

STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE



23 December, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler...whose origin is from...ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11–17; 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 17:1; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11–12).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:5–6; Ezekiel 34:23–25, 30; 37:35). He is "the shepherd of Israel," sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our "high priest," from the mould of the mysterious Melchisedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:18–20).

All this is recognised by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognises that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.

Scott Hahn

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil).

Mon - Fri: 8am

Saturday: 10am

Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

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Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
9:30am - 3pm

CHRISTMAS
AT
STS PETER & PAUL'S

MASSTIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE
7PM
(6:30PM CAROLS)

MIDNIGHT MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY
10AM

THE FRIARS' CHRISTMAS MARKET
SAT 22 DEC
9AM-2PM

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:

Sr. Annunciata Fcj, Pauline O'Hara, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr. Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxas, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Eunice Costa, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Watkins, Bonnie Breen, Maurita Carlisle, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Mary Quirke, Ilse Miranda, Neil Baker, Helen Keighery, Alison Fraser

CHRISTMAS AT STS PETER & PAUL'S



MASS TIMES

**CHRISTMAS EVE
7PM**

(6:30PM CAROLS)

MIDNIGHT MASS

**CHRISTMAS DAY
10AM**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS
2019 COLUMBAN CALENDARS
2019 DAILY MISSALS**

We have a number of things for sale after Mass including a wonderful Advent reflection book titled 'Saviour' which is a pocket-size book containing short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord (13 January 2019)

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

There are also Christmas puddings for sale after Mass



SUNDAY EVENING MASS

There has been some recent requests for a Sunday evening Mass in the parish. Please let Fr Dean know your thoughts about that.

FR JOHN RETURNS

This week Fr John came back from his time helping out at our Capuchin parish in Brisbane. It's great to have him back just in time for Christmas. Please don't go away again!!!

Some pics from events throughout the year, which included... Stations & Fish and Chips, Catholicism Series, The Craft Group, The Playgroup, Mercy in the City, The Friars' Market, The Friars' Bookshop, Sts Peter & Paul's Feast Day Festival, Footy & Faith, Volunteer Day

