



ADELAIDE CATHEDRAL PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

19th December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The liturgy of this Fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on the figure of Mary, the Virgin Mother, expecting the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Let us fix our gaze upon her, a model of faith and of charity; and we can ask ourselves: what were her thoughts in the months while she was expecting? The answer comes precisely from today's Gospel passage, the narrative of Mary's visit to her elderly relative Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-45). The Angel Gabriel had revealed that Elizabeth was expecting a son and was already in her sixth month (cf. Lk 1:26, 36). So the Virgin, who had just conceived Jesus by the power of God, set out with haste for Nazareth, in Galilee, to reach the mountains of Judea, and visit her cousin.

The Gospel states: "she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth" (v. 40). Surely she congratulated her on her maternity, as in turn Elizabeth congratulated Mary, saying: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (vv.42-43). And she immediately lauds Mary's faith: "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord" (v. 45). The contrast is obvious between Mary, who had faith, and Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, who doubted, and did not believe the angel's promise and therefore is left dumb until John's birth. It is a contrast.

This episode helps us to interpret the mystery of man's encounter with God in a very special light. An encounter that is not characterized by astonishing miracles, but rather, is characterized by faith and charity. Indeed, Mary is blessed because she believed: the encounter with God is the fruit of faith. Zechariah, however, who doubted and did not believe, was left deaf and dumb. To grow in faith during the long silence: without faith one remains inevitably deaf to the consoling voice of God; and incapable of speaking words of consolation and hope to our brothers and sisters.

Faith, in its turn, is nourished by charity. The Evangelist recounts that "Mary arose and went with haste" (v. 39) to Elizabeth: with haste, not with distress, not anxiously, but with haste, in peace. "She arose": a gesture full of concern. She could have stayed at home to prepare for the birth of her son, but instead she takes care of others before herself, showing through her deeds that she is already a disciple of that Lord whom she carries in her womb. The event of Jesus' birth began in this way, with a simple gesture of charity; after all, authentic charity is always the fruit of God's love.

The Gospel passage about Mary's visit to Elizabeth, which we heard at Mass today, prepares us to experience Christmas properly, by communicating to us the dynamism of faith and charity. This dynamism is the work of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit of Love who made Mary's virginal womb fruitful and who spurred her to hasten to the service of her elderly relative. A dynamism full of joy, as seen in the encounter between the two mothers, which is entirely a hymn of joyful exultation in the Lord, who does great things with the little ones who trust in him.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Presently no bookings are required for any Advent Services, Events or Christmas Masses in all the churches of the Adelaide Cathedral Parish. Please check the Cathedral Parish website www.adelcathparish.org for regular updates or changes.

22nd Dec: Cathedral Parish Office Closure for Christmas Holidays

The Cathedral Parish office will remain closed from 22nd December 2021 to 3rd January 2022. It will reopen on 4th January at 9.30am. **Please call 0417080955 in case of any emergency requiring a priest during this time.**

25th Dec: Christmas Mass on Channel 44

We are pleased to announce that Christmas Day Mass will be aired from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Channel 44 on Saturday, December 25 at 5pm. We hope this will bring joy to those who will not be able to attend services in person. Please share the news with family and friends or anyone you know would regularly tune into Mass on Channel 44.

25th Dec: No Evening Masses in the Parish

Please note that there will be no 6pm Mass on Saturday, 25th December in our Parish. The 6pm Mass at the Cathedral, Queen of Angels and St. Peter Claver churches stand cancelled. We regret the error made in the Christmas table that was earlier printed out.

Mass Intentions for the period 22nd Dec 2021 - 4th Jan 2022

We request all our parishioners to submit their Mass Intention requests (if any) to the Parish Office by 21st Dec for the period 22nd Dec - 4th Jan. The office closes on 22nd Dec for the Christmas holidays and the phone lines will not be attended to during that period. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Christmas and New Year Services at the Adelaide Cathedral Parish

Christmas and New Year Mass timings are now available on our website. Please visit the website or scan the QR code to get detailed information of each church in our Parish. You can also pick up a copy of the timetable from the church foyer or download it from www.adelcathparish.org.



Cathedral of St Francis Xavier, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

Church of St Patrick, 268 Grote Street, Adelaide

Church of St John Vianney, 546 Glynburn Road, Burnside

Church of St Mary, 179 Stanley Street, North Adelaide

Church of the Holy Name, 80 Payneham Road, Stepney

Church of St Peter Claver, cnr Stuart Road & Grandview Grove, Dulwich

Church of the Queen of Angels, cnr South Road & Kintore Street, Thebarton

Christmas Break Adoration Of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Peter Claver Church Dulwich

Adoration of the blessed Sacrament at St. Peter Claver Church, Dulwich will take a break after Adoration on Thursday 23rd December and resume for adoration on Monday 10th January.

Adelaide Cathedral Young Adults Group

The Adelaide Cathedral Young Adults Group invite the Youth of our Parish to join them each week in their Ministry of fellowship. They regularly meet on Sunday evenings and their schedule is as follows:

1st and 3rd Sundays : Choir for 6pm Mass

4pm - Choir Practice

6pm - Sunday Mass

7pm - Dinner in Chinatown

2nd and 4th Sundays: Group Meetings

6pm - Sunday Mass

7-8.30pm - Group gathering in the Cathedral Hall.

If you are interested to know more about the group and their activities, please contact Samantha David on 0404887964.

Get vaccinated for the common good

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>.

Safeguarding Children

A reminder that all children within the church premises need to be accompanied to and from the toilet, ideally by an adult family member. Kindly ensure that children are supervised by an adult family member in the carparks at all times.

Adelaide Archdiocese Mass Giving App



The app interface shows a 'Support of Mass' section with a '15' button and a 'Support of parish upkeep and maintenance' section with a '20' button. Below these is a QR code and the text 'SCAN QR CODE WITH CAMERA'. At the bottom, the website 'Adelaide.GoodGiving.com.au' is displayed.

25th Dec: Christmas Appeal Aboriginal Catholic Ministry for The Otherway Centre

The Otherway Centre is the home of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) and the cultural hub of Centacare. Located at Stepney, The Centre has been supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community for more than 30 years. Money raised from the appeal last year helped fund activities including dancing and jewelry-making classes. These bring the community together and provide vital healing opportunities to strengthen cultural and spiritual connections. This year, your contribution will help fund formation classes, art and craft activities, and food hampers. We thank you in advance for your generous contribution for this worthy cause.

31st Dec/ 1st Jan: New Year Day Mass

There will be Holy Hour from 11pm followed by New Year's Midnight Mass in the Cathedral on 31st Dec. All are welcome to attend. There will be only one Morning Mass at 10am in the Cathedral, 9am at St. Peter Claver and 9.30am at Queen of Angels. Sunday VIGIL Masses will be as usual in the Cathedral, Queen of Angels and St. Peter Claver churches in the evening on 1st Jan 2022.

Become An Earthcare Family

Pope Francis has now established the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform with its 7 Goals for 7 sectors over 7



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years. Our Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement 2021-22, 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor' reinforces the call to care for all creation and invites us to join them in taking action and committing to the *Laudato Si'* goals. Catholic Earthcare Australia has made it easy for parishes and families to take up the Bishops' invitation by developing a process to assist you on the journey towards these 7 goals and to becoming living *Laudato Si'* families and communities. Become a Catholic Earthcare family at www.catholicearthcare.org.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter - Australia

Shalom World in collaboration with Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents 'Family, Discovering Coupleness', 20 different couples stories in the next few months. Live every Sunday night at 9.30pm EST (AUS) at 9pm Adelaide time and then uploaded on Wednesdays. View the episodes on shalomworld.org or via the Shalom World TV app. We kindly request your feedback on M: 0470 121 085 or E wwwmcentral@gmail.com Thomas & Maria, Worldwide Marriage Encounter Ecclesial Team - South Australia & Northern Territory.

Latin Mass Community

Today the children will perform their Christmas Play at 11am in the Ellengowan Hall. All welcome. There will be an opportunity to give a donation to support the upcoming activities of the youth group at the end of the play. Thank you for your generosity.

This evening our choir will also hold its annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols at 8pm at St Patrick's Church, Grote St. (Please note that there will be no Vespers this evening). There will be the opportunity to give a donation to Matercare (supporting maternal and infant health in the developing world) after the service.

Giving boxes for the Hutt St Centre are now available at the back of the church. Non-perishable foodstuffs are appreciated, as are toys. If the toys are wrapped, please indicate age and gender of intended recipient. The boxes will be emptied regularly during Advent. Thank you.

Times of Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve: 7am only. (There will be no 6.30pm Latin Mass on Friday 24th Dec)
Christmas Midnight Solemn Mass (Carol singing from 11.30pm, Confessions from 10.30pm)
Christmas Day 7am: Low Mass; 9.15am: Sung Mass
Please note that there will be NO 5pm Mass on Christmas Day.

2022 FSSP Calendars are now available for purchase after Mass for \$15.

If your child is turning 3 next year and you would like them to attend the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please enrol them with Lucia Snelling (0407 378 159) by mid-January. Sessions are available on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings but places are limited.

In addition to the religious picture books for your young children at the back door of the church, we now also have pictures to colour in and word-searches, both based on the Gospel of the Sunday. Please feel free to use these during Mass. (We ask that you return the picture books and colouring in pencils to the back foyer as you leave the church.)

Also, in order to help foster an atmosphere of prayer at mass, the following gentle suggestions may be of help to those with young children:

- Please try to ensure that there is no running, eating or climbing during mass.
- If toys are required for your child, can you please ensure that these are soft toys, the use of which will not reverberate through the church (i.e. no matchbox cars, trains, trucks, hard dolls and the like).
- Would you also please encourage your child to stay within your chosen pew and to look forward towards the altar – this is where the (liturgical) action happens.
- If your infant needs to be settled for a few moments during mass, please feel free to use the confessional room where the priests sit if it is vacant.

Once again thank you for your continuing presences in our community. Please know that you are welcome.

Welcome to new parishioners. If you are new to the Latin Mass or new to Holy Name, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to either Fr. McCaffrey or Fr. Sofatzis after Mass. There is a cuppa after the 9.15am Mass every Sunday in the tea room behind the church diagonally across the car park. All are welcome.

Latin Mass Timings

Also please feel free to register as a parishioner on our community census. The link is available on the blogspot. Please see the community blogspot for other information.

Please respect the social distancing norms, sanitise your hands and either scan the QR code displayed at each door or record your name by hand each time you enter the church. The Archbishop requires that we wear masks inside church. (There are masks available at the doors of the church if you forget to bring one). Thank you for your co-operation.

Congregational singing is permitted, but masks must be worn while singing. The Covid Marshals for this Sunday are 8am Rob Marsh, 9.15am Brian Moran, 5pm Peter Balan, and Bianca Fisher is the Covid Marshall for weekday Masses.

Please remember the sick in your prayers, especially, Jane Carey, Kathryn Nader, Tony Caruso, Luise Obrist (Gaby Freer's mother), Terry Hockley (Jess Marsh's father), Germaine Miernik, Vincenza Martucci (Ines Barson's mother). Please remember also the recently deceased, particularly Miki Caputo, Anne Russell and Eileen McDonnell, and also those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

COVID-19 Protocols Update: 12th Dec 2021

- The density requirement has been updated to **3 people per 4 sq. meters. Please follow the instructions of the COVID Marshals for seating.**
- **Wearing of face-masks completely covering your nose and mouth is mandatory in Church at all times. Please carry your own mask. (Celebrants are exempted).**
- **Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are requested to stay home and not attend services.**
- Hand sanitiser is available at church entrances. Kindly sanitise your hands before entering the church.
- There should be no physical contact outside one's family or household group. There should be no shaking of hands or holding hands during the Mass.
- Every gathering must record contact details. Logs are located at the entrance to the church.
- Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- No hymn books are to be passed around and congregational singing with facemasks on is now permitted.
- Communion is given only in hands.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches. Collection plates will not be passed around but a single drop point is provided at the churches.
- All surfaces should be cleaned at least daily, with special attention given to frequently touched surfaces.
- Care should be taken at the dismissal and on leaving the church to avoid social contact.

COVID check-in using the QR Code or entering your details into the Register prior to entering the Church and wearing a facemask covering your nose & mouth at all times prior to entering the church is mandatory. Kindly follow the instructions of the Mass Coordinators and COVID Marshals who are here to assist you.