

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest: Fr Joe McLoughlin

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Presbytery

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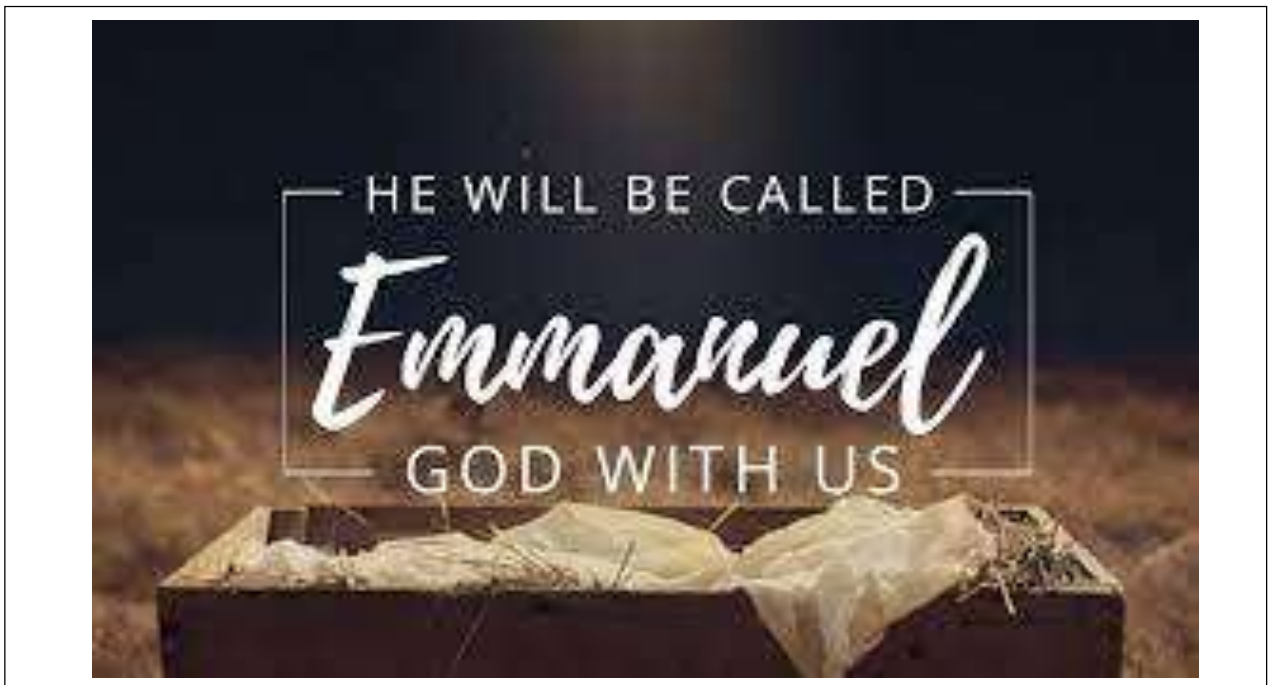
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Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A –

17th – 18th December 2022

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'

Mt 1:23

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass (children's nativity)	4.00pm
Carols for Christmas	8.30pm
Mass of Christmas Night	9.00pm

Sunday 25th Dec – Christmas Day

Mass of Christmas Dawn	9.00am
Mass of Christmas Day	11.00am

CHANGE OF MASS TIMES

Due to changes in Fr Joe's commitments, times of Masses will change just for this week:

Tues 20th Dec 7.30am; Wed 21st Dec 7.30pm
Thurs 22nd Dec 9.15am ; Friday 9.15am

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Please sign up this weekend to read [current readers only please], welcome, chaperone or be an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at the Christmas Masses. The rota needs to be filled this weekend please.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 2022

Thurs 22nd Dec here in the church, at 7.30pm. Advent readings and carols to support us as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. All welcome. Festive refreshments included.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLEAN

Would you like to help spruce the church up for Christmas? Join the team on Wed. 21st Dec @ 10am or a time that suits you. Mass is in the evening that day.

PARISH INCOME BANKED NOV

Contactless - Sun. offering:	£ 553.00
Contactless - candles:	£ 27.00
Loose plate	£1695.10
Shop	£ 14.45
Building Fund	£ 36.00
Standing Orders:	£2361.32

TUESDAY TEA & COFFEE

Fancy a chat on a Tuesday morning? Come in to the Cenacle for tea/coffee about 10am. Everybody welcome.

EXTRA TIMES FOR CONFESSION

No penitential service this Advent but there are extra times for confession:

Wed 21st Dec 7-7.20pm
Thurs 22nd Dec 9.45-10.15am
Fri 23rd Dec 9.45-10.15

Fr Joe also available half an hour before Christmas Masses for confessions.

VOLUNTEERS SUNDAY

7/8 January 2023

Would you like to get involved in parish life but are not sure how to do it? Join in with a whole parish meeting in the Cenacle at 11am, after the 10am Mass on Sunday 8th January. Everybody welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR THOSE NOT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Preparation for First Communion will begin in the Cenacle on Wednesday 11th January at 4.15pm. Register via parish email with copy of baptism certificate by Friday 6th January please.

OUR LADY'S LAMP

This week's lamp is lit in gratitude
for:



supply priests that gave their time
in the last year

Please keep them in your prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: “Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Fourth Week of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

Saturday	17 th December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	18 th December	10.00am	Thanksgiving - Our Lady & St Anne
Monday	19 th December	No Mass	
<i>Monday of the fourth week of Advent</i>			
Tuesday	20 th December	7.30am	Holy souls
<i>Tuesday of the fourth week of Advent</i>			
Wednesday	21 st December	7.30pm	Holy souls
<i>Wednesday of the fourth week of Advent</i>			
Thursday	22 nd December	9.15am	Holy souls
<i>Thursday of the fourth week of Advent</i>		7.30pm	Advent Carol Service
Friday	23 rd December	9.15am	Holy souls
<i>Friday of the fourth week of Advent</i>		<i>[school Mass]</i>	

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Year A

Saturday	24 th December	4.00pm	Mary Van Den Berghe
Saturday	24 th December	8.30pm	Carols for Christmas
		9.00pm	People of the parish
Sunday	25 th December	9.00am	Mulholland family
Sunday	25 th December	11.00am	Christian Giblin RIP