

Welcome to
ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL
Diocese of Melbourne - Anglican Church of Australia
Parish Church of the City since 1846



El Greco (1541—1614) *Adoration of the Shepherds*

MIDNIGHT MASS
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
24 DECEMBER 2022
11.00PM CAROLS & 11.30PM MASS

Christmas – *Fr Michael writes ...*

The Christmas story, in all its original gritty realism (as well as in its romanticized greeting card tinsel), says simply this to us all: God is as close to us as birth and death, and everything good in between comes from him. This involvement with us is very simple: God did not become *like* us as we are *like* some animals. He became *the same* as us, to give us back our self-respect. Christianity was not intended to make us guilt-wracked, fearful creatures: on the contrary, the gift of Christmas was the first sign of the many which Jesus gave us that God wants us to be free from fear and to flourish.

That is, of course, a wonderful, literally miraculous, thing. It is something for which we give thanks. But it extends far beyond the crib and the manger and the shepherds and the kings. It extends to our death – for the Son of God went there too – and it extends to what is good, what is right and how we find that and do it.

Our humanity, our distinctive consciousness of who we are and of the created order in which we spend our lives, was not just shared by God in Jesus, it came from God in the first place. The birth of this child and, more importantly what he did with his life (and what he did with his death, too) shows us how much *we* matter; it is a pure act of love, because it is a concrete sign of acceptance and faithfulness. It cannot be taken away. The relationship is forged for ever.

Celebrating the Christmas festival is meant to kick-start us in the same direction. To use our consciousness to seek, prefer and promote love, which is stronger than death and which always finds the good. It begins here where we intersect with the story of Christmas. As with Jesus, it is what we do with it that will give meaning to our lives.

WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S

SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST – MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

8.00am Low Mass

(Traditional Language in the Handfield Chapel)

9.30am FAMILY MASS

11.00am HIGH MASS

7.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols

WEEKDAYS

Daily Low Mass – 8.00am Monday to Friday in the Handfield Chapel.

Please note: On Public Holidays Daily Mass is at 9.00am

Wednesday – 1.15pm & Saturday 12noon Low Mass in the Handfield Chapel.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Please stand for the beginning of the Mass. The people's responses are printed in bold.

Mass setting: M. A. Charpentier (1643-1704): Messe de Minuit

Processional Hymn:

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels:**

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
[Refrain]**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
[Refrain]**

**Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our heart's oblations:
[Refrain]**

There is a station during the procession to bless the crib.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who has made heaven and earth.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to + bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
[Refrain]**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, in the highest:
[Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
[Refrain]**

NEH 30
Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
Music: ADESTE FIDELIS

The sanctuary party re-enters the chancel. The celebrant censes the altar during the Introit.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

V. O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders: his right hand and his holy arm have wrought salvation.

Let us all rejoice...

Celebrant:

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Deacon introduces the Confession:

Merciful God: Our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The celebrant pronounces the Absolution.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyries are sung by the choir.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Please then stand for the Gloria which is sung by the choir.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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. Amen.

The Celebrant prays the Collect.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us,
who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your holy glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Please sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

G. Cox



To - day__ is born_____ our Sa- viour, Christ_ the Lord.

O sing to the Lord a new song:

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. **R**

Declare his glory among the nations:

and his wonders among all peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:

let the sea roar, and all that fills it **R**

Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the tress of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;
for he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. **R**

THE EPISTLE: Titus 2.11-14

chanted by the Sub-Deacon

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C. Mawby

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Deacon:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [2.1-16]

✠ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit for the Homily by Fr Michael Bowie

Please stand for the Creed.

[A copy of the music for the Sung Creed is available at the back of the church.]

We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

All kneel during the following words

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

All stand

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please kneel. After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And at the end:

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light ✕ perpetual shine upon them.

Celebrant:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace. Celebrant:

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON [*Sung by the choir*]

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the face of the Lord: because he comes.

Please join in the offertory carol.

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.**

**O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to men on earth;**

For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant:

Blessed are you, Lord God.....
Blessed be God forever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church.

The Celebrant prays the Prayer over the Offerings. People respond with Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Please kneel. The celebrant continues the prayer.

The choir sings the Sanctus.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

+ Blessed is he that comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.


The celebrant continues the prayer, leading to:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith




The celebrant continues the prayer, ending with:

All

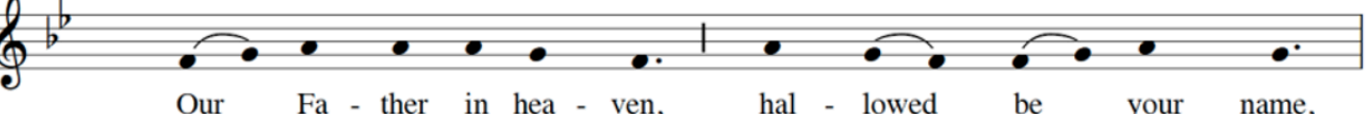


Bles sing and ho-nour and glo-ry and power are yours for e-ver and e-ver. A-men.

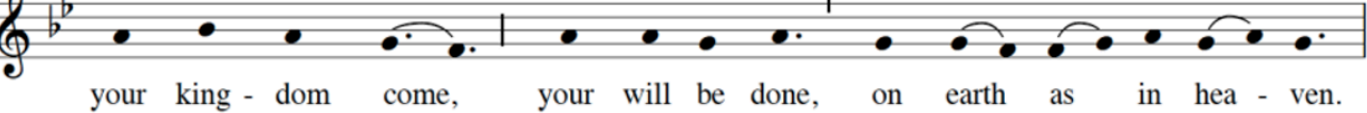
Celebrant



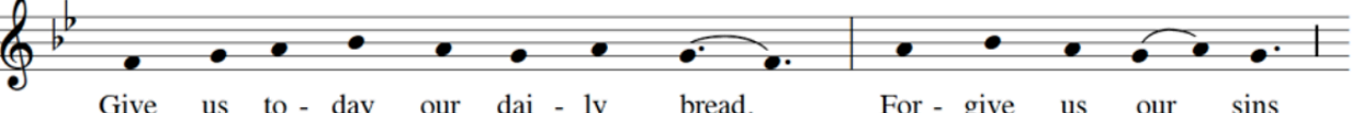
As our Sav-our Christ has taught us, we are con-fi-dent to pray,



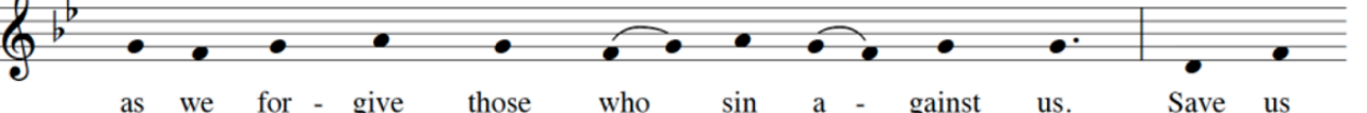
Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your name,



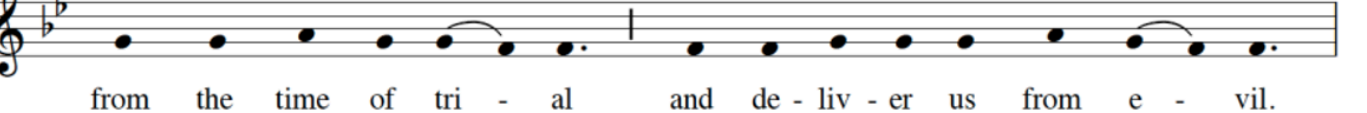
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven.



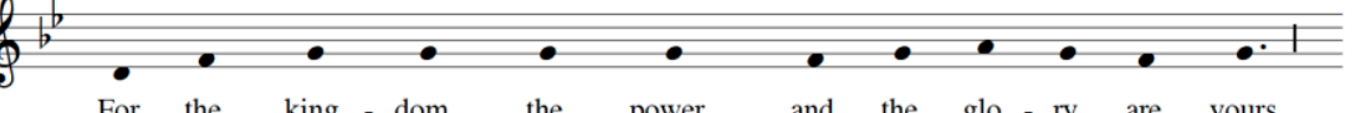
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins



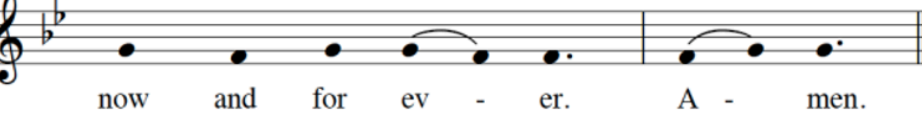
as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us



from the time of tri-al and de-liv-er us from e-vil.



For the king-dom, the power, and the glo-ry are yours



now and for ev-er. A-men.

Celebrant:

We who are many are one body.
For we all share in the one bread.

The Agnus Dei is sung by the choir.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.

Celebrant:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Celebrant recites silently the Communion Antiphon.

*Communicant members of any Christian church are invited to receive the sacrament.
All others are very welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

COMMUNION MOTET *Sung by the choir.*

Sir John Tavener (1944-2013): The Lamb
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856): O Holy Night (arr. Rutter & Raiskums)

Please stand for the Post-Communion carol.

**Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel: [Refrain]**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth: [Refrain]**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Celebrant sings the final prayer, leading to:

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

The Celebrant offers the blessing and the Deacon dismisses the congregation:

Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Sanctuary party processes to the West door for the final prayers and dismissal.

Postlude: J. S. Bach (1685-1750) *Prelude in C (BWV 547)*