

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 1:1-25**

*A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**THANKS** to Giulia Giuliani for the generous sponsorship of flowers for our Christmas Masses.

## BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Loyola Press

*After being visited by an angel in a dream, Joseph takes Mary as his wife.*

Today's liturgy offers the option to read a longer or shorter form of the Gospel. If we read the longer form, we hear Matthew recount the ancestry of Jesus. This genealogy sets Jesus' birth within the context of the history of Israel, highlighting two of Jesus' ancestors—Abraham, the father of the Hebrew people, and David, the most important king of Israel. Jesus' ancestral lineage reinforces a central theme of Matthew's Gospel: Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies made to the people of Israel.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. During his betrothal to Mary, Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant. Betrothal in first-century Jewish culture was more than an engagement period; it was part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. If adultery was proved, the punishment might be death. Joseph had rights under Mosaic Law, but he chose to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract so as to protect Mary. The way that Joseph and Mary faced these extraordinary circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God.

The message the angel gave to Joseph in a dream reveals many important theological details about the child Mary will bear and about the child's role in

God's plan. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "God saves." He will be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. He will be Emmanuel, "God with us." This is the mystery we celebrate at Christmas, the Incarnation. God chose to become a human being in the person of Jesus.

Joseph did as the angel of the Lord directed. He took Mary to be his wife and accepted the child in her womb as his own. When Jesus was born, Joseph followed the directions of the angel and gave the child the name Jesus. We often recall Mary's cooperation in God's plan for our salvation. Today's Gospel reminds us of Joseph's important role, which was also crucial to God's plan for Jesus' birth. .



# Parish Bulletin

**The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)**

**24/25 Dec 2024**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 62:1-5**

*The Lord takes delight in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;

no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded';  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

**The word of the Lord**

**MARY 'WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A  
SON AND YOU MUST NAME  
HIM JESUS'**

Tonight we celebrate the  
realisation of the angel's  
prophecy to Joseph. God is  
born of a woman. Jesus is  
one of us for ever. From now  
on no human being need be  
called 'Forsaken' or  
'Abandoned' but rather  
'God's Delight'.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Psalm 88:4-5,16-17,27-29**

**Response:**

**Forever I will sing the goodness of  
the Lord.**

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **R**
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R**
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' **R**

### SECOND READING **Acts 13:16-17,22-25**

*Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.*

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:  
'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. "Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal."'

**The word of the Lord**



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**Parish Priest**  
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**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
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
<b>Count team</b>	Andrew Gaal Gail Gaal Sandra Librandi Shane Foley
<b>Altar and Flowers</b>	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>	



**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:


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**



In these days leading up to Christmas, I invite everyone to renew our supplication to the Lord, asking Him to grant the gift of peace to our world.

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



## Christmas Message 2024

From the desk of  
 Fr. Roy John Elavumkal, Parish Priest

My dear Sisters & Brothers,  
 Christmas is a time of profound joy and hope, a celebration of God's immense love for humanity. In the humble setting of the manger in Bethlehem, we see the extraordinary gift of God becoming one with us in the person of Jesus Christ. The child in the Crib reminds us of God's closeness, His humility, and His enduring desire to dwell among His people.

As we gather to celebrate this sacred season, I encourage each of you to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. It is not merely about festive decorations, gifts, or gatherings but about opening our hearts to the transformative power of God's love. Let us allow the light of Christ to shine through us, bringing peace and hope to our families, communities, and all those in need.

I also take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your support, dedication, and contributions to our parish throughout the year. Whether through your presence at Mass, your involvement in ministries, or your acts of service, you have truly embodied the spirit of St. Joseph's Church as a vibrant, welcoming, and faith-filled community.

As we approach the New Year 2025, let us carry forward the spirit of Christmas spreading joy, compassion, and love to everyone we meet. May the year ahead be filled with God's abundant blessings, guiding us to grow in faith, hope, and charity.

From the depths of my heart, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2025. May the Christ Child bless you with peace, happiness, and good health in the coming year. Let us continue to journey together as a parish community, building God's kingdom here at Tranmere.

With prayers and blessings,  
 Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM  
 (Parish Priest)



*Sincerely  
 thank you for all the  
 support and service to  
 St. Joseph's  
 Community  
 Tranmere in the year  
 2024. With much Love  
 and Prayer, wishing  
 you all  
 a Merry Christmas  
 and a happy  
 prosperous  
 New Year 2025.*

*Fr. Roy John (Parish  
 Priest) & Staff*

