

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Emmanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord

and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power

through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all,

then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

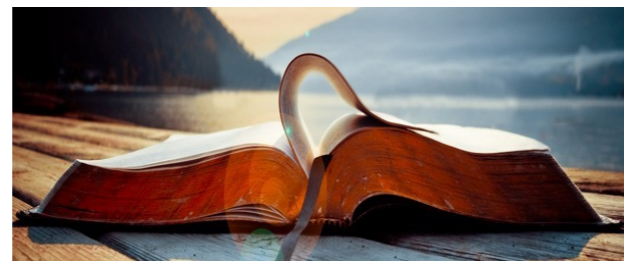
A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Matthew Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Next Weeks Readings:

First Reading Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

Gospel Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah

St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Noraville

St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah

Vision

To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A
22nd December 2019

"Emmanuel - God with us"



Today's Gospel passage mentions the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah. Jesus is seen as the royal child of the house of David, born of a virgin. In Jesus, the dynasty of David is continued. He is not only the son of David but also the Son of God. Jesus was born of virgin.

As we approach Christmas, the prophecy of Isaiah and the interpretation of it by evangelist Matthew is brought for a specific purpose. This is to remind us that even in our most distressing situations, difficulties and problems, God is with us. It is in those painful times that we realize the immense power and greatness of God.

God's unending love for mankind is personally experienced by the birth of Jesus. His love is inviting everyone to the manger like those shepherds at the first Christmas night. Christmas brings us peace and joy. That is why that night the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will. Yes, to receive the peace of the Lord, we need to be persons of good will. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a manger, humble simple shepherds were invited to meet Him and receive the blessings of the newborn Babe. Child Jesus in manger is inviting us too.

"Christmas is not a Season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas" C.Coolidge.

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone" C.M.Schulz

Fr Tomy

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS"
"MAY THE EMMANUEL BORN IN
BETHLEHEM BLESS YOU!"**

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Mrs. Joan Haslam 4392 6892

Parish Schools

St Mary's

Principal Mr Kevin Williams 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Mrs Luanna Fletcher 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Mrs Julie Terry 4358 4278

PARISH LITURGIES

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Saturday: Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am

9:00am

Children's Liturgy 1st & 3rd Sunday
(except school holidays)

6:00pm

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday: Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday 7:45am

Tuesday 7:45am

Wednesday Christmas Day

Thursday 7:45am St Stephen

(Ordinariate of Our Lady

of the Southern Cross)

Friday 9:15am St John Apostle

(Except 1st Friday of Month)

First Friday of Month Anointing of Sick

11:00am

Saturday 7:45am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Wednesday 9:00am Christmas Day

First Wednesday of Month Anointing of Sick

9:00am

Thursday 9:00am St Stephen

EXPOSITION BLESSED SACRAMENT

St Mary's Church Toukley

Each Saturday – After Morning Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Toukley

Saturday 8:15am—9:00am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday 4:30—5:00pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Mary's Toukley

7:25am Monday to Thursday & Saturday

8:45am Friday



We welcome all of our parishioners and holiday makers, who have joined us for the celebration of Holy Eucharist this weekend. You are all most welcome here in our Parish Family. Please feel free to make yourself known to us, and we look forward to speaking with you.

Members of Mission Council

The St Mary's members of our new Mission Council are:-

Ellen Sheerin, Bob Steele, Diane Healey, Dan Buckman and Liz Venneri

From St Brendan's we will have Lorraine Dunn, Peter Huby, Tricia Humphreys, Jacqui Kemp and Jacqueline Fletcher.

Members of Liturgy Committee

From St Mary's we have Leigh Steele, Christine Mickkelsen and Rouella Macalma and from St Brendan's, David Dunn and Carolyn Metcalf.

The membership of these committees is for a period of two years.

I would like to thank these people for their willingness to serve our faith community in this way.

Formation of Parish Finance Committee

The formation of the Finance Committee will take place at the end of January.

Parish Office

The parish office hours will be reduced from 24th December 2019 to 28th January 2020, only open Mon, Wed & Fri 9am-2.30pm.

For urgent sick calls, please contact Fr Tomy 0408 632 015 or Fr Baby 0400 568 491

Special Christmas Crib

We have a special Christmas Crib this year at St Mary's church. We would like to thank Sanjay Sebastian and Babu Phillip who helped make it. Please visit the crib during this Christmas season.



Facilitators for Sacramental Programme

Our parish needs volunteers to facilitate parents, to prepare their children worthily, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The four week programme commences week beginning Monday 2nd March. If you are able to assist as a facilitator, please contact the parish office.

Sharing God's Light—A Gift in Your Will

Our parish is very grateful for the bequests that have been left to the parish in the past. These bequests have supported our Faith Community and enabled us to maintain our parish church and buildings and implement pastoral initiatives. By leaving a gift in your will, or honouring the memory of a loved one, you are supporting your Family of Faith. Booklets available at doors of the church.

Please Note: There will be NO BULLETINS during January

For those who are hard of hearing, copies of the Readings will be available at the front of the church each week during January.

Upcoming Parish Events

Best Wishes from the Brewers

Ben and Barbara Brewer would like to wish all their friends at St Mary's and St Brendan's, a very happy and Holy Christmas

A Booklet for January

A small booklet is available at the front of St Mary's Church and St Brendan's Mass Centre, especially for visitors, giving Mass times for New Year and during January.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

St Brendan's 5:00pm Vigil Children's Mass

St Mary's 6:00pm Children's Pageant

6.30pm Vigil Mass

Carols 11:30pm,

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

St Brendan's 8:00am

St Mary's 7:30am,

9:00am

NO EVENING MASS

New Year's Day— Solemnity Mary Holy Mother of God

St Mary's 9:00am

St Brendan's 9:00am

Clarinova at St Brendan's

The Clarinova at St Brendan's Mass Centre is "past its Use By date" and is not able to be repaired. I am wondering if a parishioner may have a Clarinova, or Keyboard, that they no longer use, that they may like to donate to the Parish or, if someone is able to donate towards us purchasing a new Clarinova.

Thank you. Fr Tomy

Eucharistic Adoration

In the Garden of Gethsemane, our Lord asked His disciples "Can you not watch one hour with me?" Then and now, our Lord is always waiting for us to keep watch with Him.

Please join our 12 hour Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday 9th January 2020 from 9pm Thursday and finishing 8.45am Friday, and then every second Thursday of each month.

Please come and drop by within those hours, and keep watch for half an hour or one hour. You can also join and include your name on the roster handouts which are available in the church foyer.

World Day of Prayer

The next World Day of Prayer will be held at Toukley Uniting Church on 6th March 2020. The theme for this World Day of Prayer is Zimbabwe Rise! Take your mat and walk!

More information will be the Bulletin early February.

Fr Baby's Birthday

Fr Baby will celebrate his birthday on 26th January, Australia Day It is also India's Republic Day, celebrating the day on which the current Constitution of India was adopted.

In your charity, please pray for those who have died and those who are sick.

Recently Deceased

Joseph Costa, Anthony Abdilla,

Anniversaries

Lorna Simms, Denis Newey

Remembrance

Ludgarda Zammit, Emanuel Zammit, Sarsero & Zammit Families. Carol Brown. Baker Family & friends. Maurie Cohen, Lyn & Raphael Cohen, Wynn Family, Maureen & Geoff Riley, Mary & Jack Webb, John Webb, Al Portass. Sister Rita, Paul Cortiss. Anselmo, Paulita, Enrico, Arturo, Pio Edwin Ambait. Elma Capacite. Hermigildo & Romualda Giba. Pantaleon, Temotea Ambait. Valmai Joseph, Stark Family & Holy Souls

Please Pray for the Sick

Elizabeth Hollis, Doris & Toni Temlett, Eileen O'Kane, Vicki Buttlet, 4 year old Ethan, Brendon Andrews, Brett Harkins, John Daniel, Shanon Bradler, Daisy Realo, Luc Bouquet, Ron McDonough, Brian Torrington, Teresa Wegrzyn, Maureen Baxter, Margaret Downing, Donatus Morrison, John and Helen Loader, Maria Loisa Etello, Kevin and Therese Harvey, Brenda Durley, Jeff Henshaw, Len O'Shea, Ray Slucher, Mary Mahony, Michael Wiggin, Koby Bourke, Lina Phillips, Vanessa Miller, Alexis Hagen, Francis Lim, Tony Hodges, Eleanor Matthews, Wendy Lott, Arne Jensen, Fred Butterfield, Betty Carroll, Leanne Knight, Arnold Fletcher, Stephen Knight, Adrienne Gibson, Heather Niblett, Kathleen Strong, Evan Shepherd, Rosa M Santos, Betty Tattersall.

Safeguarding

We the people of the Catholic Parish of Toukley/Lake Munmorah are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us and we are seeking one parishioner from St Mary's, and one from St Brendan's, to be contact people for the parish. Please speak to any of the clergy if you are able to assist with this important matter.

Prayer for Rain



Dear Heavenly Father, source of love & mercy. We thank you for all the gifts you have given us. We pray most earnestly for your precious rain, to fall on the parched earth of our country. We pray especially for those who work the land, and are suffering severely at this time. Please help the people of Australia to have the courage to become good stewards of the gifts you give us. Please give us generous hearts, so that we can share our bounty with all others in need. Amen

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