



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas!)

Tuesday 24th December and Wednesday 25th December 2019

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1–7

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory and
his wonders among all the peoples. **(R)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R)**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.
(R)

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

God's grace is revealed to the human race

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14

*“In the town of David, a saviour
has been born to 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.’



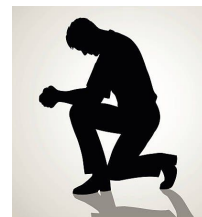
NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

10pm New Year’s Eve
Late Night Mass, Port Fairy

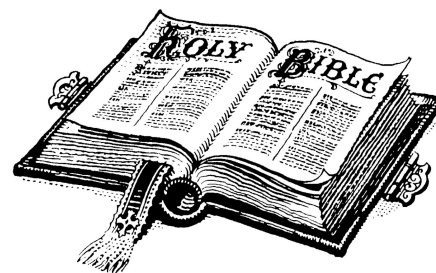
10am New Year’s Day
Morning Mass, Koroit

GENUFLECTION DURING THE CREED

From the *General Instruction
of the Roman Missal*, §137:



The Creed is sung or recited by the priest together with the people with everyone standing. At the words: *et incarnatus est* (“by the power of the Holy Spirit... and became man”) all make a profound bow; **but on the Solemnities of the Annunciation and of the Nativity of the Lord, all genuflect.**



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS

From *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter the Holy Father wrote to the Christian Faithful on 1st December

1. The Shepherds

“Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.” So say the shepherds after the angels appear to them and announce the news of great joy.

A beautiful lesson emerges from these simple words. Unlike so many others in Bethlehem, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation. The shepherds respond to God who comes to meet us in the Infant Jesus by setting out to meet him with love, gratitude and awe. Thanks to Jesus,

this encounter between God and his children gives birth to our religion and accounts for its unique beauty, so wonderfully evident in the nativity scene.

2. The Blessed Virgin Mary

Joining the shepherds, we come to Mary and Joseph. Mary is a mother who contemplates her child and shows him to every visitor. Great mystery surrounded this young woman when God knocked on the door of her Immaculate Heart. Mary responded in complete obedience to the message of the angel who asked her to become the Mother of God. Her words, "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word,*" show all of us how to abandon ourselves in faith to God's will. By her *fiat*, Mary became the mother of God, not losing but, thanks to him, consecrating her virginity. We see the Mother of God does not keep her Son only to herself, but invites everyone to "*do whatever he tells you.*"

3. Saint Joseph

At Mary's side, protecting the Child and his Mother, stands St Joseph. Joseph plays an important role in the life of Jesus and Mary. He is the guardian who tirelessly protects his family. When God warned him of Herod's threat, he did not hesitate to set out and flee to Egypt. And once the danger had passed, he brought the family back to Nazareth, where he was to be the first teacher of Jesus as a boy and then as a young man. Joseph treasured in his heart the great mystery surrounding Jesus and Mary his spouse; as a just man, he entrusted himself always to God's will, and put it into practice.

4. The Infant Jesus

Our focus is drawn to the baby in the manger. Here is God, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things. It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child, and in this way he wished to reveal the greatness

of his love: by smiling and opening his arms to all. The birth of a child awakens joy and wonder; it sets before us the great mystery of life. Seeing the bright eyes of a young couple gazing at their newborn child, we can understand the feelings of Mary and Joseph who, as they looked at the Infant Jesus, sensed God's presence in their lives.

God's ways are astonishing, for it seems impossible that he should forsake his glory to become a man like us. We see God acting exactly as we do: he sleeps, takes milk from his mother, cries and plays like every other child! As always, God baffles us. He is unpredictable, constantly doing what we least expect. Christmas shows God as he came into our world, but it also makes us reflect on how *our* life is part of God's life. It invites us to become his disciples if we want to attain ultimate meaning in life.

5. Ourselves

Contemplating the nativity, we are reminded of when we were children, eagerly awaiting Christmas. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren.

Dear brothers and sisters, the nativity scene is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it draws us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary. And to realise that in that knowledge we find true happiness. May we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

Franciscus

KOROIT: 28th December, 6:30pm

Leader: Maree Lane.

Readers: Carmel Madden, Bob Shanahan.

Communion: Claire Gleeson, Carmel Noonan,
Barbara Mills.

Gifts: Leo and Kathy Freeman.

Counters for December: A. & T. Brady.

Cleaning and Flowers for December: Lorraine
Dunne and Margaret Moloney.

PORT FAIRY: 29th December, 10:30am

Welcome and Intercessions: Jean Fitzgibbon.

Lector: Trish Blythe.

Communion: J. Moloney, Marj Murrhiy, P.
Sanderson.

Gifts: M. and K. Moyle.

Cleaning and Flowers for December: Helen
Moloney and Mary Gibb.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our
church entrances and on our webpages. Our
safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Feast of the Holy Family

First Reading. *Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14.*

He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

Second Reading. *Colossians 3:12-21.*

Family life in the Lord.

Gospel. *Matthew 2:13-15,19-23.*

The flight into Egypt and the return to Nazareth.

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Sunday of the month

Koroit (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Port Fairy: 10.30am Sun

2nd Sunday of the month

Port Fairy (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Koroit: 10.30am Sun

3rd Sunday of the month

Koroit (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Port Fairy: 10.30am Sun

4th Sunday of the month

Port Fairy (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Koroit: 10.30am Sun

5th Sunday of the month

Koroit (Vigil): 6.30pm Sat

Port Fairy: 10.30am Sun

RECONCILIATION

5pm–6:15pm, Saturday
at the place of the Vigil Mass.

After 10am Wednesday Mass
Infant Jesus, Koroit

After 10am Thursday Mass
St Patrick's, Port Fairy

NEARBY PARISHES:

After 9:30am Friday Mass
Our Lady's, East Warrnambool

After 10am Friday Mass
St Joseph's, Warrnambool

After 10am Saturday Mass
St Pius X, West Warrnambool

CANONICAL ADMINISTRATOR: Fr John Fitzgerald, john.fitzgerald@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 5562 2231. Warrnambool office hours: **OFFICE REOPENS 6th JANUARY 2020.**

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr John Corrigan, john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0422 342 499. For urgent matters, please don't hesitate to call any time.

PARISH SECRETARY: Louise Dryburgh, portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0408 681 223. Port Fairy office hours: **OFFICE REOPENS 13th JANUARY 2020.**

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