



Welcome to

Kangaroo Island Catholic Community

(Part of the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Cluster of Catholic Parishes)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

Vol 6 : No 04

KANGAROO ISLAND CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish House: 22 Giles Street,
KINGSCOTE, SA 5223
Phone: 8553 2132
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Email: cphkings@adam.com.au
Web: www.kicatholic.org.au

NOARLUNGA DOWNS CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY

Phone: 8382 1717

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

Fr Charles Gauci (Parish Priest -
involved in another ministry in 2017)
Fr Tony Telford-Sharp (Parish
Administrator - 8382 1717)
Fr Peter Zwaans (Associate Priest)
Fr Josy Sebastian (A/P - 0452 524 169)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mr Peter Clark (8559 5131)

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mrs Annette Roestenburg
(8553 8281; rostie2@bigpond.com)
(All items for the newsletter must be
received no later than Wednesday
evening.)

MASS CENTRES

- **KINGSCOTE:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cnr Giles/Todd Sts Sunday - 9.30am
- **PARNDANA:** Uniting Church, Cook Street 2nd and 4th Sunday - 3.00pm
- **PENNESHAW:** St Columba's Anglican Church, Cnr North Terrace and Fourth Street 1st Sunday - 2.00pm

SPONSORSHIP

**KANGAROO ISLAND
TRANSFERS** (0427 887 575)
generously donate transport for our
visiting Priests.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159



FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 16

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.'"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

(Continued page 4)

Kangaroo Island Catholic Parish

Christmas Celebration Times

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Prudence Brook, Margaret Chapmann, Ann Commerford, Ernest Commerford, George Frauley, Annie Griffith, Graham Hammat, Franziska Hilz, Scott Imboden, Geraldine Kent, Nora Kerin RSJ, Eileen Johnson, John Kreffel, Anne Livingstone, Marcellina Mamogay, Frederick Moore, Valma Mumford, Sheila Norman, Denise Pettigrew, Ernie Reynolds, Joel Riley, Vernice Southern, Kevin Steinwedel, Eric Tabor, Mary Tully, John Wallace, Willard Wickham, Veronica Rue,

and all the faithful departed.

Christmas Eve Masses

Penneshaw 4.00pm.

Kingscote 7.30pm.

Christmas Day Mass

Kingscote 8.30am

***Have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas
Everyone***

Prayers for the Sick

Please pray for Pat Barrett, Annemeike Berden, Marj and Jimmy Browne, Denice Carter, Lloyd & Aileen Dodson & family, Jenny Fechner, Diane Florenance, Charles & Sue Gorman, John Lavers, Elijah & Magenta Laundry and family, Ben Martin, Janice Mills, Dianne McCarthy, Philip McDonald, Peter Murray, Max Moss, Darren Morris, Deidre Morrison, Mick Muller, Jill Oldfield, Jack Pitcher, Margaret Rich, Anthony Roestenburg, Bill Roestenburg, Darren Smith, John Smith, Peter Smith, Linda Tippett, Greg Turner, Patrick Walsh and Rob Wilkinson.

May they know the healing love of Christ through our actions and His healing presence

PARISH NOTICES –24/12/17

1. Thank you to Fr Josy for saying Mass today.
2. Next Sunday there will be Mass with Fr My Tran.
3. Confession is available every Sunday in Kingscote at 30 minutes before Mass.



Ron Rolheiser column

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and his weekly column is carried by more than sixty newspapers worldwide.



FEAR OF GOD AS WISDOM

Why don't we preach hellfire anymore? That's a question asked frequently today by a lot of sincere religious people who worry that too many churches and too many priests and ministers have gone soft on sin and are over-generous in speaking about God's mercy. The belief here is that more people would come to church and more people would obey the commandments, particularly the sixth one, if we preached the raw truth about mortal sin, God's wrath, and the danger of going to hell when we die. The truth will set you free, these folks assert, and the truth is that there is real sin and that there are real and eternal consequences for sin. The gate to heaven is narrow and the road to hell is wide. So why aren't we preaching more about the dangers of hellfire?

What's valid in this kind of reasoning is that preaching about mortal sin and hellfire can be effective. Threats work. I grew up subjected to this kind of preaching and readily admit that it had a real effect on my behavior. But that effect was ambivalent: On the positive side it left me scared enough before God and life itself to never stray very far morally or religiously. On the negative side, it also left me religiously and emotionally crippled in some deep ways. Simply stated, it's hard to be intimate friends with a God who frightens you and it's not good religiously or otherwise to be overly timid and afraid before life's great energies. Fear of divine punishment and fear of hellfire, admittedly, can be effective as a motivator.

So why not preach fear? Because it's wrong, pure and simple. Brainwashing and physical intimidation are also effective, but fear is not the proper fuel for love. You don't enter a love relationship because you feel afraid or

threatened. You enter a love relationship because you feel drawn there by love.

More importantly, preaching divine threat dishonors the God in whom we believe. The God whom Jesus incarnates and reveals is not a God who puts sincere, good-hearted people into hell against their will, on the basis of some human or moral lapse which in our moral or religious categories we deem to be a mortal sin. For example, I still hear this threat being preached sometimes in our churches: *If you miss going to church on Sunday it's a mortal sin and should you do that and die without confessing it you will go to hell.*

What kind of God would underwrite this kind of a belief? What kind of God would not give sincere people a second-chance, a third one, and seventy-seven times seven more chances if they remain sincere? What kind of God would say to a person in hell: "Sorry, but you knew the rules! You're repentant now, but it's too late. You had your chance!

A healthy theology of God demands that we stop teaching that hell can be a nasty surprise waiting for an essentially good person. The God we believe in as Christians is infinite understanding, infinite compassion, and infinite forgiveness. God's love surpasses our own and if we, in our better moments, can see the goodness of a human heart despite its lapses and weaknesses, how much more so will God do this. We've nothing to fear from God.

Or, have we? Doesn't scripture tell us that *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*? How does that square with not being afraid of God?

There are different kinds of fear, some healthy and others not. When

scripture tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, the kind fear it is talking about is not contingent upon feeling threatened or feeling anxious about being punished. That's the kind of fear we feel before tyrants and bullies. There is however a healthy fear that's innate within the dynamics of love itself. This kind of fear is essentially proper reverence, that is, when we genuinely love someone we will fear being selfish, boorish, and disrespectful in that relationship. We will fear violating the sacred space within which intimacy occurs. Metaphorically we will sense we're standing on holy ground and that we'd best have our shoes off before that sacred fire.

Scripture also tells us that when God appears in our lives, generally the first words we will hear are: "Don't be afraid!" That's because God is not a judgmental tyrant but a loving, creative, joy-filled energy and person. As Leon Bloy reminds us, *joy is the most infallible indication of God's presence.*

The famous psychiatrist, Fritz Perls, was once asked by a young fundamentalist: "Have you been saved?" His answer: "Saved? Hell no! I'm still trying to figure out how to be spent!" We honor God not by living in fear lest we offend him, but in spending the wonderful energy that God gives us to help life flourish. God is not a law to be obeyed, but a joyous energy within which to generatively spend ourselves.

You can read, or download, Ron Rolheiser's weekly columns from his website at: www.ronrolheiser.com

REGULAR MASS TIMES IN OUR CLUSTER CHURCHES

ALDINGA

*Mary of Galilee, the First Disciple
cnr Quinliven and How Roads*
Saturday 5.30pm
Tuesday 9.15am

GOOLWA

St John the Apostle, 10-14 Gardiner St
Sunday 9.00am
Wednesday 9.30am

KINGSCOTE

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
cnr Todd and Giles Streets*
Sunday 9.30am

NOARLUNGA

*St Luke, the Evangelist,
cnr Honeypt Rd and Goldsmith Dve*
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am
1st, 3rd Sundays 11am (Spanish Mass)
2nd Sunday 2.00pm (Filipino Mass)
Sunday (Youth Mass) 5.30pm
Monday 9.00am
Tuesday 9.00am
Tuesday 1st week 9.00am and 9.45am
(later Mass followed by Tuesday Chats)
Wednesday 7.30pm
Thursday 9.00am (St John's School)
Friday 10.00am

NORMANVILLE

St Peter, Cape Jervis Road
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sundays 8.30am
1st Friday 6.00pm

PARNDANA

2nd, 4th Sunday 3.00pm

PENNESHAW

*St Columba, North Terrace
(shared with Anglicans)*
1st Sunday 2.00pm

SEAFORD

*Seaford Ecumenical Mission,
Grand Bvd*
Sunday 10.45am
Wednesday 9.00am

VICTOR HARBOR

St Joan of Arc, 30 Seaview Road
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 11.00am
Tuesday 9.00am
Thursday 9.00am
Friday (other than 1st) 9.00am
1st Friday 11.30am

WILLUNGA

St Joseph, 12 St Judes Street
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sundays 10.30am
Wednesday 9.00am
Thursday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am

(Continued from page 1)

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- This scene from the Gospel of Luke, where such a momentous exchange takes place, is known as the Annunciation, meaning the announcement of the conception of Jesus.
- From the time of the Exile in Babylon, Israel had longed for the Messiah to come. He was to be the anointed one of God and the prophets foretold that he would come from the House of David and be born in David's home town of Bethlehem.

- According to Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph live in Nazareth in the north and travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census because Joseph is of David's line and must return to his 'home' country.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Annunciation stories are a regular literary form. There are a number of such stories in the Hebrew Scriptures; for example, the births of Isaac, Samson and Samuel and, of course, Luke has already recorded the annunciation of John the Baptist. The purpose of the annunciation story is to let the reader know what role the person whose birth is announced will play in salvation history. In this sense they are a device rather than a strictly historical narration, although clearly based on ancient memory.

In the annunciation of the birth of Jesus, however, there are elements which surpass all other annunciation stories. The emphasis is on the creative action of the Holy Spirit, Mary's cooperation with God's will, and it establishes Jesus' transcendental origins. The role that the child to be born is to play in salvation history is defined in terms of Davidic Messiahship and in this last Sunday of Advent we stand on the brink of the fulfillment of the promise made to Mary of messianic hope for the world. The tension of the waiting of Advent is almost over.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(25 - 31 December)

- **Monday, 25:** CHRISTMAS DAY - Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18)
- **Tuesday, 26:** St Stephen (Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22)
- **Wednesday, 27:** St John (1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8)
- **Thursday, 28:** The Holy Innocents (1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18)
- **Friday, 29:** 5th day in Octave of Nativity (1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35)
- **Saturday, 30:** 6th day in Octave of Nativity (1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40)
- **Sunday 31:** The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40)

PASTORAL CARE

If you (or someone you know) is house-bound, in hospital or in residential care and would appreciate a visit from a Priest or someone from the Parish, please let us know.
Contact: Noarlunga/Seaford (8382 1717), Willunga (0488 287 552),
Victor Harbor/Goolwa (8552 1084), Kangaroo Island (0418 819 078).