

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Year C

SUNDAY December 23, 2012

#### Which Spirit of Christmas ????????

So far this December I have been wished "Happy Holiday", "All the best for the festive season", "A good break" and "the compliments of the season", all of which are very well intended, I'm sure, but I'm not sure what they all mean. I've seen houses festooned with thousands of pretty lights, there are Santas and reindeer, snowmen and candy canes, holly and sleighs, huge presents and even huger Christmas trees but very, very little about the reason for it all. If you listen very carefully in the crowded shopping malls you can possibly hear Susan Boyle singing 'When a Child is Born', but that is quickly followed by 'Jingle Bell Rock'. It's all too easy to say we have got too commercial or secular, or say Christmas is all about the children. Maybe the truth is it has just got all too confusing. We seem to be trying very hard to celebrate something, but we aren't sure what it is supposed to be.

In amongst everything that is happening at this time of the year, somewhere we hope to find the real meaning of the season. The slogan developed a couple of years ago: "Keep Christ in Christmas" sums up our fervent hope that the season will not lose its origins. The problem is that so much gets tacked onto "Christmas" that we struggle to find and keep alive the reason for the season.

The fast approaching "end of the year" and the fact that in the southern hemisphere this is associated with summer and holidays hastens us to include much more in the Christmas feast. Schools and colleges have broken up for the long summer holidays, people are preparing to go away and there is a sense in the business world that "end of year" lunches and dinners should include a "Christmas" theme.

It is a time for sending cards and giving gifts. Yet, cards are more likely to announce "season's greetings" and include Santa, snow and cuddly bears rather than a Nativity scene and "Happy Christmas". Added to this a newspaper reporting that Australians will spend about 10 billion dollars on Christmas gifts in just over two weeks. With these facts in mind we could well ask: does this in any way honour the birth of Christ?

Still the busy-ness goes on and there is much to be done before Christmas Day and somehow in the midst of cards, presents, family, dinners and lunches, tinsel and cake, we still look for Jesus. His coming and presence is the greatest gift. While we keep our eye on all that happens at this time of year, we can't afford to lose sight of the reason for the season. Let us try and keep some perspective on this and remember that all our celebrating is meant to proclaim that Christ came precisely to make holy all that we do. So in our gift giving and sending of cards we acknowledge the love that was so profoundly shown in the first Christmas.

That being said, Father Jason and I, along with all the parish staff, would like to wish you and your families a joyous holy time with Christ and his message right there in the middle of it, keeping you focussed on all that is good and hopeful in the world; and then bring on the New Year with all of its exciting opportunities.

**Fr Peter Dillon**

Fr. Peter Dillon PP  
Dean:  
South Coast Deanery

Fr Jason Middleton  
(Associate Pastor)

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(Parish Manager)

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

Sr Elisabeth  
Keane IBVM  
(Pastoral Associate)

Daloras Howes  
(Parish Secretary)

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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  
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#### **St Joseph the Worker Church**

44 Imperial Parade,  
Labrador

#### **Sunday Mass**

7.00 am  
8:30 am

#### **Weekday Mass**

Monday -7.00am  
**Wednesday-9.00am**

#### **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



**Today we welcome into our Parish  
Family**

**Rome Parker Trevling, son of Ashley & Bree  
Simon Wright, son of James & Anselyn.**

**Christmas Masses:**

**SOUTHPORT:** MONDAY 6PM; VIGIL  
MIDNIGHT MASS  
CHRISTMAS MORNING 7AM;  
CHRISTMAS MORNING 10AM;  
**LABRADOR:** CHRISTMAS MORNING 7AM  
CHRISTMAS MORNING 8.30AM  
**ASHMORE:** CHRISTMAS EVE 6PM  
CHRISTMAS MORNING 8.30AM

**PLEASE NOTE: There is no Mass on Christmas night.  
BOXING DAY: 9AM AT LABRADOR**

**Ministries for Christmas Masses:**

Thank you to those who generously offered to help make our Christmas Masses worthy celebrations. Final lists will be placed in the appropriate churches, so please check what you are rostered for.

We have not been overwhelmed by people offering to be Welcomers, Ushers or Collectors, so if you feel a sudden burst of generosity, please add your name to the list.

**Christmas Eve Mass at Ashmore**

The children will start singing carols outside Mary Immaculate Church at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve. Carols and the Christmas play will be before Mass. Please be aware it is usually necessary to come early to get a seat in the Church on Christmas Eve. All children in the play will gather in the meeting room at 5.15pm on Monday. Thanks. **Sister Helen**

**SOS for Helpers at Christmas Eve Mass.**

The children still need helpers for Christmas Eve Mass. We need four more ushers and six more collectors for this special evening. Also, helpers are needed to prepare Mary Immaculate Church at 11am on Monday, 24th December. All help will be very welcome.

Please contact Sister Helen [helenw@scp.org.au](mailto:helenw@scp.org.au) to volunteer.

**How to say Merry Christmas in Different Language**

**Afrikaans** - een plesierige kerfees.

**Brazilian** - Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo.

**Chinese** - (Mandarin) Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan  
(Cantonese) Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun.

**Croatian** - Sretan Bozic.

**Danish** - Glaedelig Jul.

**Dutch** - Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar.

**French** - Joyeux Noel.

**German** - Froehliche Weihnachten.

**Greek** - Kala Christouyenna.

**Indonesian** - Selamat Hari Natal.

**Irish** - Nollaig Shona Dhuit.

**Italian** - Buone Feste Natalizie.

**Japanese** - Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto.

**Korean** - Sung Tan Chuk Ha.

**Maori** - Meri Kirihimete.

**Portuguese** - Boas Festas

**Serbian** - Hristos se rodi.

**Slovakian** - Sretan Bozic or Vesele vianoce.

**Samoan** - La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou.

**Spanish** - Feliz Navidad.

**Thai** - Sawadee Pee Mai.

**Turkish** - Noeliniz Ve Yen Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Graham Patterson, Raymond Hoy, Brian Hogan.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Fr Maurice Goldspink CM, William Power, Elizabeth Di Leo, Freda Jones.

**ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK  
AND IN NEED:**

Laureen Hewson, Patrick Guillon, 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.

**Lord Grant your people your protection and grace.  
Give them health of mind and body. Amen.**

**Thank you from St Vincent de Paul**

Your generous and compassionate response to our Christmas Appeal has been wonderful. This weekend our Conferences will provide 220 local families with Christmas Hampers containing your gifts that will nourish both body and spirit! Your Appeal donations will also be used to provide the appropriate "hand up" for those in need during 2013.

Thank you so much for sharing what you have with those who have little. Our warm Blessings to you and your families for a happy, safe and holy Christmas and New Year.

**Break Open the Word:**

There are 5 copies that were ordered and have not yet been picked up. You may either collect them from the Parish Office, or put the \$15 in an envelope with your name and the church you attend on the front, put it on the collection plate and the copy will be returned to you.

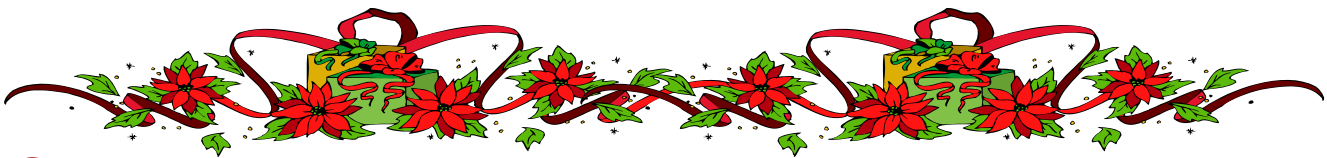
**Archbishop's Christmas Message**

This year, Archbishop Coleridge has recorded a Christmas message which can be viewed at:

[www.bne.catholic.net.au/Christmas12](http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/Christmas12).

In the words of Archbishop Coleridge: "In the birth of Jesus we see a God who is no indistinct and distant deity, nor a name we give to a vague human instinct. The real God has become enfleshed, in every sense of the word. He has lived among us as one of us. I invite you to watch, and share with others, my Christmas message by visiting the Archdiocesan website."

**\* Please note that the message won't be available to view until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**



As Christmas began in the  
heart of God  
Let us complete that love  
By extending our hearts to  
others.  
May the miracle of  
Christmas  
Fill your hearts with love.  
Sr Lis.

May Christ, 'the reason for  
this Season', fill your hearts  
and homes with peace and  
joy.  
Sister Helen  
Sacramental  
Coordinator

Faith makes all things possible,  
Hope makes all things work,  
Love makes all things beautiful,  
May you have all three for this  
Christmas.  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
Love Leeanne.

May the peace and blessings of  
Christmas be yours, and may the  
coming year be filled with  
happiness.  
These are my wishes for you all.  
Love Kay



May I wish each and every one of you  
a safe and  
Merry Christmas.  
Love Donna

When you are sending greeting cards,  
wrapping gifts,  
and preparing food this Christmas,  
remember 3 things.  
The first greeting was of angelic joy.  
The first gift was God enrobed in flesh.  
The first meal was spent in a dark cave.  
Divine love made this possible!  
Merry Christmas & God Bless!  
Fr. Jason

It's Christmas and it's the  
birth of Our Saviour  
Jesus Christ! As we sing  
our Christmas songs, eat  
our cakes and candies,  
celebrate with families,  
and friends and help one  
another especially those  
who are less fortunate  
than we are; may this  
Christmas bring us much  
joy and laughter,  
peace and happiness.  
Merry Christmas and  
a  
Happy New Year!  
Dominic Orih.



# HYMNS

C G/B Am Em/G Fmaj7 E Am G/B Am

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

## O COME O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

### Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall  
Come to you O Israel.**

O come, O Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

### R

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one  
The hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us our King of Peace.

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

My Soul in Stillness Waits 280

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness  
waits, truly my hope is in you.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you...

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!**

Eternal light and sun of justice, shine in  
our darkness

**Lord Jesus, come!**

**Alleluia, alleluia! alleluia! Alleluia**

**THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR  
NEXT SUNDAY  
Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28  
John 3:1-2. 21-24  
Luke 2:41-52**

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## GIFTS PROCESSION

### THERE IS A LONGING

#### Refrain:

**There is a longing in our hearts,  
O Lord,  
For you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts  
for love, we only find in you, our  
God.**

Lord save us, take pity, light in our  
darkness.

We call you, we wait:

Be near, hear our prayer, O God.

### 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

### MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS -

**Refrain: For you O Lord, my soul  
in stillness waits.  
Truly, my hope is in you.**

Oh Lord of Light, our only hope of  
glory.

Your radiance shines in all who  
look to you.

Come light the hearts of all in dark  
and shadow.

Oh Spring of Joy, rain down upon  
our spirits.

Our thirsty hearts are yearning for  
your Word.

Come, make us whole; be comfort to our  
hearts.

Oh Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
and in your advent draw us all to you.  
Our hope reborn, in dying and in rising.

Oh Key of Knowledge, guide us in our  
pilgrimage.  
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain.  
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

Come, let us bow before the God who made  
us.

Let every heart be opened to the Lord,  
for we are all the people of His hand.

Here we shall meet the maker of the  
heavens,  
creator of the mountains and the seas.  
Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

### MY SOUL IS JOYFUL

My soul is joyful; my spirit is glad!  
Jesus is my Saviour! He is my Lord!  
Deep is His mercy, gentle are His ways!  
He has filled me with gladness all my days!

I am His servant; He is truly my God!  
I will serve Him forever; strong in His love!  
From this day onward all people will see  
God has fashioned His Handmaid; God lives  
in me!

Holy is His name! Mercy given to all  
Sure and simple His wisdom! Proud hearts  
will fall  
Good news for children! Food for all who need  
Strength and life in the Spirit given to me!

### RECESSIONAL

#### ADVENT LITANY (Verses 13-16)

Light of nations, Alleluia, Light in darkness,  
Maranatha!  
Risen Saviour, Alleluia, Lord of glory,  
Maranatha!  
You we long for, Alleluia, You we thirst for,  
Maranatha!  
Here among us, Alleluia, Living in us,  
Maranatha!

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sponsored by  
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