



St Peter's Catholic Parish

Rochedale • Springwood

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Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year A

18th December 2016

Pastor's Note:

Jesus Saves and is God-With-Us, Emmanuel
(Isaiah 7:10-14; Rom. 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25).

The first reading presents the meeting between Isiah and the king Ahaz. In this meeting, the reluctance of the king to ask for a sign is interpreted by the prophet Isiah as a failure of faith, an unwillingness to be reassured by God. The sign will be given even though unasked for. The immediate reference is to the child who would be born to Ahaz, who was to become King Hezekiah. However, the history tells that though he began well with religious reforms, gradually turned away from the Lord and so the people began to look for another messiah. And thus it becomes a long expectation for a saviour and is seen as direct prophesy about Jesus. Paul's letter to the Romans in today's second reading tells that Paul is chosen by the Lord to be a servant and an apostle, especially chosen by Christ to preach the good news that God had promised long ago. The Son of God and descendant of David was born a man. Truly and fully a man, he was proclaimed the Son of God through his resurrection from the dead. And Paul invites all to belong to this Son of God, Jesus Christ who is our saviour.

The Gospel text is from Matthew's Infancy Narrative and contains the prophesy of Isaiah found in today's first reading. Matthew uses Joseph's dream as a tool with which to answer questions that may have risen about the virginal conception of Jesus. His intention is to show Jesus as a descendant of David and the focus on his story is on Joseph, who is a descendant of David, as Matthew presents the story. Jesus, the Son of David is also Son of God as indicated by the virginal birth prophesy, and the one who will save all people from sin. In this, he is Emmanuel, God with us, not in judgement, but grace. Finally, our advent waiting is to bear fruit. Sunday by Sunday prophet Isaiah has brought to life the ancient hopes, promises and dreams of God's people; and along the way the apostle Paul has exhorted us to patience and tolerance. Thus the prophet Isaiah allows Matthew to adopt and adapt the prophesy to the House of David via King Ahaz: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God with us'. Thus Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, is son of David and Son of God. The good news is that we need never fear God, since he is God with us. Our response to him must only be a response of love. God's love is given freely in Jesus. Receive it with openness and humility like the shepherds and Wise Kings.

Fr Jacob Chacko, MCBS

Readings **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 The virgin will conceive.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7 Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

Readings for next weekend:

Christmas Eve 6.30pm: Isaiah 9:1-7 Children's Pageant telling the story

Christmas Eve 9pm & Day 9am: Isaiah 9:1-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

PARISH PRIEST

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HELP CENTRE

Phone 5561 4712

MISSION STATEMENT

"Saint Peter's Parish is a community who lives in faith of Jesus Christ and, moved by the Spirit, continues to grow in our love for God and all people."



IN OUR PARISH THIS COMING WEEK:

MON 19th December	8.00am Mass 7.30pm Communal 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
TUE 20th December	8.00am Mass
WED 21st December	6.30am Mass 7.30pm Choir & Musician's Practice for Christmas Masses
THU 22nd December	
FRI 23rd December	9.00am Rosary 9.30am Mass 7.00pm Decorating the Church for Christmas
SAT 24th December	Christmas Eve 10.30am Practice for Children's Christmas Pageant & Mass including Musicians and singers 6.30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass 9.00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Christmas Carols 15 minutes before each Mass
SUN 25th December	Christmas Day 9.00am Mass <i>NOTE: no evening Mass</i>

Communal 2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Advent:
this Monday 19th December commencing at 7.30pm.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT PRACTICE is at 10.30 am on **Saturday, Christmas Eve** for 6.30 pm Mass that night. All children who would like to be part of the pageant please come. The Practice lasts for a couple of hours. We need angels, kings, shepherds... We also need readers & altar servers. Parents welcome! Help welcome! Contact Jo Cullen on 0419733878 for more info
Musicians and singers for the 6.30pm Mass please also attend practice at 10.30am.



VOLUNTEER Readers, Communion Ministers & Altar Servers are needed for all Christmas Masses:

please consider if you can volunteer to help out in any way. Write your name on the sheets on the back table.

Christmas Decorating: We would love your help with decorating the Church for Christmas! We will be having an evening where you are invited to come along and assist with this. Please come on **Friday 23rd December at 7pm.** (We need people who are able to use ladders with ease also!) There are lights to put up, the tree to decorate and general draping with material. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you, St Peter's Liturgy group.

Care & Concern - on behalf of the Care & Concern Committee, we would like to sincerely **thank Jo Cullen** for her amazing contribution as Co-ordinator & Funerals Team Leader through the years. Jo's contribution has been invaluable, inspiring, selfless, and has touched many lives in serving St Peter's parish and wider community in this regard. Thank you Jo. We wish you the very best.

A very big **thank you** also to parishioners and our community at large for your support at our very well attended **Care & Concern Christmas luncheon.** It was a most enjoyable afternoon with proceeds going to St Vinnies. Many thanks to all our committee members for their excellent support and contributions, and in particular **Rita Bishop**, for her tireless efforts and organisation in ensuring the day went off without a hitch.

We also take this opportunity to **thank** all the **wonderful volunteers** for their generous support in 2016, and wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and God's blessings for 2017. Many thanks, Lynn White

Planned Giving Envelopes: The envelopes for 2017 are ready for those who contribute to Planned Giving in this way. Please collect yours today. Thank you to all who give to our Planned Giving Program either through envelopes, Direct Debit or Credit Card or even direct bank transfer. Your assistance keeps the Parish functioning.

We have more envelope packs so if your set is not there or should you wish to contribute or change your current contribution please contact the Parish Office or complete a Pledge Card at the back or the Church and place it on the collection plate or hand it to Fr Jacob or to Julie or John. Thank You

Volunteers needed: We still have vacancies on our **church cleaning** teams and now also we are in need of someone who could **wash and iron the Church linen** once a month. Any helpers would be greatly appreciated. **Bereavement group** is also seeking volunteers. Please contact Julie in the Parish office.

New Communion/Readers Roster: some rosters still waiting for collection this weekend.

Christmas Date Claimers

COMMUNITY 2ND RITE of RECONCILIATION:

7.30 pm Monday 19th December

CHOIR & MUSICIANS PRACTICE:

7.30pm Wednesday 21st December

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT PRACTICE for

CHRISTMAS EVE: 10.30 am Saturday 24th Dec.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th Dec

6.30 pm (Family)

& 9.00 pm (Vigil)

Christmas Day Sunday 25th Dec

9.00 am only

New Year's Eve Saturday 31st Dec

6.00pm

New Year's Day Sunday 1st Jan

9.00am only





Vinnies News: SVDP Christmas Hampers: A HUGE THANK YOU from St Vincent de Paul St Peter's Conference to everyone (St Peter's School and Rochedale State School teachers, students and parents, parishioners and friends) for your helpful, thoughtful generosity and invaluable support. Donations of all kinds, time as well as considerable effort, both physical and financial are much appreciated. Over 40 hampers were delivered



locally this weekend, with extra goodies going to the SVDP Logan Migrant and Refugee Conference, Logan East Neighbourhood Centre. A huge thank you to Woolworths at Underwood and Drakes IGA at Rochedale for their generous support once again this year!! Again MANY THANKS to all, Happy Christmas and God Bless.

Christmas cards \$2.50 per pack and **"Columban Calendars"** for 2017 (cost \$9) available from the St Vinnies piety stall

God's Word 2017—Daily Reflections is a Liturgical diary which has the readings for every day from the New Jerusalem Bible, inspiring reflections on the readings of the day and even space to note down important events and reflections of the day. A great resource for yourself or it would make a fantastic Christmas gift—only \$10! - from the back table.

Break Open the Word 2017: now available on the back table. Cost \$18 each. *Break Open the Word* is an invaluable resource for anyone in the Reading Ministry & also those in the Liturgy Group and Music Ministry!



Living expenses for a child in an orphanage: What price can we put on not only keeping a child alive but also ensuring that he or she has a chance to thrive? Chances are that we would be willing to spend a lot more \$48. However, that's all it takes with a contribution through Catholic Mission's Life Giving Gifts catalogue. Your gift will cover the cost of caring for one child in an orphanage for one month, including accommodation, food, medicines, proper sanitation and education. Visit www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts to find out how your gift of \$48 can transform a life.

David McGovern, Director, Brisbane Archdiocese

PCI House Supervisor Volunteers Required: Pregnancy Crisis Incorporated (PCI) who assists mothers confronted with an unplanned pregnancy in difficult circumstances require the services of Volunteer House Supervisors for the Charity's safe house. She (or a married couple) will have a separate suite, free rental, free electricity, water and rates, but beyond that this work is a labour of love. This position is a live-in position which oversees the running of the house including the safety and security of our guests and volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer House Supervisor, relief Volunteer House Supervisor or Volunteer Support Worker, please call the President, Patti Camp on telephone: either 1300 777 777 or 07 3892 7662, alternatively email: pci777@bigpond.com or write to PO Box 427, Moorooka Qld 4105.

Centenary of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Corinda 1917—2017. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brian Finnigan 6pm Sat 28th January 2017 at St Joseph's Church, Corinda. Dinner will follow at the Sherwood Services Club, Clewley St, Corinda. Cost of dinner: \$30 per person. Please contact the Corinda Graceville Parish Office on 3379 1534 or at corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au to make a booking.

Foundations for Lay Pastoral Ministry (FLPM) is a course offered by the Institute of Faith Education (IFE) in partnership with Evangelisation Brisbane. Workshops will be hosted starting from April 29, 2017 at the Francis Rush Centre. For more information see the IFE website ife@bne.catholic.net.au or call (07) 3336 9167 or email: www.ife.qld.edu.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Eduardo dela Cruz, Mary Easton (Anne Hawkins' mother)

Book of Life & Mass Requests: Margaret Quigg, John Jolley George, Jean Wiseman, Thelva O'Shea, Ethel Bevan, Noela Parker, John Francis Doyle, Mary Duncan, Gary Patingale, Margaret Lynch, Margaret Bradley, Hanorah Henderson, Rod Caligari, Udhav Mone, Emily Jane Mahony, Sarah Hamill, John Pulley, Maria Riccobon, James Glancy, Clare Breen, Kevin Mullins, Sr Philomena Lyons, Ken White, Alexander Forbes, Thomas Doherty, Helen Lawlor, Ronald Kennedy, Bill Carver, Leo Lawlor, Mary Blattman, Patricia Holzknacht

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Menso, Kevin Kelly, Annette Sparks, Hamish Stuhmeke, Joe Wegener, Roger Byrne, Ingeborg McIntosh, Don Bechly, Brian Button, Ramona Cruz, Bonnie Dematillar, Terri Mills, Johnny Summers

Prayer requests should be recorded on the form on the back table of the church nearest to the lectern.

Please ensure you have the permission of the person who is sick to make their name public.

Roster 24th & 25th December 2016

Special Roster for all Christmas Masses for Readers, Communion Ministers, Altar Servers & Musicians: Please volunteer by writing your name on the relevant Mass list this weekend!

Church Cleaning: 5 Mary Andrew, Mark Connolly, Narelle Garland, Shane D'Silva

Children's Liturgy: none **This week: Linen:** Elizabeth Wang **Counting:** Bob's team

Cuppa: No Cuppa & Chat will be held for the next 2 weekends. Next Cuppa & Chat will be Sunday 8th January after 9am Mass: Tongan community, Julie Hondroudakis, Marilyn Mills



Are you new to our Parish? If you've recently joined the Parish, WELCOME!! Please make yourself known to us. We'd like to formally greet you, so please complete a 'New Parishioners Card' at the back of the Church and place it on the collection plate or hand it to Fr Jacob or to one of the Parish Councillors.

Parish Ministry Group Co-ordinators

In our parish we have many ways you can be involved. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to speak to one of our Co-ordinators whose numbers is not listed.

- Baptism Preparation:** Julie Hondroudakis
- Bereavement Group:** Contact the Parish Office
- Care & Concern:** Transport: 0412267337
- Children's Liturgy:** Jodie Baigent
- Family Groups:** Alan & Kristy Scanlon
Facebook: St Peters Rochedale Family Groups
- Memorial Wall & Gardens:** Les O'Gorman 3341 3862
- Mothers' Prayers:** Trish Bakker
- Music Liturgy Group:** Liz Fort

Parish Pastoral Council:

- Chairperson: Malcolm Carroll
- Play Group:** Kristy Scanlon
- RE Teachers in State Schools:** Rita Bishop
- Rosary Group:** Fridays 9:00am
(1st Fridays 8.30am)
- Social Justice Group:** Erika Meerwald
Facebook: St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group
- St Vincent de Paul Rochedale Conference:**
John Blake

Our Parish Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative is Malcolm Carroll. If you have any questions or concerns contact Malcolm on 0438 949 099 or mcarroll580@gmail.com

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