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

## Gospel Lk 2:1-14

*Today a saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring

you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass. Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope. But this baby is unique. This Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. This baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. This baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant. And this baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. This baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us. Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by all peoples.'

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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## 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

### Thank You to the Brothers James Choir

Thank you to the Brothers James Choir for their continuing support and involvement in the music ministry of the St Luke's in 2018.

# 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 [stlukes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stlukes@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.*

## 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.