

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## Christmas Day

### FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 52:7-10*

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.)

### SECOND READING

*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

*A reading from 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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***The Nativity of the Lord - Year B  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> / Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023***

***Loving Father,  
You Love us so much that you sent  
Your only begotten Son, that whoever  
Believes in Him, may have eternal life.  
May we share in the song of the Angels, the  
gladness of the shepherds, and  
the worship of the wise Men.  
As with thanksgiving we contemplate Jesus!  
O Come, let us adore him. Amen.***



**"The Word was  
made flesh."**

John 1:14

**Message from Fr Thomas ...** Dear Parishioners,

As the radiant lights of Christmas twinkle around us, filling the air with the festive spirit of this blessed season, my heart overflows with gratitude and joy. In this special edition of our parish newsletter, it is both a privilege and a blessing to extend to each of you my warmest Christmas greetings and a heartfelt thank you.

This holy season calls us to reflect on the miracle of the Nativity. The birth of Jesus in a humble manger in Bethlehem changed the course of history and the destiny of humankind. This profound event speaks to the heart of our faith – God becoming man to dwell among us, sharing in our joys and sorrows, and opening the way to eternal salvation.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the incredible love that God has for each of us. It is a time to reflect on the message of hope, peace, and salvation that He brought into the world. Let us embrace the spirit of the season with open hearts, allowing the story of Christ's birth to inspire us to love and care for one another with renewed zeal.

Amidst the festive decorations, gift exchanges, and family gatherings, let us keep our hearts centered on the Christ Child. May we emulate the humility and simplicity of the Holy Family, and may their trust in God's plan inspire us to live our faith more fully.

I invite you to participate in our Christmas services, where we can share in the sacraments and rejoice in the communal expression of our faith. These moments of worship and prayer are opportunities to renew our commitment to Christ and to each other as members of His Body, the Church.

I express my deepest appreciation for the ways you, our parish family, have shown your faith and love this past year. Your commitment to our community, your spirit of giving, and your support in both joyful and challenging times have truly reflected Christ's teachings. Your dedication, through volunteering, participating in parish activities, or supporting our outreach programs, has made a significant impact.

Your kindness has been a beacon of light in our community, spreading the message of Christ's love far and wide. The countless hours of selfless service, heartfelt prayers, and generous donations have embodied the spirit of Christian stewardship.

As we celebrate this joyous season, let us also remember those who are less fortunate, alone, or struggling. May this Christmas inspire us to continue our work of compassion and service, bringing hope and joy to those in need.

May the miracle of Christmas fill your hearts with warmth and love. I pray this season brings you peace, joy, and happiness. May the coming year be filled with blessings, and may we continue to grow together in faith and love.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families. Thank you for being such a vital part of our parish family. May God's love be with you today and always.

With deepest appreciation and blessings,

- Fr Thomas Kuruvila, Parish Priest.

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

**Those who we remember at this time:**

*Rosy Harris, Joseph Semenow,  
Catherine Theobald, Josie Jordan,  
Patrick Owens, Maria Daraio;  
Peter South.*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE  
CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAYS.** The  
Office Closes: **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 23**  
Normal Hours resume:  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

Merry Christmas to everyone, see  
you in the New Year!

**Christmas /New Year Season Mass times**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**

9 am Mass and 11 am Mass.

*(Note - there will be no weekday Masses from  
Tue 26<sup>th</sup> up to and including Fri 29<sup>th</sup>  
December)*

*Sat /Sun 30<sup>th</sup> /31<sup>st</sup> December – Holy Family*

*Mass 6pm Saturday and 9am & 11am Sunday*

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 –Mary, Mother of God  
10am Mass only.**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life. John 3:16*