

### Liturgy of the Word



#### FIRST READING

**Is9:1-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**(R) Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM

**Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11**

**(R) Today is born our Saviour, Christ our saving Lord.**

#### SECOND READING **Ti 2:11-14**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

*God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it

has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

**(R) Thanks be to God**

#### GOSPEL **Lk 2:1-14**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Today a saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the

countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**(R) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

***Hoping against hope, he believed.***

**—Romans 4:18**

*Hope nonetheless.*

*Hope despite.*

*Hope regardless.*

*Hope still.*

*Hope where we had ceased to hope.*

*Hope amid what threatens hope.*

*Hope with those who feed our hope.*

*Hope beyond what we had hoped.*

*Hope that draws us past our limits.*

*Hope that defies expectations.*

*Hope that questions what we have known.*

*Hope that makes a way where there is none.*

*Hope that takes us past our fear.*

*Hope that calls us into life.*

*Hope that holds us beyond death.*

*Hope that blesses those to come.*

**- Jan Richardson**

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

**Anniversaries:** George & Roma Scarf, Domenica Fieramosca, Brian & Eileen Woodward, James Dalley, Evelyn Selwyn, Basil & Glickeria Soroszczuk, Salvatore & Santa Di Mauro & Salvatore & Giovanna Testa.

**Repose of the Soul:** Theo Mentcherian, Maria & Robert Sciarrone, Maria, Anthony & Robert Palise.

# Liturgy of the Word

# Christmas Day Masses

## FIRST READING

Is 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**(R) Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

**(R) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

### ***A Blessing Called Sanctuary***

You hardly knew  
how hungry you were  
to be gathered in,  
to receive the welcome  
that invited you to enter  
entirely—  
nothing of you  
found foreign or strange,  
nothing of your life  
that you were asked  
to leave behind  
or to carry in silence  
or in shame.  
Tentative steps  
became settling in,  
leaning into the blessing  
that enfolded you,  
taking your place  
in the circle  
that stunned you  
with its unimagined grace.  
You began to breathe again,  
to move without fear,  
to speak with abandon  
the words you carried  
in your bones,  
that echoed in your being.  
You learned to sing.

## SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

**(R) Thanks be to God**

But the deal with this blessing is that it will not leave you alone, will not let you linger in safety, in stasis.

The time will come when this blessing will ask you to leave, not because it has tired of you but because it desires for you to become the sanctuary that you have found—to speak your word into the world, to tell what you have heard with your own ears, seen with your own eyes, known in your own heart: that you are beloved, precious child of God, beautiful to behold, and you are welcome and more than welcome

## GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**(R) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



### **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Parish Office will be closed from 9am Friday 24th December until Tuesday 4th January 2021