

The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

22 December 2024

First Reading Mi 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

*(R.) 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 Heb 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.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am 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.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

*Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.*

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners

now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

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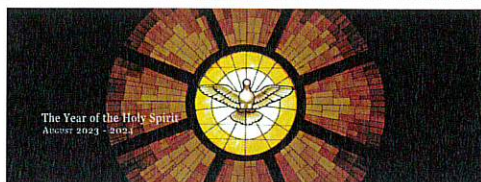
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Parish Suburbs: Banks, Calwell, Chisholm, Conder, Fadden, Gilmore, Gordon, Gowrie, Isabella Plains, Macarthur, Richardson, Theodore, Tharwa & rural surrounds

Parish Schools: St Clare of Assisi, Conder; St Francis of Assisi, Calwell; Early Learning Centre, SFA Calwell; Holy Family School, Gowrie; Early Learning Centre HFS Gowrie; St Mary Mackillop College Isabella and Wanniasa Campuses.

Mass Sunday Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@corpuschristisouthtuggeran8526/streams>

This Bulletin is published on-line at : <http://www.ccp parish.org.au/parish-information/bulletin/>



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Evelyn Pond 9-1 Tues to Fri
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SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR
Orla Rutledge in 2025
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PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION
Kim Peisley (Volunteer)

Office closed from 24 Dec to 2 Jan.
If urgent, please leave a message on Parish Office phone.

What is happening this week? Christmas-New Year

Fri 20th Dec	5:00pm	HFC	Adoration
	6:00pm	HFC	Mass
Sat 21st Dec	9:00am	SHC	Mass followed by Rosary
	10:00am	HFC	1st Rite Reconciliation
	5-5:30pm	HFC	1st Rite Reconciliation
	6:00pm	HFC	Mass
Sun 22nd Dec	8:00am	HFC	Mass
	10:00am	HFC	Mass (livestreamed)
	5-5:30pm	HFC	1st Rite Reconciliation
	6:00pm	HFC	Mass
Mon 23rd Dec	Office Closed		
Tues 24th Dec	6:00pm St Francis Assisi School Oval Calwell		Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass (bring a chair or rug to sit on)
	9:00pm	HFC	Christmas Vigil Mass
	11:30pm	HFC	Christmas Carols
	Midnight	HFC	Midnight Mass (Livestreamed)
Wed 25th Dec	8:00am	HFC	Christmas Morning Mass
	10:00am	HFC	Christmas Morning Mass
Thur 26th & Fri 27th	No Mass		
Sat 28th Dec	9:00am	SHC	Mass followed by Rosary
	10:00am	HFC	1st Rite Reconciliation
	5-5:30pm	HFC	1st Rite Reconciliation
	6:00pm	HFC	Mass
Sun 29th Dec	8:00am	HFC	Mass
	10:00am	HFC	Mass (livestreamed)
	5-5:30pm	HFC	1st Rite Reconciliation
	6:00pm	HFC	Mass
Tues 31st Dec	5:30pm	HFC	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed 1st Jan	9:30am	SHC	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
Thur 2nd Jan	7:00am	HFC	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
Fri 3rd Jan	6:00pm	HFC	Mass

A Heartfelt Thank You

My Dearest Parish Family,

With a heart full of gratitude, I thank Almighty God for the precious gifts of life, faith, priesthood, and the blessing of being part of this wonderful family at Corpus Christi. From the very first moment I arrived, you embraced me as one of your own, and because of that, CCP has truly become my *home away from home*. So many of you have welcomed me into your lives with open arms, and many of you even call me your son. There are a few among you whom I have come to cherish deeply as “Mum,” and those bonds will forever remain in my heart.

When I reflect on the journey of my life over the past seven years, I see so clearly the profound impact that this community has had on my growth. You have shaped me—not only as a priest but as a person. Together, we have shared so much, and I can honestly say that I have grown with you, learning, loving, and evolving alongside you every step of the way. I am the person I am today because of you. *Thank you*. Through the trials and the joys, especially the harrowing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have walked together. In your moments of pain, I sought to be a vessel of God's grace. In your moments of celebration, I rejoiced with you. But in truth, you too have touched my life deeply—each one of you leaving an indelible mark on my soul.

I came here with no intention to please everyone or to disappoint anyone. If in any way I have caused hurt, please know it was never intentional. My only desire was to serve—to serve you with balance, compassion, and humility. My mission has always been simple: to share Jesus Christ, to bring a little more joy to your lives, to make the burdens of life a little lighter, and to walk beside you, no matter the season. Whatever good has come from my time here, it's because we have worked together, each of us contributing in our own way. It was never my work alone—it was ours.

I wish with all my heart that I could thank each of you by name. Unfortunately, that's beyond me. But know that I carry each of you in my heart—every member of this family and beyond, from those in the various committees (PFC, PPC, PLC, Music, Pastoral Care, Youth Ministry, and more) to the parish team, past and present, parish schools. You have all been a part of this beautiful journey, and I will miss each and every one of you dearly.

As I move forward to my next assignment as Parish Priest of Transfiguration Parish in North Woden, I ask for your continued prayers, guidance, and support. Though I am leaving this physical space, I will always carry you in my heart, and I ask that you do the same. You will all be in my prayers, and I will remember each of you in my Masses, now and always. May the God who is amidst us, EMMANUEL, bless us all and have a blessed Christmas.

With deepest love and gratitude,
Fr. James T. Antony, CMI

Friendship Coffee

Looking for a last-minute present? The Corpus Christi Parish Social Justice Group is selling bags of coffee after all Masses this weekend. The money raised from the coffee sales will go towards supporting the farmers of East Timor who grow the coffee. Don't miss out on the chance to buy our 250g bags of coffee beans and ground coffee for only \$9 each. Let's make a difference together!

To our Volunteers....

Please take a God's Word Reflection Book 2025 as a **Thank You** for your dedication and commitment to ministries in our parish.
“Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.”

- St Therese of Lisieux

Thank you.



Cursillo Retreat

Save the date: 4-6 April at St Clement's, Galong. A Cursillo is a faith formation course; the word 'Cursillo' literally means 'short course' in Spanish. The first Cursillo was held in Spain in 1944 and in Canberra-Goulburn in 1966.

Contact Michael and Erica michaelderaadt@gmail.com. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/cursillo2025>



RECENTLY DECEASED: Cheryl Hodgson, Rex McRee, Zakie Noja (mother of Richard), Flora Arias (mother of Luz Carlile), William Schofield, Sr Paulinus Croker, Margo Albers, Lurline Knee, Siham Yousif, Yoga Raphael, Shirley Fletcher, Yvonne DeMamiel, Mary Spandler, Dennis Chaston

SICK: *We pray for...* Francis Cheong, Maurice and Vivienne Muscat, Annie Chamberlain, Doug Rankin, Perry Hardman, Jenny Keen, Bishop Pat Power, Wendy Roberts, Patrick Roberts, Harry Parvizi, Margaret Holberton, Gavin O'Brien, Flora Martone, June Lever, Hannah Thomas, Karen Nguyen, Delia Alexander, Jessica Bernadette Elena, Doug Rankin, Joan Brumby, Howard Murray, Diane Savage, Barbara Savage, Zenilda Gama, Ayla Haragli Judith & Werner Kley, Melvyn & Cheryl Nerva, Merle Shep, Dot Pestana, Margaret Latham, and all our sick family members, friends and parishioners.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE: *During December we remember* Lynnette Russell, Robert Pereira, Betty Kennedy, Eileen O'Keeffe, Jessica Harris, Jim Sharman, Manuela Lopera, Ronald Buckley, Santo (Tony) Dattilo, John Berry, Edgar Casas, John Hudson, Desmond Pereira, Josepha Koster, Alma Armstrong, Valda Ryan, Ernie Wickson, Abraham Arulandandam, Fr Albert Havas, Michael Lennon, Maria D'Ambrosio, Lucia Pallamountagne, James Kropp, Linda Casey, Jeffrey Hudson, Joan Enghari, Joan Willemsen, Annunziata Muscat, Eileen Bale, Leo Hioly Chang, Margaret Harrison, Maria Tran, Carlos Carrin, Maurice Beale, Kevin Gallagher, Judith Owen, Pierina Benassi, Rinaldo Iarossi, Elenita Pesigan, Keith Holberton, Agnes Savage and all of our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Thank you message from Vinnies Calwell and Gowrie Conferences.

Our conference volunteers and our companions would like to offer our gratitude to every parishioner who donated food, gifts, and gift cards to our Parish Wishing tree, gave monetary donations to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal and purchased Christmas cards and calendars during the last three weekends. We are completely overwhelmed by the depth of your generosity and consideration of others. While our companions cannot thank you directly, please be assured that your donations will bring great joy to their Christmas Day celebrations. God bless and Happy Christmas to you all. Paula Bounds (Gowrie Conference President) and Frances Neuss (Calwell Conference President).

Roster 21 & 22 Dec, 2024—4th Sunday of the Month

	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 8am	Sunday 10am	Sunday 6pm
Acolyte/ Senior Server	Tom	Val	Raul	George Claudia
Altar Servers	Kane Jed	Riley Amy Patrick	William Amy Scarlet	Joe Max Neriah
Readers	Roehl O Suzanne M	Peggy Kerry	James Monique	Paddy Lisa
Music/DPO	Couples for Christ DPO Rudy	Lorna & Co DPO	Christopher & Youth Group	Gerard & Brigita DPO
Offertory Procession	Cruz family	Marie Indhi Amala	Amy Annabelle	Pond family
Eucharistic Ministers	Ann R Suzanne M	Gerry K Lorraine B	Anne G Peter D	Jane M
Children's Liturgy	Does not run during the school holidays however worksheets are available in Children's Liturgy room.			
Cuppas	vacant	vacant	Marian & Ian	vacant
Collector bags & clear boxes		Gerard B		Ophelia

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal -

Christmas Mass Collection for 2024 Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!
Help life saving assistance to displaced people whether from war or climate change in Asia, the Middle East or Africa as well as student assistance in the Middle East. Communities in India, Africa and Papua New Guinea along with local works by The Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan will also be assisted. Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.
A cash collection will be taken up at all the Christmas Masses or you can donate via Qkr! or using the envelopes in the foyer.

Contributions to our Parish can be transferred to:

Name: Corpus Christi Parish
BSB: 062 786
Account Number: 22193
Reference—Use your name and reason for the transfer.
Or to donate via **Credit Card**, go to our website
<https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/corpuschristiparish>

We are very grateful for your donation.

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal peoples, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who are the traditional custodians and first peoples of this land. We pay respect to their elders past and present and to the memory of their ancestors. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations and we celebrate their continuing contribution to the life of our city and of this region. We also extend our respect to all Aboriginal peoples living in our community.

Parish Safeguarding Commitment: Corpus Christi Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action. For more information, visit the Canberra Archdiocese website on <https://cgcatholic.org.au/professional-standards/>.

Communicating Concerns: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have by emailing Fr James or the Parish Office. Alternately, please phone the Parish Office to organise a time to talk with Fr James. Specific **safeguarding issues** can also be emailed to the Parish Safeguarding Officers (see directory). Parishioners are also welcome to contact Maria Hicks, Manager for the Archdiocese's Institute for Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) by emailing ipss@cg.org.au or phone 02 6239 9806.