

# BULLETIN

## St Pius X Church

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

19<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Christ our Anchor

## Manning Parish

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

23 Paterson Street, Manning WA 6152

Parish Telephone: 9313 3251

Parish Email: manning@perthcatholic.org.au

Parish Website: manningparish.org.au

#### New Testament Commentary by Brendan Byrne SJ



Along with this, the Advent setting invites us to hear in the phrase, 'You ... prepared a body for me', a reference to the Incarnation, about to become manifest in the birth of the Lord. The human life of Jesus, from its very first moment to its end on Calvary, will be a continual act of bodily obedience offered for the salvation of the world.

The Gospel, Luke 1:39-45, at last brings us to the major players in the story of Jesus' birth. Presuming our knowledge of the Annunciation to Mary, it describes the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In this 'Visitation' story, the two women share their remarkable experience. As their two stories come together, faith overflows in new insight, knowledge and celebration.

Mary has surrendered in faith and obedience to the extraordinary role that Gabriel has announced to her. In faith, too, she has obeyed the angel's additional command to go and seek out the 'sign' to be seen in the pregnancy, at an advanced age, of her cousin Elizabeth. Biblical faith does not presuppose signs already given: it acts, goes on its journey, and then discovers signs that confirm what has been believed. This is how Elizabeth's pregnancy functions for Mary. This lesser wonder brought about by God's power (the conception of a child to parents of advanced years) confirms her faith in the far greater marvel: that with God's Spirit replacing the role of male parent she is to become the mother of her people's Messiah.

It is important to note Elizabeth's insistence that Mary is 'blessed', not simply because she is 'the mother of my Lord', but because of her faith: 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' What Mary had to believe far outstripped the faith required of Zechariah. Her faith was the essential channel through which salvation would flow into the world. It is people of faith who open up the world to God's power.

Today's Scripture readings bring us at last to the threshold of Jesus' birth.

The First Reading, from the prophet Micah, 5:1-4, is famous for designating Bethlehem as the place of the Messiah's birth. The early Christians found it rich with pointers to what they believed God had done in Christ: salvation coming from what is 'least' in human terms; the sense of the 'ruler' to be born 'out of her' who, in contrast to most of the rulers of the time, will be a 'shepherd' who will feed his flock (a theme picked up in the Responsorial Psalm). Finally, there is the pledge that his rule will be synonymous with 'peace', something that the angels will echo when they announce the birth of a Saviour to the shepherds of Bethlehem (Luke 2:14).

The Second Reading, from Hebrews 10:5-10, stresses the superiority and effectiveness of what Christ has achieved, in comparison with the sacrificial ritual of the old covenant. To bring this out the writer appeals to a passage from one of the psalms (Ps 40 [39]:7-9). This makes the point that what God wants from worshippers is not so much material sacrifices – holocausts of animals and the like – as an inward commitment to do God's will.

#### Fr Patrick Lim

Parish Priest

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#### Antonia Chandrasegaran

Parish Secretary

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Email: manning@perthcatholic.org.au

#### Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 9am to 12 noon

## SCHEDULES

### Confession

Saturday 5.00 to 5.30pm

Or anytime by appointment

### Normal Weekend Masses

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 7.30am, 9.00am Mass  
& 11.00am Chinese Mass

### Normal Weekday Masses

Monday 8.00am Communion Service

Tuesday to Saturday 8.00am Mass  
(Check Parish Calendar for Variations)

### Sacrament of Baptism

Saturdays at 10.30am

**No Baptism during Lent  
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### Sacrament of Marriage

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### SPX Safeguarding Officers

To ensure the safety of children, young people and the vulnerable in the Catholic Church

6pm Vigil Mass – Ryan Gonsalves 0423 708 777

7:30am Mass – Jeevan Joseph 0434 038 353

9am Mass – Barbara Thompson 0408 955 859

11am Chinese Mass

Gregory Lo 0435 383 417, Augustine Lai 0402 185 248, Juliana Tseng 0438 864 689

Email: [safeguarding@manningparish.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@manningparish.org.au)



### St Pius X Primary School

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### Melissa Vranjes

New Principal 2021

### Our Motto

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ROSTER		Weekend 18/19 Dec	Weekend of 25/26 Dec
Special Ministers	Sat 6.00pm	Suspended temporarily	Suspended temporarily
	Sun 7.30am	Suspended temporarily	Suspended temporarily
	Sun 9.00am	Suspended temporarily	Suspended temporarily
Readers	Sat 6.00pm	Norm & Veronica's family	Christmas roster
	Sun 7.30am	Pauline Joseph	Deb Hegarty
	Sun 9.00am	Elicia Eng	Tony Pitchford
Altar Servers	Sat 6.00pm	Volunteers	Volunteers
	Sun 9.00am	Volunteers	Volunteers
Counters		Mark & Erica Lazarus	M Prentice, H & F Tay

Parish Calendar		
Dec Mon 20	8.00am	Communion Service (4th Week of Advent - Year C) Church
Tue 21	8.00am	Mass (4th Week of Advent - Year C) Church
Wed 22	8.00am	Mass (4th Week of Advent - Year C) Church
Thu 23	8.00am	Mass (4th Week of Advent - Year C) Church
Fri 24		No 8.00am Morning Mass
	7.00pm	Families Mass (Nativity of the Lord - Year C) Church
	9.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass (Nativity of the Lord - Year C) Church
Sat 25	9.00am	Christmas Day Mass (Nativity of the Lord - Year C) Church
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass in Chinese (Holy Family Year C) Church
Sun 26	7.30am	Sunday Mass (Holy Family Year C) Church
	9.00am	Sunday Mass (Holy Family Year C) Church



### Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary 17 December 2021

This weekend Norman and Veronica celebrate 60 years of marriage. We give thanks to God for their life together and giving witness to their faith, especially for their family who gathered with them to celebrate this wonderful blessing from God.



### Line Dancing Classes

Monday 20th December will be the last class for this year. Classes will recommence on Monday 10th January 2022.

This is a community building initiative to keep you fit and active with the help of Francis & Hellen Tay. All are welcome; no age limits.

### Divine Mercy Hour

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy prayers, Rosary and Benediction every third Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Please join us this Sunday at 3 pm.



### Christmas Schedule

#### Christmas Eve Masses

Family Mass - 7.00 pm  
(No Nativity play)  
Vigil Mass - 9.00 pm

#### Christmas Day

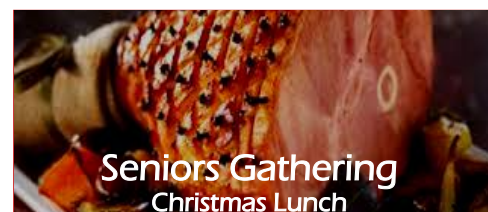
Morning Mass - 9.00am

#### New Year's Eve

6.00 pm

#### New Year's Day

9.00 am



### Seniors Gathering Christmas Lunch

A wonderful gathering of nearly 100 seniors who attended our Christmas lunch. Father Pat purchased 42 new banquet chairs those who were fortunate to sit on them were delighted. We hope to double the numbers of new chairs next year.

Thanks to all the helpers to make it possible this year as Father Pat has not been up to it to cook. He was ordered not to do anything!

Our sincere thanks to Peter Stocker for his generosity in providing the turkeys and hams for the occasion - not only for this occasion but to all the lunches for our seniors.



### Tai Chi Group

There will be no Tai Chi Class as of Monday, 13 December and will recommence first week of February 2022.

For more information, please contact or text Maurice on 0408 782 224

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME - DON'T LEAVE IT BEHIND (COVID-SAFE RULE)**

## First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

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

Hebrews 10:5-10

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

Luke 1:38

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

## Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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 for Young People

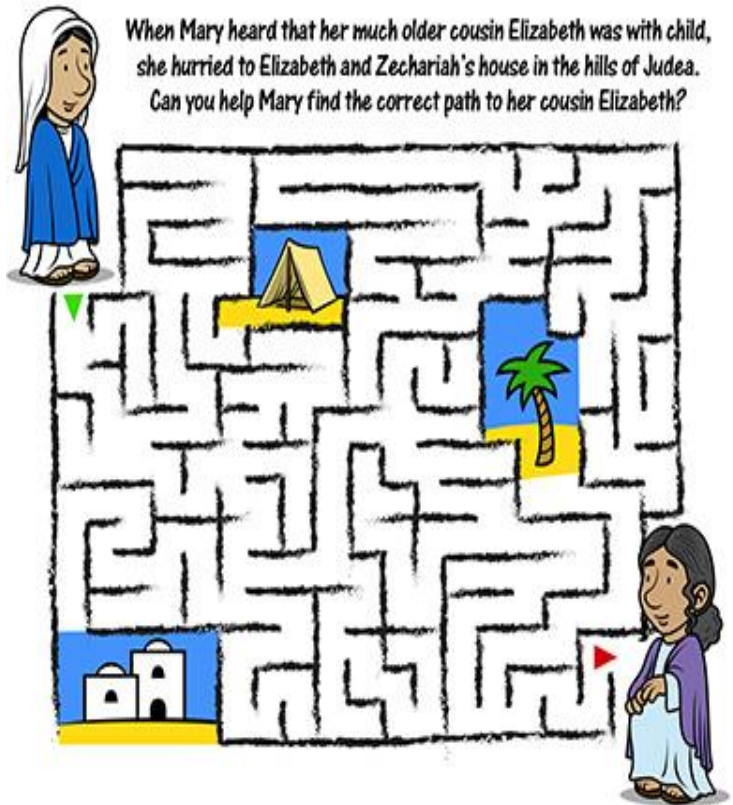
By Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

When Elizabeth and Mary met, they were both pregnant, and they were both filled with joy and hope. But sometimes when a woman finds she is pregnant, it isn't always good news. Sometimes it takes quite an adjustment, and sometimes difficult decisions must be made.

Do you know anyone who has been pregnant? Do you know what kind of an experience it was for her? What do you see as the joys and the challenges of being pregnant?

Have you ever played with a baby? Have you ever held a newborn? Have you ever changed a baby's nappy? Have you ever fed a baby? How much time have you spent with babies? How do you feel about babies?

# CHILDREN'S CORNER



Draw Mary as she greets Elizabeth.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.



## Next Sunday Readings

26 December 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year C

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52