

Welcome to
ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

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



*Mary with Child, young John the Baptist and St Elizabeth. Origin: Italy. Date: 1620 – 1664. Object ID: RP-P-OB-34.289. Stefano della Bella, *Italiaans* (1610–1664)*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10TH 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: David Curtis, 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 Frances O'Neil, Athol Leach, Barbara Ure-Smith, Sophia Errey.

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND FALLS THIS WEEK

- December 10 Una Blake, Winifred Ismene Claridge, Ada Cunningham,
Bertha Marie Dossett, Ernest Harrison, Nellie Westoby
- 11 Beatrice Sullivan
- 12 Agnes Hardy Bode
- 13 Maurice Cratchley, Beatrice Lindsay, Ina Edith Norton,
Maxwell Thomas Austin Umphelby
- 14 Hubert Hayward, Clementina Hughes, Clara McAdam
- 15 Philip Thomas Byard Clayton PRIEST, Margaret Jephcott,
Sarah Michal Elizabeth Robson
- 16 Marjorie Fischer, Madge Muddell

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: Philip Carmody (b. 1966) Missa Emmanuel

Introit Hymn: NEH 12 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

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:

Fine

wash me, O Lord, and I shall be whi - ter than snow.

Cantor

Have mer - cy on me, O God, in your en - du - ring good - ness:

All

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:

Cantor

and cleanse me from my sin. Glo - ry to God:

All

Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Spi - rit: as in the be - gin - ning so now,

Repeat antiphon

and for e - ver. A - men.

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.

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

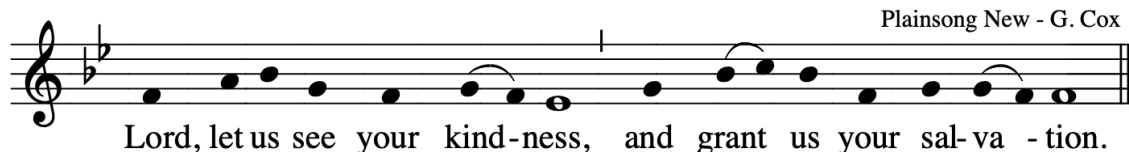
A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85

Plainsong New - G. Cox



Lord, let us see your kind-ness, and grant us your sal-va - tion.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky. **R.**

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps. **R.**

THE EPISTLE: 2 Peter 3.8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Deacon:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark 1.1-8**

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

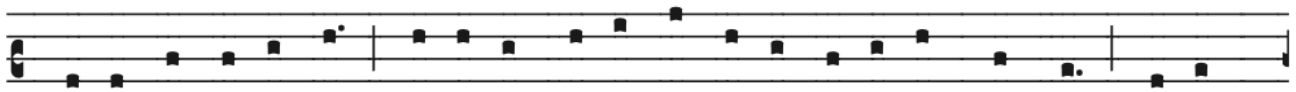
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit for the Homily by Fr Michael Bowie

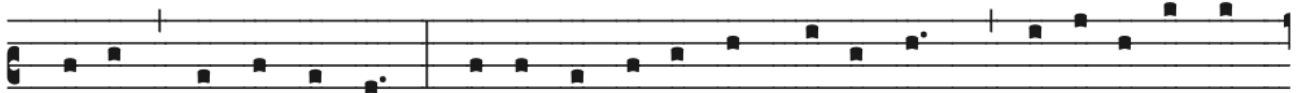
Please stand for the Creed.

The Creed

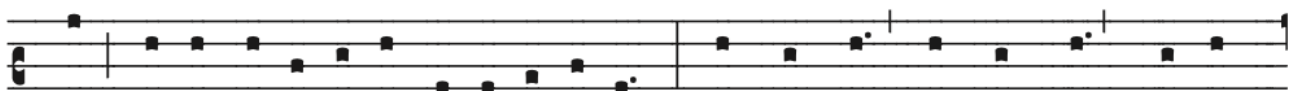
All stand and sing together facing the High Altar. The priest intones the opening phrase.



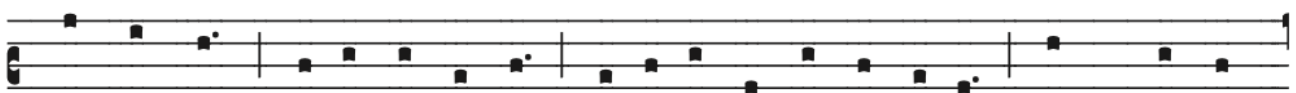
♫ **We be-lieve in one God,** the Fa-ther, the al-migh-ty, ma-ker of heav'n and earth of all



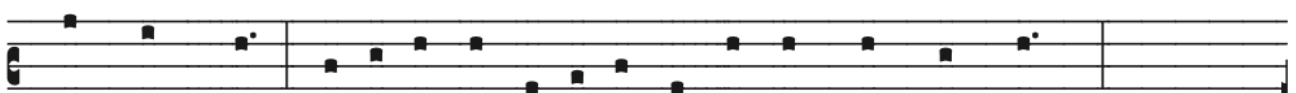
that is, seen and un-seen. We be-lieve in one Lord, Je- sus Christ, the on-ly Son of



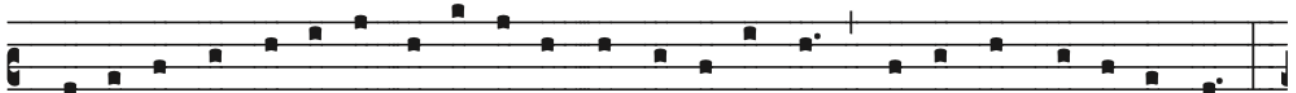
God, e - ter-nal-ly be-got-ten of the Fa-ther, God from God, light from light, true God



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



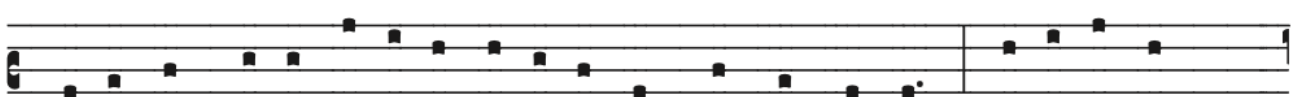
things were made. For us and for our sal-va- tion he came down from heaven,



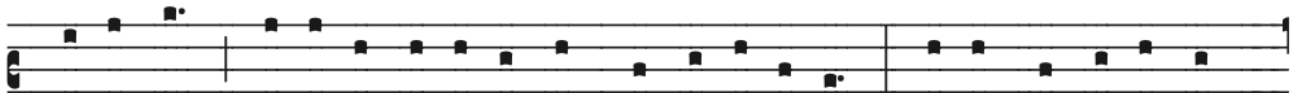
was in-car-nate of the Ho- ly Spi-rit and the vir- gin Ma-ry, and be-came tru-ly hu-man.



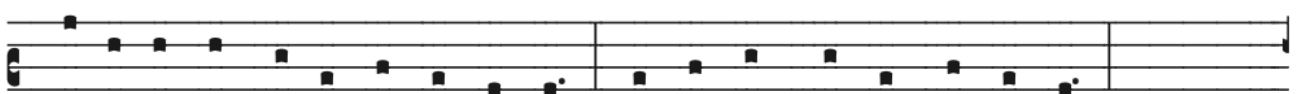
For our sake he was cru-ci-fied un-der Pon-tius Pi-late, he suf-fered death and was bu-ried.



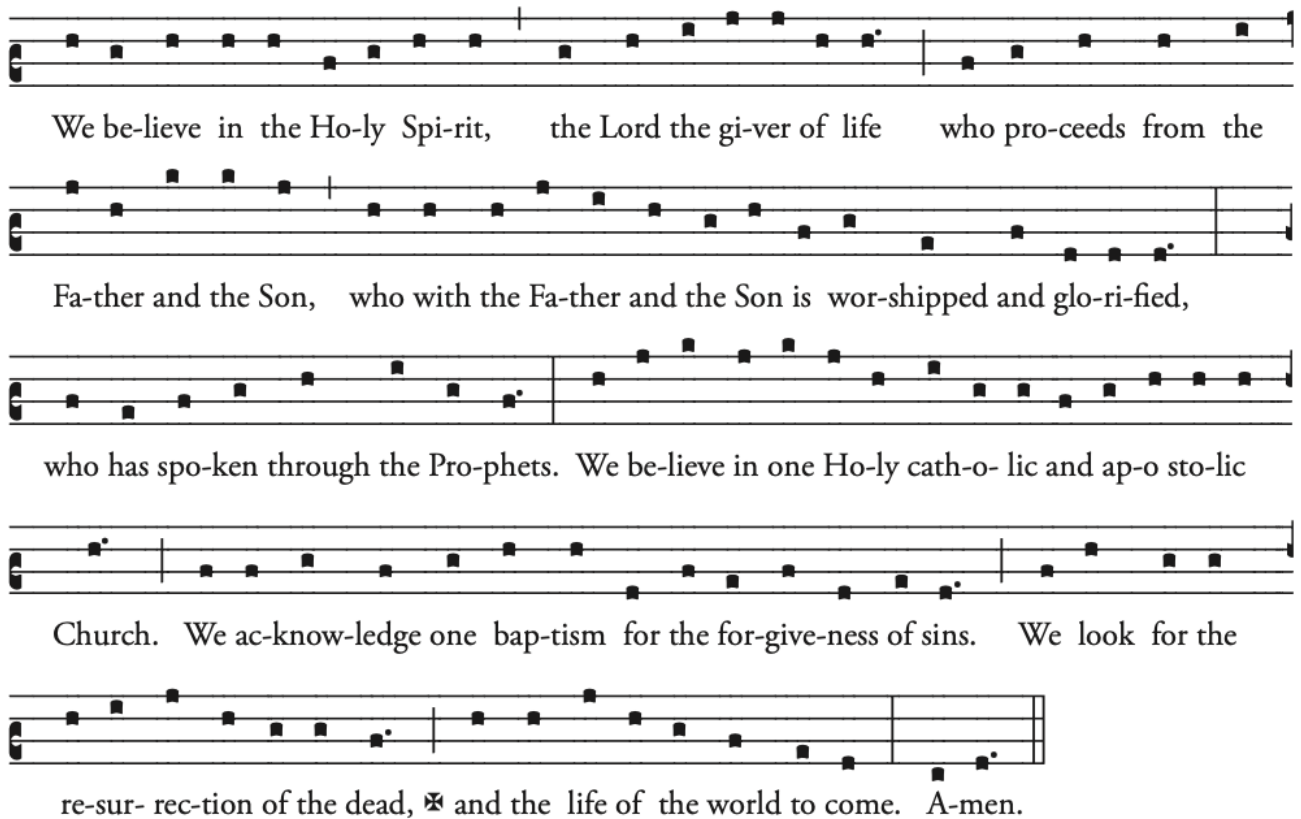
On the third day he rose a- gain in ac-cor-dance with the scrip-tures. He as-cen-ded



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*]

Will you not, O God, give us life; and shall not your people rejoice in you? Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Offertory hymn NEH 16 Wake! O wake! with tidings thrilling

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 risen. Christ will come again.

The celebrant continues the prayer, ending with:

All



Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant



As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

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.*

Orlando Gibbons (1853-1625) This is the record of John

Please stand for the Post-Communion hymn.

NEH 18 Ye servants of the Lord

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:

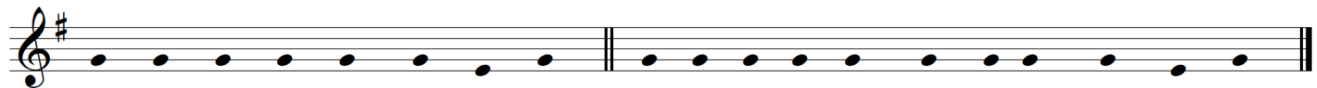
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. A - men.

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: Jehan Alain (1911-1940) Variations sur un thème de Clément Janequin

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 17^h

Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–end; 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24; John 1.6–8, 19–28

NOTICES

For your Diary

Advent 3 – Fr Philip's last Sunday

We are still collecting for Fr Philip's gift, click on 'Fr Philip Gift Collection' to donate, or contact the office.

Advent Study Group: *The Meaning is in the Waiting* by Paula Gooder

With Carol O'Connor, Wednesday, 2.15pm (after the 1.15pm Mass). In the Vicarage. Wednesdays: 29th November; 6th 13th & 20th December, 2023. Please let Carol in the Bookroom know if you are interested in coming along and order a copy of Paula Gooder's book.

Sunday December 24		Morning Masses for Advent 4
	6pm	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	8am	Low Mass
Feast of the Holy Family	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

On the Memory of Saint Nicholas, 6 December

A priest I know, when asked by her granddaughter if Santa Claus is real, answered: “Why, yes. His name is Nicholas and he is a bishop in heaven.”

The figure of Santa (*saint, sanctified*) stems from the memory of Nicholas, a bishop of Myra who pastored the Church for several decades before dying around 343AD. To place him in history, Nicholas’ name, incidentally, appears on an early list of attendees at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325—although he would hardly have been a mover and shaker at that momentous ecclesial affair. Myra is a little maritime city on the coast of what is now Türkiye. Not a big place. From the outset his fame in the

wider church has had a paradoxical cause. It has to do with his being hardly noticed, barely perceptible at all.

He is known for being a quiet giver of gifts. In an early anecdote, for instance, a father in Myra confides in the bishop that he is unable to afford dowries for his three daughters, making it likely they will one day end up on the street. Next thing the family knows, a little sack is dropped through their window at night – heavy with what the family discover to be gold coins; the next night, another; the next, a third sack: a dowry for each of the daughters. It did not take them long to guess from whom the coins had come.

In this respect, the kindness of Nicholas was like that of God. You cannot “catch” the Giver in the act, only know, by the gifts, that he has come, and that he holds you in a loving regard.

To turn back to Santa Claus. In our culture the figure of Santa Claus may, on one view, be seen as harmless fun. Or he may, on a cynical view, epitomise all that is awry with Christmas: commercial spending sprees, sentimentalities. Or he *may*, “re-remembered”, embody something of the real mystery of Christmas, the silent word of God visiting a world full of vulnerability and hope, danger and joy, to open up the path of salvation. We need not “throw the baby out with the bathwater”. We can, quite simply, remember Saint Nicholas, imbibing with him the Spirit of the One who gives, unseen, to all of us in the fecund freedom of love.

In the centuries since Nicholas’ death, his heavenly intercessions have come to be associated with many miraculous answers to prayer, and there is a collect for his memorial day that asks God to *protect us from all dangers through the prayers of the Bishop Saint Nicholas, that the way of salvation may lie open to us...* There are actually two distinct prayers being brought together here. One is about the prayers of St Nicholas in heaven coming to our aid in times of vulnerability (like the daughters in danger of being homeless). The other aspect is the *laying open* of *the way of salvation*. Here we are on about his influence upon us as people of agency. His aid not simply when we are in need of the dowry, but when we might offer the dowry to another. The people of the Church neglect either aspect of that

prayer to our peril. We are not “above” praying for help. We are also not blind to just how much we have, placed at our disposal, to give. We *are* the vulnerable one; we *are* the empowered one. A consciousness of both these realities is, I believe, key to the generosity of all the saints of God. After all, it was ultimately God who placed those coins in the hands of St Nicholas, as surely as it was Christ who made the bread abundant in the hands of his disciples.

Mthr Kathryn

St Peter's Bookroom & Church Supplier

Advent Calendars! Christmas Cards! Frankincense and Myrrh Candles.....Come in and purchase all your gift needs for Christmas online or in person.

Recommended new title for a gift or a great read over the Christmas break.....



One More Croissant For The Road by Felicity Cloake

parishioner and chorister Daniel Mitterdorfer writes –

'Fancy a trip to France that doesn't involve a return airfare, possible encounters with bedbugs and forgetting to look the right way when

crossing the road? Look no further. Food critic for The Guardian and blogger Felicity Cloake's 2019 travelogue **One More Croissant For The Road** follows the route of the famous Tour de France bicycle race, but on her own bicycle and at her own pace. She delves into the origins of regional fare, offering detailed, occasionally hilarious accounts of her day-to-day experiences. In each chapter, she puts her new found knowledge to good use in a fresh and definitive recipe for each dish – the culmination of her rigorous and thorough investigative work on behalf of all of our taste buds. Allez! It would make the perfect Christmas gift for foodie friends, or even for yourself.'

Now available in the Bookroom \$25

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>

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

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 Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
Klingner Scholars:	Alex De Leon	03 9662 2391
	Naomi Johnson	03 9662 2391

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 (Vicar's Warden)	0411 289 318
	Helena Hughes	0401 826 325
	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 Musical 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".