



Kyabram Catholic Parish

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620
Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: Kyabram@cdos.org.au

Parish Administrator – Fr John Paul Pasala

We come to worship we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 20th December 2020



Readings for this week:

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-17
Luke 1:26-38



Readings for next Sunday:

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Liturgical Jottings

Liturgical Time

Liturgical time combines cosmic time, historical time and Salvation history. It brings past events into the present and assists the participants to be aware of and look forward to the future. We use earthly time to calculate the times to celebrate the mysteries and events of God and humanity. Earth and Heaven meet in the liturgy. The cyclical nature of seasons and feasts form the rhythm of the annual celebrations of significant times of our salvation: Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, Epiphany and their accompanying seasons.



Looking at the Readings

In the potted biography of King David presented in the first reading God promises that David's sovereignty will stand secure and his throne established forever. This promise is repeated in the Gospel reading. Here the angel Gabriel speaks to Mary about her future Son, Jesus. We also hear that Mary pondered all these prophecies in her heart and wondered what they may mean and how they are to eventuate. Mary's response called for trust and hope.

Advent is full of promise and hope, trustfulness and, indeed, freedom. God has the freedom to dwell where he wills. Through the Prophet Nathan, God rebuked David's idea to build a temple for God to dwell. Instead God will build a house for the people, the House of David. Gabriel visited Mary, recalling the promise to the House of David. God chose Mary to be the dwelling place of the Saviour, Jesus. Mary, in turn, had the freedom to accept or decline the offer. Jesus' birth goes beyond the stable, beyond Bethlehem and its lands. Jesus' birth recreates God's presence in the world and in our lives. The Word has dwelt among us. We have the freedom to accept God's Word in our home.

Quote of the Week

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man. *Pope Francis*

Advent Prayer

In His love Christ has filled us with joy as we prepare to celebrate His birth, so that when He comes He may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. *Advent Preface II*

Pope Francis's Encyclical Fratelli Tutti

It is an act of charity to assist someone suffering, but it is also an act of charity, even if we do not know that person, to work to change the social conditions that caused his or her suffering. If someone helps an elderly person cross a river, that is a fine act of charity. The politician, on the other hand, builds a bridge, and that too is an act of charity. While one person can help another by providing something to eat, the politician creates a job for that other person, and thus practices a lofty form of charity that ennobles his or her political activity. (186)

On the Lighter Side

A teenager comes home to a dark house, turns on the lights and discovers all the doors and windows are open. So yells out "Who's been messing with my Advent Calendar?"



LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant: As we begin our celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us prepare to light the fourth candle on our Advent Wreath, the Angel's Candle or the Candle of Love. We pause to pray for faith that opens our lives to the Spirit of God.



..... will light the fourth candle.

Lord Jesus, you established the house of David to be secure forever and from which the Saviour would be born. Jesus is the cornerstone. We are a Christ-centered Church.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord Jesus, you alone are wisdom and as St Paul declares, you will give us the strength to live the Gospel. By living a prayerful life centered on the Eucharist may we open ourselves to your wisdom and the Spirit working in the community.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord Jesus, you sent the angel Gabriel to give the good news to Mary so that she would bring Jesus into the world through the power of the Spirit. Giving birth is painful. Change can be frightening. Mary trusted in God and let herself be led by the Holy Spirit so that we can say:

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

(Light two purple candles, the rose candle, and the last purple candle)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Christmas Masses at St Augustine's Church, Kyabram will be as follows:



Christmas Eve - Thursday, 24th December – 7.30pm (Carols 7.00pm)

Christmas Day - Friday, 25th December – 8.00am

Saturday, 26th December – 7.00pm

Sunday, 27th December – 8.00am

COVID REQUIREMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve:

Our Christmas Eve Mass will be on the lawn and driveway between the Church and the Presbytery (extending back to the wall of the Brigidine Centre). To comply with the 4 square metre per person density quotient Covid rule – we can have a maximum of 572 people (this will be on a first come first serve basis). As advised by the Bishop, contact details do not need to be collected as we are complying with the 4 square metre rule. Household groups can sit together, but a 1.5 metre distance needs to be maintained between groups. Please bring your chairs and rugs, and we look forward to this Mass continuing to be a special part of your family's Christmas tradition.

Christmas Day:

Our Christmas Day Mass will be held in St Augustine's Church. To comply with the 4 square metre per person density quotient Covid rule – we can have a maximum of 100 people (this will be on a first come first serve basis). As advised by the Bishop, contact details do not need to be collected as we are complying with the 4 square metre rule. Masks must be worn in the Church unless at your seat.

Please remember to:

- comply with social distancing rules
- use hand sanitiser
- stay home if feeling unwell

Note: there will be no contact or shared objects between household groups at liturgies (ie: no contact for sign of peace, no passing of collection baskets, no holy water, communion received on the hand only).

CONFITEOR

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sick: Geoff McGowan, Michael Hogan, Kady Mitchell, Joan Childs

Recently Deceased: Tony Curtis

Anniversaries: Giuseppina Quattrocchi, Giuseppe Zobec, Dick McGowan

(Please email the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list.)



FR DJ IS AT LAST ORDAINED!

The Sandhurst Diocese has a new priest after the ordination to the priesthood of Fr DJ Suguitan at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo last weekend, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Fr DJ's priestly ordination had been postponed twice after COVID-19 restrictions meant that the originally proposed ordination dates of July 11 and September 5 had to be changed.

We congratulate Fr DJ on his ordination and may God bless him in his ministry.

To read more about Fr DJ's ordination, click the following link - <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/1799-third-time-around-fr-dj-is-at-last-ordained>.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you to all those who donated toys, toiletries and non-perishable groceries for St Vincent de Paul to distribute locally. St Vincent de Paul will collect all items after the Sunday Mass this weekend.

ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 26th December at 7.00pm:

- Commentator – W Mulcahy
- Lector – S Carroll
- Special Minister – C Stewart

Sunday 27th December at 8.00am:

- Commentator – N Watt
- Lector – M Finn
- Special Minister – J Stockdale

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Parish Administrator

Fr John Paul Pasala

Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026

Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Pastoral Associate

Alma Limbrick (available in Parish Office on Thursdays, 8.30 to 5.00pm)

Administration

Leanne, Colleen and Ruth

Parish Office hours –

Mon/Tues/Thurs – 8.30am to 12 noon

Wednesdays – 8.30am to 3.00pm

The Parish Office email address is:

kyabram@cdos.org.au

Principals

St Augustine's College

Brayden Stone – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary

Katrina Johnson – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul, Alma Limbrick (Pastoral Associate), Alana Brennan (Chairperson), Joe Chant, Maurie Finn, John Forde, Katrina Johnson, Brendon Lane, Finola Price, Brayden Stone, Mary Zobec

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults.

Mass Times

Kyabram

Week Day Masses:

- Tuesday: 6.00pm
- Thursday: 9.15am

Weekend Masses:

- Saturday: 7.00pm
- Sunday: 8.00am

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of
the Lord: may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Lk 1:38

Lk 1:26-38

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid: you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David: he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,' the angel answered, 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word

MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

FIRST READING 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel: I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel: I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel: I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, R. cf. v. 2
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I, I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one: / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always: / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**