

## Fifth Sunday of Advent

### Year C

SUNDAY December 30 2012

#### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Any parent (or anyone close to them) who has lost a child through death, an abduction, running away or through divorce would readily relate to the 'great anxiety' of Mary and Joseph related in today's Gospel. The loss of a child is a heart breaking experience as we have witnessed with the shooting of 20 innocent children in America, the tragic death of Daniel Morcombe and personal sadnesses we have shared with people we know personally.

As parents, relatives, teachers and friends of children we are all concerned for their well-being. We are to protect and teach them, nurture and nourish their lives, ensure their health and safety. We all need someone to guide and guard our growing up. Growing up is hard work!

Growing up means establishing our identity and working out our place in this world. It involves creating relationships, setting priorities, making decisions. Along the way we make mistakes, get lost, backtrack, and sometimes just need to start again. Ultimately, growing up means moving out and finding a new home. This may be a geographical move, but most certainly it involves psychological and spiritual moves.

Today's gospel is a story about growing up but it is not Jesus' growing up. It is about Mary and Joseph growing up. It is about you and me growing up. Growing up is not about how old we are. It is about moving into deeper and more authentic relationships with God, our world, each other, and ourselves.

Jesus is the one who encourages us to grow, as he did with Mary and Joseph. Children have a way of doing that to their parents. They challenge us to look at our world, our lives, and ourselves in new, different, and sometimes painful ways.

'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' Authentic growth almost always involves letting go. Jesus has moved from Mary and Joseph's home to the Father's home; this is not a rejection of his earthly parents but a re-prioritizing of relationships. It is what he would ask of Simon, and Andrew, James and John. 'Follow me' would be the invitation for them to leave their homes, their nets, their fathers and move to a different place, live a different life, see with different eyes. It is what he asks of you and me today.

So I wonder what are the homes in which we live? How have they bound up our lives, stifled our growth and kept us from the Father's home? What might we have to leave behind in order to grow up and move to a better place? These can be hard and painful questions.

'Child, why have you treated us like this?'

'Because I love you. I love you enough to raise you up, to find you when you are lost, and to bring you with me into our Father's home.'

**Sister Lis**

#### St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade,  
Labrador

##### Sunday Mass

7.00 am  
8:30 am

##### Weekday Mass

Monday -7.00am  
Wednesday-7.00am

#### Guardian Angels' Church

99 Scarborough St  
Southport

##### Saturday

6.00pm

##### Sunday Mass

7.00 am  
10.00 am

##### Weekday Mass

Friday - 12.30pm

##### Reconciliation

Saturday - 4.30pm

#### Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive  
Ashmore

##### Sunday Mass

8:30 am & 6.00pm

##### Korean Mass

Sunday 3.00pm  
Every last Saturday 6pm  
Tuesday 7pm

##### Weekday Mass

Tuesday - 9.00am  
Thursday - 5.30pm

Fr. Peter Dillon PP  
Dean:  
South Coast Deanery

Fr Jason Middleton  
(Associate Pastor)

Leeanne Human  
(Parish Manager)

Sr Helen White RSM  
(Sacramental Coordinator)  
07 55 102 296

Sr Elisabeth  
Keane IBVM  
(Pastoral Associate)

Daloras Howes  
(Parish Secretary)

Donna Stubbins  
(Admin Assistant)

Aquinas College  
07 55 102 888  
Maryanne Finder  
(Principal)

Guardian Angels'  
School  
07 55 100055  
Terry Gimpel  
(Principal)

De Paul Villa  
07 55 827 250  
Julie Madden  
(Director of Aged Care)

De Paul Manor Estate  
07 55 827 999  
Bob Birrer  
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## Stewardship

### Disciples as Stewards

Let us begin with being a disciple—a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be disciples. This has astonishing implications: Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.

Christian disciples experience conversion-lifeshaping changes of mind and heart and commit their very selves to the Lord.

Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mould our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.

Jesus' disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. We look to the life and teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards.

### Stewards of the Church

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church collaborators and co-operators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission-proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying-is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission: Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith; Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community; All Catholics, who give generous support-time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances-to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.

### Obstacles to Stewardship

People who want to live as Christian disciples and Christian stewards face serious obstacles. In Australia and other nations, a dominant secular culture often contradicts religious convictions about the meaning of life. This culture frequently encourages us to focus on ourselves and our pleasures.

At times, we can find it far too easy to ignore spiritual realities and to deny religion a role in shaping human and social values. As Catholics who have entered into the mainstream of Australian society and experienced its advantages, many of us also have been adversely influenced by this secular culture. We know what it is to struggle against selfishness and greed, and we realize that it is harder for many today to accept the challenge of being a Christian steward. It is essential, therefore, that we make a special effort to understand the true meaning of stewardship and live accordingly.

### A Steward's Way

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours. The Spirit shows us the way.

Stewardship is a part of that journey.

## Novena & Mass— St Joseph The Worker Labrador

There is a Novena at 6pm followed by Mass on the first Wednesday of each month.

## Welcome, Welcome, Welcome

Fathers Geoffrey Agu & Geoffrey Baron who join us in Parish Ministry next week.

## New Years' Day Mass at 9 am Mary Immaculate Ashmore.

So here we are, beginning another year, rising to face new challenges, hoping to be better people next December 31 than we were last December 31. Some people are hoping to lose weight. Some will stop smoking.

Looking for suggestions? Maybe these will help. Meantime, Happy New Year!

### Catholic New Year's Resolutions

- I resolve to arrive at Mass early.
- Before arriving for Mass, I resolve to turn off my mobile phone, or put it on "vibrate."
- I resolve to go to the bathroom before I leave home, so I don't have to stand outside the restroom for most of Mass, hopping from foot to foot.
- During the warmer months, I resolve not to wear to Mass that tube top that looked so great the night before at the rock concert.
- I resolve not to wear shorts to Sunday Mass unless I'm under the age of five.
- I will refrain from leaving prayers for St. Jude pamphlets all over the place.
- I will not feed my children biscuits during Mass.
- I will not leave empty juice boxes & water bottles in the pews.
- I resolve not to snore during the homilies.
- I resolve to sing. Loudly.
- When the usher comes by with the collection basket, I will not put in a five-dollar bill and take out four dollars.
- I resolve to actually shake hands with those around me during the Sign of Peace, and really mean it.
- I will not push in front of others when I get in line for communion.
- When someone butts in front of me to get in line for communion, I will not trip them up and then laugh.
- When the lector announces that there is no second collection, I resolve not to cheer, applaud or make "the wave."
- I will not bolt for the door after communion and before the blessing.
- I will stay in my pew to sing the recessional hymn.
- I resolve not to leave my newsletter in the pew before I leave, to make less work for the ushers. A tidy church is a happy church.
- When I am in my car, waiting to get out of the parking lot after Mass, I resolve to **use all five fingers** when I wave at my fellow parishioners. And I will smile at them.
- I will take home this bulletin and cut out these resolutions and tape them to my refrigerator, so I don't forget them.



## Today we welcome into our Parish Family

**Kristian Kreso Vucic son of Mirko & Maria Vucic**

**Ryan John Robert Lavery son of John Lavery & Catherine Davies**

**Meilah Maree Thorburn daughter of Benjamin & Allyce Thorburn**

**James Vincenzo French son of Andrew French & April Gasbarra**

**Leilani Dunbar daughter of Craig & Michelle Dunbar**

## **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE FATHER.**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** James Bent, Norma Lemass, Ethel O'Malley, Khloe Wilson-Davies, Fr. John Halloran CM

**ANNIVERSARY:** Mary Jewel, Herb James, Brian Burge

**ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK AND IN NEED:** Ashley Lafferty, Jean Cowles, Laureen Hewson, Lyn-Marie Tuivasa, Fay James, Marc Ramirez, Elena Sercombe, Julie Watkins, Neil Cormick, Chris Strasznski, Patricia Gledhill, Martin Cafferty, Judy Crane, George Ovens, Brian Smith, Phillip Jones, Teddy Greenhalgh, Joe Salas, Patricia Davitt, Garry O'Connell, Alice Ferrero, Pamela May, Paul Millgate, Christine Wheldon, Jacob Redman, Isla Dodge, Ken Knowles, Jacinta Crohan, Margaret Young, Sheila Grieve, Ray Jarrett, Carmel Donnelly, Anne Volp, Bill Farmer, Pricilla Bussac, Andrew McCurdy, Nicole Elliott, Lisa Magill, Marie Hancock, Michael Hammond, Brent Pratt, Carol Little, Joan Martin, Vickie Hall, Teresa Taylor, Angela Taylor, Gie Ubaldo, Mary Ng, Frank Bosmans, Tim Howard, Brian Kerwin, Bernadette Towson, Terry Buggy, Tracy Howard, Kitty Ferguson McGeown, Michael Skinner.

## **PARISH DATE CLAIMERS FOR-2013**

**1st & 3rd Thursday** each month Lectio Divina

Cenacles 6-7pm in the Mary Immaculate Library.

**First Sunday of each Month:** Morning Tea at the "Annex" St Joseph the Worker, Labrador after 8.30am Mass

**Each First and Third Sunday of the Month:** Charismatic Prayer Meeting, Guardian Angels Church, 11.30am

## **Optimism**

Raindrops may be falling on your head at any given moment, but you keep smiling. That smile is surely wide and may be close-lipped, but not at all smug.

It says hopeful.

It says yes.

Colour it green not with envy, but with the brimming expectation that the best is yet to come. You know you don't have to be ill to get better, so you smile and wait for even better days ahead. That's optimism.

It is not a case of pasting a smile on your face to cover a furrowed brow. Nor is it a matter of using clowns' paint to transform sad features into wide-eyed cheerfulness. It is simply your outlook, to give you the tilt, the "attitude", that points outward and upward toward the stars.

*Here I am. Lord, optimistic and wondering why. Wondering will neither add nor subtract from my optimism; it will simply let me savour this good feeling with a sense of deep-down gratitude. I'm looking forward to tomorrow without looking away from today. The future is my friend, not a threat. What lies ahead may be unknown but in moving toward it I see myself stepping from one welcome mat to another on my way to you. Optimism lets me live comfortably in the present, not complacently, but comfortably. That comfort is a gift from you, a sign to me of your presence. I know that you are approached in prayer as "Comforter of the Afflicted." I also know that realistic and not irreverent approach sometimes sees you as the "Afflicter of the Comfortable." So don't let me grow over confident or complacent, Lord; just comfortably alert. Keep me optimistic about my chances of never being parted from you..*

## **Confirmation and First Eucharist in Southport Parish in 2013**

Parents wishing to prepare their children for Confirmation and First Eucharist in 2013 are encouraged to bring their children to Mass on Sundays. The children will be very welcome to join Children's Liturgy of the Word every Sunday during school terms. In our parish, children are usually in their 10<sup>th</sup> year when they receive Confirmation and First Eucharist. Parents decide their child's readiness for these Sacraments. Please contact Sister Helen [helenw@scp.org.au](mailto:helenw@scp.org.au) after the 20<sup>th</sup> January for details of our parish-family based preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Sister Helen

## **A VERY BIG THANKS**

A very special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who assisted the children with their "Advent Adventures" in the Resource Centre. These generous adults make our parish activity days for children a very happy experience of church and the Liturgical Seasons.

Special thanks are also given to the families and friends who came on Christmas Eve morning and prepared Mary Immaculate church in record time. I look forward to working with them all again next Christmas!

Sister Helen

## **Christmas Eve Mass at Mary Immaculate**

Many parishioners expressed their appreciation after the children's presentation of the Christmas Story in Mary Immaculate church. I now add my appreciation not only to the children but also to the wonderful volunteers who cared for angels, shepherds, wise people and numerous other characters on Christmas Eve. Thanks also to all the parishioners who helped during Christmas Eve Mass at Mary Immaculate church.

Sister Helen

## **Saint of the Week**

### **Thomas a'Becket 29th December**

was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. He is venerated as a saint and martyr by both the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. He engaged in conflict with Henry II of England over the rights and privileges of the Church and was murdered by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral. Soon after his death, he was canonised by Pope Alexander III.

# HYMNS

## **ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

Once in royal David's city,  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby,  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern;  
Day by day, like us, He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;  
And feels for all our sadness  
And he shares in all our gladness.

## **GLORY TO GOD** (Mass of St Francis)

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
We give you thanks for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God,  
almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
You are seated at the right hand  
of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God  
the Father. **R Amen Amen**

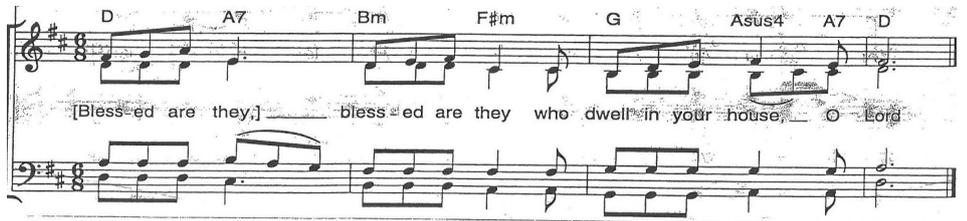
## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
O' Lord

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**You are light that shines in the**  
**darkness, star to guide the nations.**  
**Lord Jesus, Christ!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia**

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## **GIFTS PROCESSION** **CHILD OF MERCY**

**Refrain:**

**Child of mercy, child of peace,**  
**Jesus, Bread of life,**  
**food to fill our longing.**  
**Child of justice, child of light,**  
**Jesus, saving cup,**  
**Emmanuel, God with us.**

All who walk in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
to those who dwell in fear,  
a light has shone! R

A child is born to us,  
a son is given us,  
upon his shoulder glory rests! R

We name him: "Wonder, couns'lor,  
hero, mighty God,"  
The Holy One for ever:  
Prince of peace! R

## **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Bless'd is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:**

Save us Saviour of the world  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

## **AMEN**

Amen, Amen, Amen

## **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, grant us peace.

## **COMMUNION PROCESSION**

### **ST THERESA'S PRAYER**

**Refrain:**

**Christ has no body now but mine,**  
**No hands, no feet on Earth but**  
**mine.**  
**Christ has no body now but mine,**  
**let me be Christ let me shine**

Mine are the eyes with which  
He looks,  
Looks with love upon this world.  
Mine are the feet with which  
He walks,  
Walks to do good in this world. **R**

Mine are the hands with which He  
works, works for peace here in this  
world.

Mine is the face with which He smiles,  
smiles a welcome to this world.  
Mine is the heart with which He loves, loves  
all people in this world **R**

## **CHILD IN THE MANGER**

Child in a manger infant of Mary,  
Outcast and stranger,  
Lord of us all  
Child who inherits  
all our transgressions,  
All our demerits upon him fall.

Once the most holy child of salvation,  
Gently and lowly lived here below  
Now as our glorious mighty redeemer,  
See him victorious over each foe.

Prophets foretold him,  
Infant of wonder, angels behold him  
On his throne  
Worthy our Saviour of all our praises  
Happy forever are his own.

## **RECESSIONAL**

### **WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE**

**Refrain:**

**We are called to serve,**  
**we are called by grace**  
**to cherish Christ in every face.**  
**We are called to serve,**  
**we are called by name and in all we are**  
**God's love proclaim.**

Called beyond our human understanding,  
Called before the world came in to view.  
Within your mother's womb,  
your name was known to me,  
For you did not choose me, no, I chose you  
**R**

Called to be a light a mid the darkness,  
Called to help a doubting world believe.  
"Empowered by my Spirit, anointed with my  
love,  
You are called to give and share what you  
believe." **R**

**THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR**  
**NEXT SUNDAY**  
**Isaiah 60:1-6**  
**Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

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