

Welcome to
ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

*Diocese of Melbourne - Anglican Church of Australia
Parish Church of the City since 1846*



*Ecce Ancilla Domini! (The Annunciation), Painting by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882),
Painted in 1849-50, Oil on canvas © Tate Gallery, London*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24TH DECEMBER 2023

WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S

SUNDAY

8.00am Low Mass (Traditional Language)

9.30am FAMILY MASS

11.00am HIGH MASS

6.00pm Evensong & Benediction (2nd & 4th Sundays)

6.00pm Low Mass (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

WEEKDAYS

Daily Low Mass – 8.00am Monday to Friday (Live streamed on Facebook and YouTube)

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

DAILY INTERCESSIONS

FOR THE SICK: John Bolwell, Shelley Young, Roger Boey, Angela, Baby Leo, Bp Peter Hollingworth, Julie-Anne Bird, Janine Harris, Susanne Marsden, Col Robinson, Lena Sheridan, Nelson Rufatt, Sue Tan, Robert Saliba, Janine Stewart, Bp John Stewart, Bp John Parkes.

FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED Ken Maxwell, David Curtis, Frances O'Neil, Athol Leach.

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND FALLS THIS WEEK

- | | | |
|----------|----|--|
| December | 24 | Bette Bennison, Philip Henry Job, James Ernest Watts |
| | 25 | Leslie Cula PRIEST, Mavis Errey, Elizabeth Gordon
Robinson |
| | 26 | Neville James Barry, Nellie Margaret Dearlove, Annette
Grimes, Allan McGuire, Reginald Murphy |
| | 27 | Theodoros Govegos |
| | 28 | Mary Winifred Gielis, Irwin Henry Kendall |
| | 29 | Barry Robert Merton |
| | 30 | Joseph Savill |

Please contact the Parish Office or email office@stpeters.org.au to have names added to the sick list. They will remain on our prayer list for one month unless requested to be extended.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

Mass setting: Keren Terpstra Missa Florentibus

Introit Hymn: NEH 6 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

At 11.00am the sanctuary party enters the chancel to prepare for the Asperges.

Cantor

All

Pu - ri - fy me, O Lord, with hys - sop and I shall be clean:
wash me, O Lord, and I shall be whi - ter than snow.

Cantor

All

Have mer - cy on me, O God, in your en - du - ring good - ness:
ac - cor - ding to the fulness of your compassion blot out my of - fen - ces:
Wash me tho - rough - ly from my wick - ed - ness:
and cleanse me from my sin. Glo - ry to God:
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Spi - rit: as in the be - gin - ning so now,
and for e - ver. A - men.

Fine

Repeat antiphon

The sanctuary party re-enters the chancel. The celebrant intones the responsory.

Please kneel

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 who turn to him in faith:
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 at 11.00am

Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord have mercy</i>
Christe eleison	<i>Christ have mercy</i>
Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord have mercy</i>

The Celebrant prays the Collect.

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

A reading from the prophet Samuel.

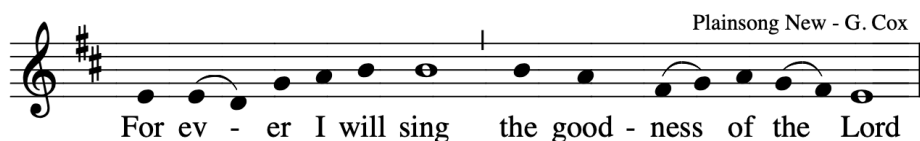
Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evil-doers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89



I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. **R.**

You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.” **R.**

He shall cry to me, “You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”
Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm. **R.**

THE EPISTLE: Romans 16.25-end

A reading from the epistle of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



I am the servant of the Lord:
let it be done to me according to your word.

Deacon:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 1.26-38**

✠ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

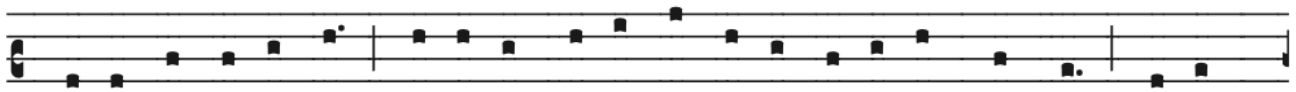
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit for the Homily by Mthr Kathryn Bellhouse

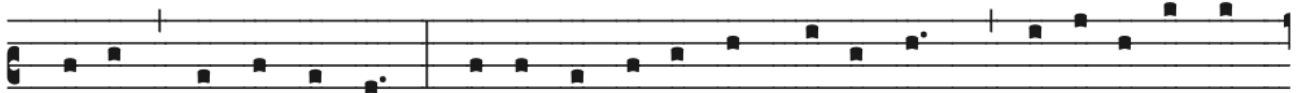
Please stand for the Creed.

The Creed

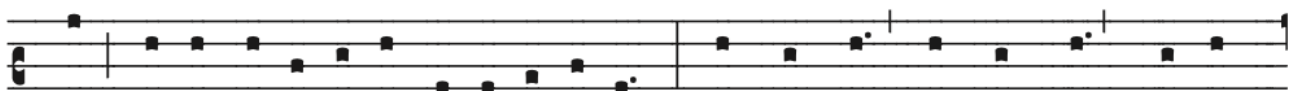
All stand and sing together facing the High Altar. The priest intones the opening phrase.



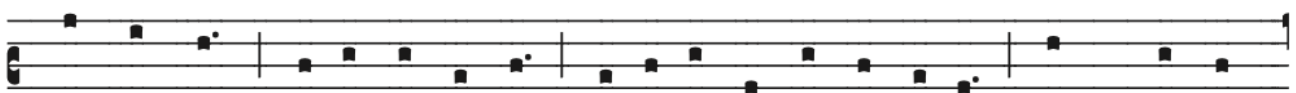
∇ We be-lieve in one God, the Fa-ther, the al-migh-ty, ma-ker of heav'n and earth of all



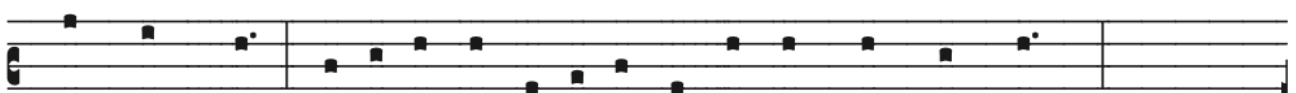
that is, seen and un-seen. We be-lieve in one Lord, Je- sus Christ, the on-ly Son of



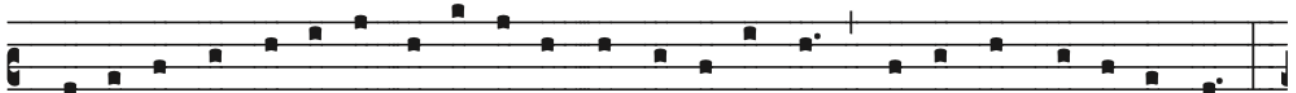
God, e - ter-nal-ly be-got-ten of the Fa-ther, God from God, light from light, true God



from true God, be- got-ten, not made of one be- ing with the Fa- ther through him all



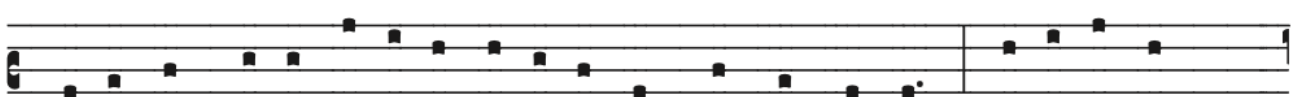
things were made. For us and for our sal-va- tion he came down from heaven,



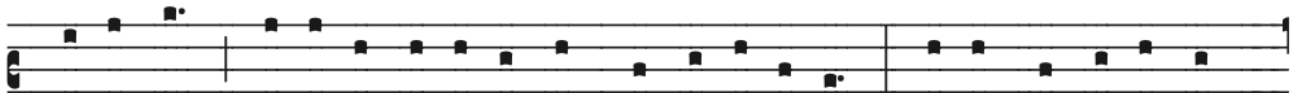
was in-car-nate of the Ho- ly Spi-rit and the vir- gin Ma-ry, and be-came tru-ly hu-man.



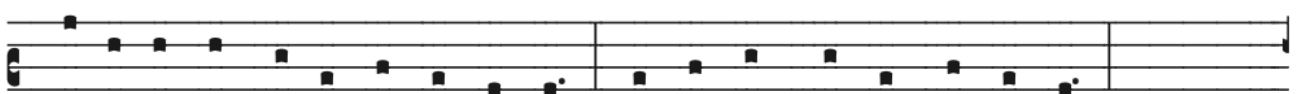
For our sake he was cru-ci-fied un-der Pon-tius Pi-late, he suf-fered death and was bu-ried.



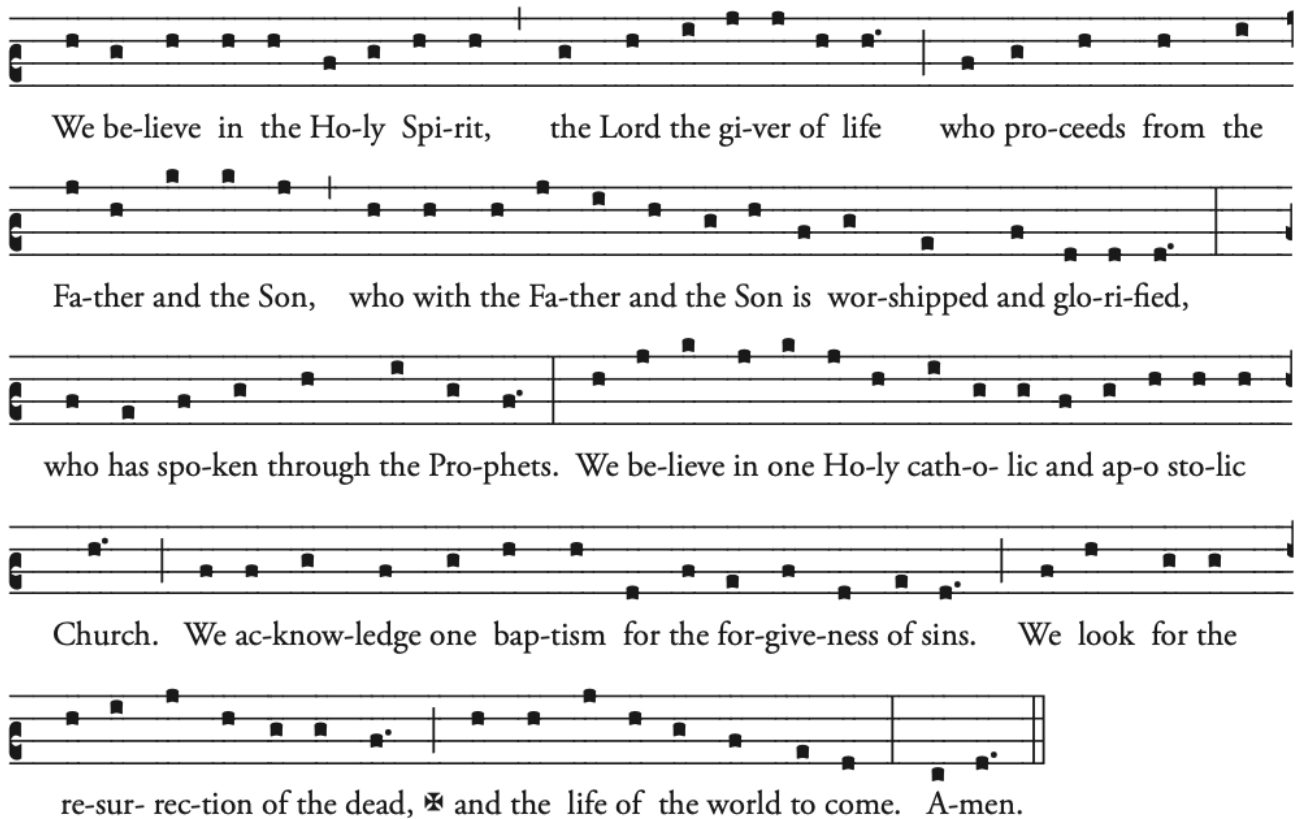
On the third day he rose a- gain in ac-cor-dance with the scrip-tures. He as-cen-ded



in- to heav'n, and is seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther. He will come a- gain in



glo-ry to judge the liv- ing and the dead and his king-dom will have no end.



We be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit, the Lord the gi-ver of life who pro-ceeds from the
 Fa-ther and the Son, who with the Fa-ther and the Son is wor-shipped and glo-ri-fied,
 who has spo-ken through the Pro-phets. We be-lieve in one Ho-ly cath-o-lic and ap-o sto-lic
 Church. We ac-know-ledge one bap-tism for the for-give-ness of sins. We look for the
 re-sur- rec-tion of the dead, ✠ and the life of the world to come. A-men.

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*]

Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Offertory hymn NEH 295 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

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.

At 11.00am 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


All



Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain.

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 - iour 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.

All remaining kneeling as 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.

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.*

Keren Terpstra Magnificat

Please stand for the Post-Communion hymn.

NEH 10 Long ago, prophets knew

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:

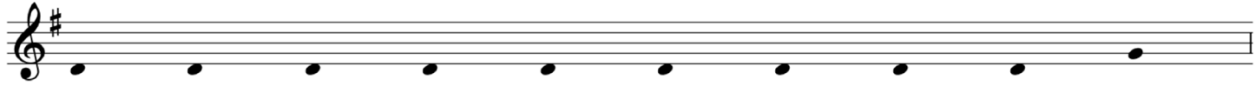
Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE ANGELUS



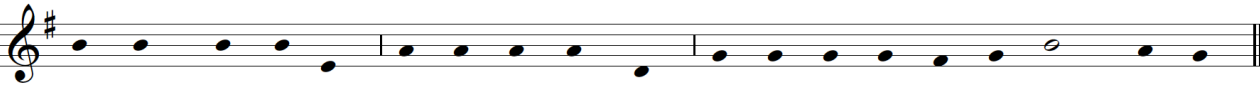
The Angel of the Lord brought ti - dings to Mary: **And she conceived by the Ho - ly Ghost.**



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,



Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Je - sus:



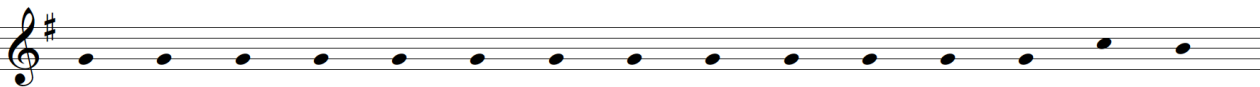
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. A - men.



Behold the handmaid of the Lord: **Be it unto me ac - cord - ing to thy word.**



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,



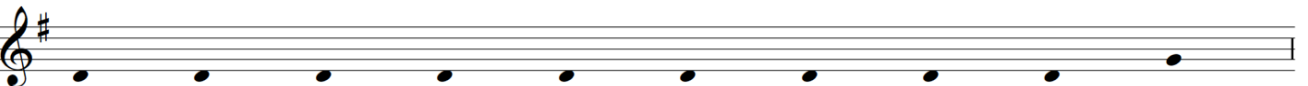
Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Je - sus:



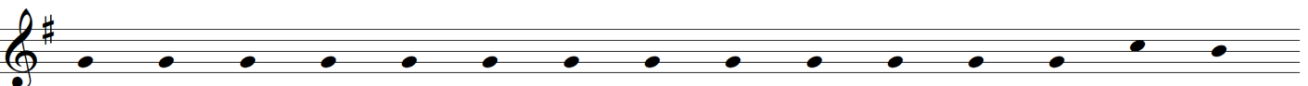
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. A - men.



And the Word was made flesh: **And dwelt a - mong us.**



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,



Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Je - sus:



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. A - men.



Pray for us O Holy Mother of God. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. We beseech thee O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of thy son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Postlude: Oliver Messiaen (1908-92) La Vierge et l'enfant

If you are a new parishioner, or a visitor to St Peter's, please introduce yourself to the clergy at the door as you leave the church. All are welcome for refreshments after the Mass in the Parish Hall.

Readings for

December 24th (10.30pm) Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16
(High Mass & Blessing of the Crib)

December 25th Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-6; John 1.1-14

Sunday 31st Isaiah 61.10—62.3; Galatians 4.4—7; Luke 2.15—21

NOTICES

Sunday December 24	6pm	Morning Masses for Advent 4 Christmas Eve Children's Mass with the telling of the Nativity story and the arrival of St Nicholas
	10.30pm	High Mass and blessing of the Crib
Monday December 25	10.00am	High Mass for Christmas Day
Sunday December 31 Feast of the Holy Family	8am	Low Mass
	9.30am	Family Mass
	11.00am	High Mass

7.00pm **Festival of Lessons and Carols,**
followed by New Year celebra-
tions in the parish hall

Monday January 1 **9.00am** **Mass**
Mary, Mother of the Lord

Weekly Reflections

Let it be to me according to your word – so says Mary to her angel visitor, and that’s all it takes for the world to be entirely changed. We know how this part of the story ends: a journey, a stable, no room in the inn; shepherds and angels and probably some sheep, and in the midst of it all a baby, wrapped in swaddling cloth and laid in a filthy, germ-ridden animal trough.

The Incarnation of the Word made flesh is not actually as nice a story as we see on our Christmas cards and in our nativity plays. This is a family in difficulty, forced to make a long and arduous journey on foot, and then become homeless in order to meet the demands of an imperial power. This is a woman giving birth for the first time, a day’s walk from her home, without the benefit of women she knows and loves to support her – this is dangerous and unhygienic and terrifying. They find shelter not in a gentle, candle-lit creche, but a working stable. There are almost certainly fleas present at the birth of our Lord: not exactly what you would expect for the radical presence of the Creator of the Universe in the world.

King David, too, finds that God doesn’t do or want quite what he expects. David’s idea is to build a grand Temple, a dwelling-place for the God who has brought him through the trials of the establishment of his kingship – but this is not what God wants. Instead, it is David who will have a house built for him: not merely a dwelling-place, but a kingship, a dynasty. God, it turns out, is happy enough in the humblest of tents; and while David’s kingship starts as you might expect, in the strength and stability of Israel’s golden age, the promised dynasty weakens over the

following centuries as Israel falls prey to one regime after another. But this is not the breaking of God's promise: instead, David's dynasty finds its fulfilment in the birth of a child in an out-of-the-way corner of what remains known as the City of David.

Christmas has become for us a time of tradition; but we forget, often, that what lies behind our traditions is entirely unexpected. The Christmas story turns our expectations on their head – as does our Lord as he grows up to challenge the religious authorities' death-grip on who is worthy to access to love of God; as does the Easter story whose cross casts a shadow over even our peaceful nativity.

The Christmas story reminds us that God makes a habit of breaking down our expectations. Where we think that God deserves the richest temple or the most lush cradle, God takes the tent and the stable, bringing light and love to wherever we happen to find ourselves. Where we think that we are not worthy of God's great love, we find that great love already settled on us, already holding us in every moment of existence, ready and eager to spread from our community and into the world – all we are called to do, as Mary does, is to say yes.

Naomi Johnson



St Peter's Bookroom & Church Supplier

St Peter's Bookroom wishes all parishioners, customers and friends a joyous and peace filled Christmas.

The Bookroom will be closed between Christmas and the New Year. We will re-open Tuesday 2nd January.

Have you seen our wonderful range of young children's and toddlers religious books? Check us out online or when you next come in store.

Little Library: These small Children Bible Board books in a carry case are easy to hold and make a beautiful present. \$21.9



St Peter's Bookroom Book Fair 2024 - storage space

High quality book donations are already starting to arrive for the next Book Fair in September 2024.

We are in great need for dry and safe storage spaces. Do you have an empty garage or know of a space we could use? It needs to be relatively close to the city for access.

Please let us know in the Bookroom if you can assist.

Carol O'Connor

email: bookroom@stpeters.org.au

ph: 03 9663 7487

Foundation Christmas Appeal

Please give generously

We need your help to continue our important work, providing breakfast and support services to the most disadvantaged, every day of the year

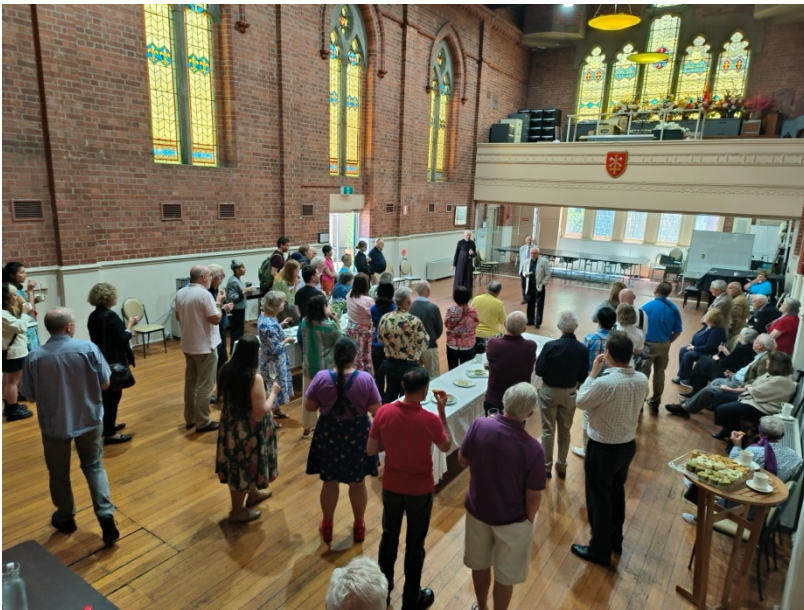
We need to raise an additional \$100,000 this Christmas.

This will enable us to serve a sit down breakfast every weekday, as we did before the pandemic, for all of 2024.

It will also enable us provide much needed Christmas cheer packages and some dignity to those who have nothing.

You can donate through this link: <https://www.spehcf.com.au/check-out/donate?donatePageId=62f5171f2cd41248af0bbb71>

SOME SNAPS FROM LAST WEEK



Farewell Fr Philip



St Peter's Team working hard with smiles



Performing their debut in our Hall
'The Martians' an R&B Jazz band



PARISH DIRECTORY

St. Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Phone: 0401 826 325 Web: www.stpeters.org.au

E-mail: office@stpeters.org.au

Vicar: mnrbowie@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: kathryn.bellhouse@gmail.com

FB: www.facebook.com/stpeterseasternhill

YT: www.youtube.com/c/StPetersEasternHill

Office Hours: 10am to 1pm, Tuesday – Friday

Sunday Services

8.00am Low Mass [BCP]; 9:30am Family Mass; 11.00am High Mass
6pm Low Mass [1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays] 6pm Evensong & Benediction [2nd & 4th Sundays]

Weekday Services

Mon-Fri Mass at 8.00am (9.00am on Public Holidays); Wednesday 1:15pm Mass; Saturday 12noon Mass

Special Devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham on the 1st Saturday of the month

Feast Day High Mass, as advertised: 7.00pm

Clergy and Lay Ministers

Vicar:	Fr Michael Bowie	0432 072 213
Assistant Priest:	Mthr Kathryn Bellhouse	0416 378 748
Associate Clergy:	Fr Graeme Brennan	0427 321 744
	Mthr Pirrial Clift	0407 453 306
	Fr Greg Davies	0417 992 976
	Fr Philip Gill	0480 101 711
	Fr Ken Letts	03 9662 2391
	Fr Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
Klingner Scholars:	Alex De Leon	03 9662 2391
	Naomi Johnson	03 9662 2391

Parish Council Membership

Fr Michael Bowie (President)
Daniel Mitterdorfer (Secretary)
Peter Griffin (Treasurer)
Anne Scott-Pendlebury
Craig Wilson
Geoffrey Bush-Coote
Marcus Roberts
Michael Upson
Stuart Hibberd
Terry Porter

Other Parish Ministries and Programs

Bookroom:	Carol O'Connor	03 9663 7487
Charitable Foundation:	Krystyna Campbell-Pretty	03 9662 2391
Children's Church:	Katherine Barnett	0403 352 256
Churchwardens:	Michael Gronow	0411 289 318
	Helena Hughes	-
	Daniel Ferguson	0419 572 033
COVID Safe & Child Safety Officer:	Rachel Ellyard	0419 335 793
Flowers:	Michael Upson	0492 964 984
Guild of St Benedict:	Daniel Ferguson	0419 572 033
Head Server:	Anthony Schepis	0400 578 952
Organist/Acting Music Director:	Rhys Arvidson	0405 277 853
Parish Administrator:	Eugene Chin	0401 826 325
Pastoral care:	Di Clark	0407 354 987
Prayer Link & Pastoral:	Fr Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
Sacristan:	Naomi Johnson	03 9662 2391

We are an inclusive and welcoming church, built on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people. Our mission is: "Worshipping Christ in the Eucharist; serving Christ in the world".