

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SECOND READING

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL The Christmas story is full of symbols. Jesus, who becomes our bread and wine – our nourishment – is laid in a manger, the feeding trough for the animals. Jesus, who is the champion of poor people, is born into a homeless family. Poor shepherds were the first to welcome the Messiah that the Jewish people had been awaiting for generations. The symbol of angels singing, praising God, and flying madly all over the sky was a good clue that something out of the ordinary was happening! If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realized in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

The holy Gospel according to John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord



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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isa. 9:1).

It's time for us to pause and see this Light and feel its warmth. As we celebrate Christmas Masses as one parish family, may the light of Christ illumine your ways and fill your homes.

All the readings for all the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery: The Incarnation. God not only authors life and sustains it, he chooses to become one of us. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now; grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt, love or betrayal, Jesus has lived it himself, and he longs to live it with you. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to our parish this past year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to reflect God's presence in our community. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers. Additionally, a special thank you to our staff who have worked so hard despite the current pandemic and the devoted members of the various ministries in our parish and especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our parish vibrant.

My Christmas message this year is to challenge all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. Moreover, that's what God did when he entered our world at the first Christmas. God will fill us with His peace if there is room for Him in our lives.

In closing, my only prayer today, that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. At the same time, I thank you all, most sincerely for your thoughtful prayers, inspiring Christmas greetings and priceless gifts. May all my dear parishioners be over shadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus, the Emmanuel.

- Fr. Thomas Kuruvila



*Unto us this day a Child is born,
We thank You Father for this great gift of Jesus,
that in His birth, life and resurrection,
we are restored by your Grace, to eternal life with You.
Amen.*

UP-COMING MASS TIMES:

Sunday 26th December –Mass for the Holy Family of Jesus
9.00 & 11.00am Mass

(Please note no weekday Mass on Monday 27th December to Thursday 30th December)

Friday 31st December – 7th day in the Octave of the Nativity
11.00am Mass

Saturday 1st January – Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
11.00am Mass,
6.00pm Vigil Mass **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Sunday 2nd January – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
9.00 & 11.00am Mass

Resumption of normal Mass Times

ANNIVERSARIES: Sat 19th Dec-Sun 26th Dec, 2021
Frederick Bravington, Rosy Harris, Peter South.

The Sick: Gabby Sundstrom, Ray Loel, Kathryn Kircos, Peter Thomas, Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hartley, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn, David Merton, Michael Byrne, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Clive Geach.

SCHOOL NEWS it is with sadness that we inform you that our Principal Mrs Cathy Mason left us at the end of the term. Cathy commenced at St John's in early 2015. We thank her for her outstanding leadership, and wonderful contributions strengthening our staff, students, and community. She will be sadly missed. We wish Cathy every success in her future endeavours, as she moves into the role of mentoring & developing new principals within the Sale Archdiocese. Ursula DeCorrado will be our Acting Principal.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MARY:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, for your warm welcome and support that I received since my arrival here in February. Even though I did not get the opportunity to spend a lot of face-to-face time with you all, I am hoping that this will improve for us all next year.



Thank you to Fr. Thomas and Peter, Parish administration staff and the Parish Pastoral Group for their spiritual leadership and ongoing support.

Even though we had been in lockdown most of this past year, during that time, I did get to experience what a faith filled community you all have here at St John the Baptist. Your ongoing care and prayers for each other reflect your faith and devotion to Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, His church and His mission.

I pray that God's blessings be upon us all, our families, the church and the world throughout the Christmas Season and New Year 2022. - Mary Makarucha Faith Development Coordinator.

SVDP Update: A very special “thank you” to Knox City Council for their grant of \$2,000.00 to go towards our Christmas Hampers for families. We are pleased to inform everyone, the total value of Christmas 2021 donations of non-perishable food, cash, gift cards and wrapped gifts approximately = \$8,560.00. Your generosity brings joy to many families in need of a “hand up”. We are glad to report that the clients who have received their Christmas hampers have been thankful and some very moved by your generosity. A big thank you to all.