

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sunday Nativity Play rehearsal @ 1.30pm  
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am  
Thursday Nativity Play @ 5pm  
Midnight Mass @ 11pm  
Friday Family Service @ 9am  
Sunday ONE SERVICE ONLY @ 9am

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** – if you would like to donate towards the flowers please speak with Irene, Bobbie or the Reverend Josie.

**SAFE TRAVELS** – if you're going away for the Christmas holiday to catch up with loved ones. May you have a safe trip and return with lots of beautiful memories to share.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES TIMES

**Christmas Eve** Nativity Play @ 5 pm  
Midnight Mass @ 11 pm  
**Christmas Day** Family Service @ 9 am

**Please pray for:** Paul; Frances; Isla; Albert, Ivan; Peggy; Peter; Stephen; Amanda; Ernie & Irene; George & Maureen; Lois



*Happy birthday to Carl Bonjour on today;  
Colin Croker, Margaret Allardice on 24<sup>th</sup>; Linda  
McLean on 26<sup>th</sup>*

<b>Wardens -</b>	Phil Goulding	Phone: 9247 4978
	Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
<b>Parish Priest –</b>	the Reverend Josie Steytler	Phone: 0421 115 438

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## Welcome to Worship



## Advent 4

20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**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:** This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

*Luke 1:32-33*

### Collect of the Day

Gracious God,  
whose eternal Word took flesh among us  
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:  
prepare our hearts for his coming again  
and keep us steadfast in hope,  
that we may ready for the coming of his kingdom;  
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Today's readings:**  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-27  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

**Next Week:**  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40



#### Advent 4 – Luke 1:26-38

*“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you . . . Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.”*

Today’s Gospel on this Sunday before Christmas is Luke’s account of the angel Gabriel’s appearance to Mary. The Annunciation story is filled with First Testament imagery (e.g. the announcement by the angel parallels the announcements of the births of many key figures in salvation history, such as Isaac and Samuel; the “overshadowing” of Mary recalls the cloud of glory covering the tent of the ark and temple in Jerusalem). Mary’s “yes” to Gabriel’s words set the stage for the greatest event in human history: God’s becoming human.

In today’s Gospel, God begins the “Christ event” with Mary, a simple Jewish girl who is at the very bottom of her people’s social ladder; the God who created all things makes the fulfillment of his promise dependent upon one of the most dispossessed and powerless of his creatures. Yet God exalts her humility, her simplicity, her trust in his love and mercy. God’s “favour” belongs the poor, the rejected, the abandoned and the forgotten among us today.

In his becoming human in the Son of Mary, God enters human history to show us how to live God-like, grace-filled, holy lives of compassion, forgiveness and justice in our time and place in that history.

In the Advents of our lives, God calls us to bring his Christ into our own time and place; may we respond with the faith and trust of Mary, putting aside our own doubts and fears to say *I am your servant, O God. Be it done.*

The mystery of the Incarnation is relived every time we echo Mary’s “yes” to God’s call to bring his Christ into our world, when we accept, as did Mary, God’s asking us to make the Gospel Jesus alive in our own time and place.

Mary’s life is pretty much laid out before her by her family and culture — simple, hidden and uncomplicated. But God interrupts her pre-ordered life, entrusting her with bringing his Christ to birth. God interrupts our own well-ordered and focused lives, as well, to bring his Word and Light to birth in our hearts and homes; God’s messenger Gabriel appears to us in the needs of our children, the struggles of family and friends, the cries of the poor, the despair of the lost and marginalised.