

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-44

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

St. Joseph's Church of Tranmere
Special announcement for January 1, 2025

Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

As we step into the New Year, let us come together as a parish community to thank God for the countless blessings we received in 2024.

It is also a time to seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary as we journey through 2025.

Program Schedule:

- Eucharistic Adoration: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
- Holy Mass: Immediately following the Adoration

• Novena to St. Joseph: After Holy Mass
Let us spend this sacred time in prayer and gratitude before the Blessed Sacrament, entrusting our lives and our families to the care of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and St. Joseph.

All are warmly invited.

Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM



St Vincent de Paul THANKS YOU!

A heartfelt thanks to all individuals who have donated goods and cash for the Christmas Appeal. Your plentiful gifts of food items were much appreciated in this time of cost-of-living pressures. Thank you also to CWL and Knights for their generosity.

The Crib and the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM

Introduction: The Crib stands as a silent, humble representation of the mystery of the Incarnation. As we approach Christmas, the Crib reminds us of God's immense love and His desire to dwell among us. It portrays simplicity, humility, and vulnerability a stark contrast to the grandeur we might associate with the coming of a King. The Crib teaches us that the greatest gift of God is not found in power or prestige but in the stillness of a heart open to His presence. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C), the readings centre on the fulfillment of God's promises, highlighting the themes of faith, obedience, and the gift of Christ's presence. Together, the Crib and the Scriptures invite us to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

1. The Promise Fulfilled: The prophet Micah foretells that the Savior will come from Bethlehem, "a little clan of Judah." This prophecy underscores the paradox of God's ways choosing what is small and insignificant in human eyes to accomplish His greatest work. The Crib reflects this reality: a Savior born in a manger, in a town of no great fame, reveals God's preference for humility and simplicity. For us, the Crib is a call to trust in God's promises, even when they seem delayed or unlikely. Just as Bethlehem became the cradle of salvation, so too can our humble and ordinary lives become places where God works marvels.

2. The Joy of Christ's Presence: The Gospel recounts the Visitation, where Mary brings the presence of Jesus to Elizabeth. At Mary's greeting, the unborn John leaps for joy in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth recognizes the blessing of faith, saying, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." The Crib mirrors this encounter, reminding us that Christ's presence brings joy, peace, and transformation. Like Mary, we are called to be bearers of Christ, bringing His love to others. As we prepare for Christmas, the Crib challenges us to ask: Are we ready to receive and share Christ with those around us?

3. The Call to Prepare: In the second reading, we see Jesus' mission: "I have come to do your will, O God." His entire life, from the manger to the cross, was an act of obedience to the Father. The Crib is a symbol of this obedience it speaks of Christ's willingness to embrace human vulnerability and poverty to fulfill God's plan of salvation. As Advent concludes, we are invited to examine our own willingness to align our lives with God's will. Like Mary, who said "yes" to God, and like Jesus, who lived in perfect obedience, we are called to make room in the "cribs" of our hearts for the Savior.

Conclusion: The Crib as a Sign of Hope. The Crib, simple and unassuming, holds the profound truth of Emmanuel "God with us." It calls us to a deeper faith, greater humility, and a joyful readiness to welcome Christ into our lives. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us stand before the Crib in prayerful reflection. Let us prepare, like Mary and Elizabeth, to welcome Christ with faith and joy. May the Crib remind us that no place is too small, no heart too humble, for the Saviour to dwell. As we light the final Advent candle, let its flame burn brightly in our hearts, igniting hope and love as we await the birth of Jesus. **Prayer:** Lord, as we prepare to celebrate Your birth, make our hearts a fitting Crib for You. Teach us humility, obedience, and joy, that we may bring Your presence to a waiting world. Amen.



Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

21/22 Dec 2024

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

Response:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

3. May your hand be on the man
you have chosen, the man you
have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you
again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. **R**

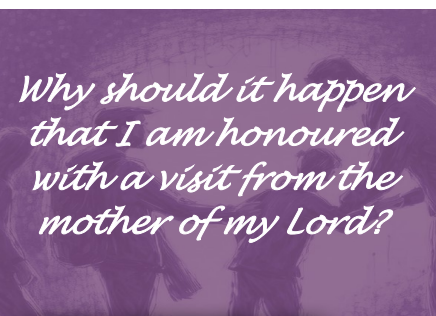
SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'
Notice that he says first: *You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord



Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

'BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED.'

From Bethlehem, the least of the clans of Judah, and from a peasant girl, Mary, one of the least of the Jewish people, God prepared a body for Jesus, the saviour of the world. As we rejoice in the saviour who has come to visit us, we also join Elizabeth in praising Mary for her faith, her love and her obedience.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary.

Bless our Ministers here present today-our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

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finance@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

WHS Officer
Angela Girolamo – Thursday

Sacristan
Sundays: Terence Yeow & Roger Worth

Parish Office Hours
Tue to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm
Ph: (08) 8431 6932
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

Mass Times
Sunday 9:30 am
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am

Confessions
Saturday 6:00 pm

Rosary
Tues to Fri 8:45am

Adoration of the Eucharist
Friday before Mass 8:30am

Novena to St. Joseph
Wednesday after Mass

St. Joseph's Primary School
Principal - Adrian Grbin
Ph: 8217 8300

Knights of the Southern Cross
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair – Alan Tyson
Parish Finance Council
Chair -Edward Konieczny

Child Safe Contact Person
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

Vinnies Assistance Hotline
1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

Rosters—28/29 Dec 2024 The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Annie Marie Platten Chris Platten Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Antonetta Bartley Sandy Mazzarolo Mikayla Bartley
Children's Liturgy	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Count team	Andrew Gaal Gail Gaal Sandra Librandi Shane Foley
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers
<i>All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass</i>	
SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	14/15 DEC 2024
Open Plate	\$411.50
Planned Giving	\$417.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$828.50

This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund : \$551.70

Christmas MASS TIMES

24 December
Tuesday 6:30pm
Vigil – Family Mass

24 December
Tuesday 11:30pm
Christmas Carols and
Midnight Mass

25 December
Wednesday 9:30am
Christmas Mass

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tranmere

Let's pray together

Please remember in your prayers

We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

For the Repose of the Soul:
Val Carter

Death Anniversary:
Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.

Sick:
We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.

If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are house-bound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.

Pope Francis @pontifex

Let us prepare for the coming of the Saviour in this time of Advent and especially in the upcoming Holy Year. May we invoke Him in all hope: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PARISH NOTICES

Volunteers for Christmas Masses Roster
Thank you for your support and participation. The Roster for Christmas Masses is now posted at each entrance of the church. Please feel free to contact Fr Roy or Parish Office if you have any questions.

Parish Office Closure over Christmas / New Year Period
The parish office will be closed from 12:30pm on Friday, 20 Dec 2024 and will recommence normal business hours on Friday 3rd Jan 2025.

No Holy Mass on 26, 27 December 2024
There will be no Holy Mass on Thursday 26 Dec and Friday 27 Dec. Thank you for your attention.

Planned Giving Envelopes
We appreciate your continuous support to the church. The Dec-to-May batch of planned giving envelopes are now available for collection. They are placed in a box on the table at the main entrance of the church. Thank you.

ARCHDIOCESE EVENTS

2024 Archdiocesan Advent Resources available online and in parishes
A PDF version of the booklet is available online at <https://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au/publications.html>. Weekly reflections will be published on the Archdiocesan Mass App (available from the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) stores for free), Facebook (www.facebook.com/adelaidearchdiocese) and Instagram (@adelaidecatholic).

Carols on Christmas Eve
All children are invited to sing with the Cathedral children's choir at the Christmas Eve 6pm Family Mass. There will be a rehearsal before Mass. Children are welcome to dress up. For more information: music@adelaide.catholic.org.au

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!
Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty. By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card. View the range of Global Gifts: www.globalgifts.org.au

'Indulge Responsibly' this Christmas
Supporting brands committed to ending slavery in their supply chains has been simplified to a two-step process: look for the rain-forest alliance and/or Fairtrade certifications and double-check Be Slavery Free's chocolate scorecard (chocolatescorecard.com). If you would like to know more about Indulge Responsibly, contact sacoordinator@acrath.org.au.

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with Global Gifts.

This Christmas, give a gift that changes the lives of those living in poverty.

www.globalgifts.org.au

Caritas AUSTRALIA | Global Gifts

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2024

Luke 1.39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her? Use the code to find out!

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y
▲ ▼ ○ ↑ ▲ × - □ ● + ! ■ ↓

Christmas is Almost Here!

Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.

Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!

Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed are you among women! Answer to True or False: 1.true, 2.false, 3.false, 4.true, 5.true, 6.false, 7.true.

www.thekidsbulletin.com