



Welcome to

Kangaroo Island Catholic Community

(Part of the Adelaide Cathedral Parish)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

Vol 12 : No 04

KANGAROO ISLAND CATHOLIC PARISH

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mrs Wendy Bennett (0475 894 755
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(All items for the newsletter must be
received no later than Tuesday
evening.)

CHILD PROTECTION

We are a Child Safe Organisation
which is committed to the care, well-
being and protection of children and
young people.

Mrs Helen Mumford

(KI contact - 0408 367 009)

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159

WEEKEND MASSES

Kingscote at 9.30am

CONFESSION

Kingscote at 9.00am

(prior to Mass)

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Prayers for Healing and Renewal in
the Church - Thursdays at 9.00am



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.

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Bulletin Board

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Sue Semler, Brianna Chudlee, Peter Weatherstone, John Slagter, John Berden, Annette Roestenburg

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,

Please pray for all the faithful departed and may all our sick parishioners, relatives and friends know the healing love of Christ.

PARISH ROSTERS

Comm	Reader	Cleaning
24/12 TBA	A Clark	A Bevin

PRIEST ROSTER

(Often this roster changes if something unforeseen crops up)
24 & 25/12 Fr Iain Radvan SJ
31/12 Fr Chris Horvat SJ

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



- **Christmas Eve** •
Sunday 24 December - 7.30pm
- **Christmas Day** •
Monday 25 December - 8.30am

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A Leaving Collection at Christmas Masses will be taken up for Catholic Charities, which provides much-needed funds to Hutt St Centre, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Our Lady of La Vang and St Patrick's

special schools. These agencies play a significant role in bringing hope to people in need here in South Australia. Your donations, regardless of their size, will make a profound difference in the lives of those who rely on the support of Catholic Charities.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

For those of you who wish to make your weekly contributions to the first and second collections by direct debit, these are the banking details for each.

1st Collection:
BSB 085 005
A/c No 585353994
Reference: K Island or 765

2nd Collection:
BSB 085 005
A/c No 918111484
Reference: Your name

Thank you for your ongoing support of our priests and parish facilities.

A PLACE FOR GOD TO LIVE

(Luke 1: 26 - 38)

Mary is called the Ark of the Covenant because, of all the places God chooses to dwell, Mary's womb is the most surprising. The Ark built in Moses' time was an elaborate throne; the Temple that housed it more astonishing still. But neither feat of craftsmanship compared with the body of a young girl who embraced the opportunity to serve God so intimately. She was not only a vessel of God-life, but her life upheld and sustained that union. Mary knit her human life together with God's. Only a mother understands how completely a unity Mary had to make with divinity to arrive at that communion. The Church calls us to be Christ-bearers too. We carry Christ within us in a mystical way that is nonetheless real. We share Christ-life in our sacraments and are temples of the Holy Spirit, reserves of wonder and awe. We're called to prepare the way for God to pitch a tent in our midst. God's house will never be a gated community, reserved for a privileged few. We hold a treasure, like Mary did; not for ourselves, but for the world.

Pray: There are times, Comforting One, when we feel puzzled by what we sense your Spirit is leading us to do. In

those times, we feel afraid and very alone. Let us hear, in our hearts, the message to "not be afraid" and the reminder that you are with us still. Amen.

Ponder: Be a Christ-bearer this Christmas. Don't just bring gifts and Christmas cake, but also a spirit of reconciliation, compassion, and welcome wherever you go this holiday season. *GPBS eNews*

KIDS' CORNER

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

It's the last Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve! For many families, there's a lot to do today, so things might be a little stressful at your house. Here's a way you can make today more fun for everyone. Find out what you can do to help your family today. Maybe you can help clean the bathroom or set the table. Maybe you can read to a little brother or sister or get them ready for church.

DATES

24 Dec	4 th Sunday of Advent
25 Dec	Catholic Charities Appeal
31 Dec	The Holy family Jesus, Mary and Joseph

2024

1 Jan	New Year's Day
29 Jan	First day, School term 1
14 Feb	Ash Wednesday
18 Feb	1 st Sunday of Lent
25 Feb	2 nd Sunday of Lent
3 Mar	3 rd Sunday of Lent
10 Mar	4 th Sunday of Lent
17 Mar	5 th Sunday of Lent
18 Mar	St Patrick's Day
24 Mar	Palm Sunday of the Passion
28 Mar	Thursday of Lord's supper
29 Mar	Friday of Passion of the Lord
30 Mar	Holy Saturday
31 Mar	Sunday of the Resurrection
12 Apr	Last day School term 1
25 Apr	ANZAC Day
29 Apr	First day School term 2





Ron Rolheiser column

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. 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

JOSEPH AND THE CHRISTMAS STORY

There are countless persons, basilicas, churches, shrines, seminaries, convents, towns, and cities named after St Joseph. My native country, Canada, has him as its patron.

Who exactly is this Joseph? He is that quiet figure named in the Christmas story as the husband of Mary and the stepfather of Jesus, and then basically is never mentioned again. The pious conception we have of him is that of an older man, a safe protector to Mary, a carpenter by trade, chaste, holy, humble, quiet, the perfect patron for manual laborers and anonymous virtue, humility incarnate.

What do we really know about him?

In the Gospel of Matthew, the annunciation of Jesus' conception is given to Joseph rather than to Mary: *Before they came together, Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being an upright man and unwilling to shame her, had decided to divorce her quietly, when an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, that the child in her had been conceived through the Holy Spirit.* What's in this text?

Partly it's symbolic. The Joseph of the Christmas story is clearly reminiscent of the Joseph of the Exodus story; he too has a dream; he too goes to Egypt; he too saves the family. Likewise, King Herod is clearly the counterpart of the Egyptian Pharaoh; both feel threatened, and both kill the Hebrew male children only to have God protect the life of the one who is to save the people.

But, after that important symbolism, the Joseph of the Christmas story has his own story. He is presented as an "upright man", a designation that scholars say implies that he had conformed himself to the Law of God, the supreme Jewish standard of

holiness. In every way he was blameless, a paradigm of goodness, which he demonstrates by refusing to expose Mary to shame, even as he decides to divorce her quietly.

What would have happened here historically?

In so far as we can reconstruct it, the background to the relationship between Joseph and Mary would have been this. The marriage custom at the time was that a young woman, essentially at the age of puberty, would be given to a man, usually several years her senior, in an arranged marriage by her parents. They would be betrothed, technically married, but would not yet live together or begin sexual relations for several more years. The Jewish law was especially strict as to the couple remaining celibate while in the betrothal period. During this time, the young woman would continue to live with her parents and the young man would go about setting up a house and an occupation to be able to support his wife once they began to live together.

Joseph and Mary were at this stage of their relationship, legally married but not yet living together when Mary became pregnant. Joseph, knowing that the child was not his, had a problem. If he wasn't the father, who was? In order to save his own reputation, he could have demanded a public inquiry and, indeed, had Mary been accused of adultery, it might have meant her death. However, he decided to "divorce her quietly", that is, to avoid a public inquiry which would leave her in an awkward and vulnerable situation.

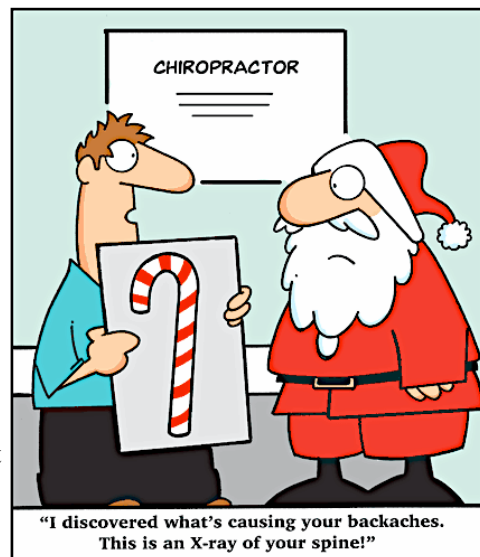
Then, after receiving a revelation in a dream, he agrees to take her home as his wife and to name the child as his own, thus claiming that he is the father. By doing this, he spares Mary embarrassment, perhaps even saves her life, and he provides an accepted physical, social, and religious place for the child to be born and raised. But he does something else that is not as evident. He shows how a person can be a committed believer, deeply faithful to everything within his

religious tradition, and yet at the same time be open to a mystery beyond both his human and religious understanding.

And this was exactly the problem for many Christians, including Matthew himself, at the time the Gospels were written. They were committed Jews who did not know how to integrate Christ into their religious framework. What does one do when God breaks into one's life in new, previously unimaginable ways? How does one deal with an impossible conception? Joseph is the paradigm. As Raymond Brown puts it: "The hero of Matthew's infancy story is Joseph, a very sensitive Jewish observer of the Law. In Joseph, the evangelist was portraying what he thought a Jew [a true pious believer] should be and probably what he himself was."

In essence, Joseph teaches us how to live in loving fidelity to all that we cling to humanly and religiously, even as we are open to a mystery of God that takes us beyond all the categories of our religious practice and imagination. And isn't that one of the real challenges of Christmas?

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



COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS

(Current from 21/12/23)



- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 please stay home until you have fully recovered.
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are also requested to stay home.
- Hand sanitiser is available at Church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 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.

(Continued from page 1)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

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.

IT'S A MIRACLE!

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the

virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her: Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you. (Luke 1: 26 - 28)

Miracles and childbirth seem to go hand in hand. It is a miracle people are courageous enough to bear children given all that can go wrong. It is a miracle anyone conceives a child given the biological precision required. It is a miracle that the baby survives its time in the womb given all the possible genetic and healthcare threats. It is a miracle that the trauma of childbirth doesn't overwhelm the baby and its parents more than it usually does. It is a miracle that more often than not, even in remote areas, the mother doesn't die from infection. It is a miracle that despite even the most incredible odds, most babies thrive and grow. Conception and childbirth are miracles. Period.

Jesus' conception and birth are no exception. They point to a truth that anyone who watches a child come into the world knows as the truth: that love exists - as a separate, all-powerful being outside ourselves, and we are graced with its presence everyday of our lives. Hail Mary, for her role in bringing this truth to life.

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 need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment, or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8210 8155 or in an emergency 0417 080 955