

Dear Parishioners,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent the First Reading, Isaiah 7:10-14 features a word of the prophet to King Ahaz at a time when Assyria posed a great threat to the Kingdom of Judah. Politically it was a perilous time with no safe options. When this unworthy ruler refuses to ask God for a sign of God's protection Isaiah responds by describing the sign that God will, nonetheless, give: the pregnancy of a young girl. Part of the sign is the name of her child: Emmanuel – 'God is with us'. Taken together, the conception of the child and his name constitute a sign that, despite the looming political disaster, God remains with the People.

The annunciation of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Matthew 1:18-24 follows straight on from the Genealogy (1:1-17) with which the Gospel begins. The four scandalous women in Jesus' ancestry prepare the ground for the situation of Jesus' mother Mary. We are told that her pregnancy has come about 'through the Holy Spirit' (v 18). But no one else, including Joseph, knows that. Since betrothal was considered equivalent to marriage, Mary's situation is precarious in the extreme; she is liable to be stoned for adultery according to the Law of Moses. Obedience to the Law requires Joseph to divorce Mary. Being a 'righteous person' he wants to do this in a way that will spare her as much public shame as possible. In this he 'models' a way of keeping the Law while giving priority to values such as forgiveness, mercy and compassion.

The angelic messenger turns everything around for Joseph. Mary's pregnancy has not come about through infidelity but through the agency of God's Holy Spirit. The child is to carry the name and role of Josue – the great 'saviour' figure of Israel. The child will be called Emmanuel – God with Us. 'Emmanuel' is not so much a personal name but the mission the child is to have for Israel and the world.

In the midst of the messiness of the world, with its violence and inequality, Jesus comes bringing not condemnation but mercy, healing, liberation and reconciliation. Jesus is not the one who comes to enforce the law and insist on reverence to himself. He does not shield himself from the messy reality of life. He is not easily offended, nor does he demand respect. He invites all sorts of people to listen to him, to trust him and follow him. We are called today to be disciples, learning from him in all things. He does not mix with the respectable elite but with the poor and the dishonourable- from Roman tax collectors to prostitutes. The church today will be one with Jesus if it welcomes sinners, youth, the poor and disabled. Inevitably, it will be somewhat messy like our world and our families.

Blessings, Greg

LAST CHANCE TO INVITE THE NEIGHBOURS!

LETTERBOX DROP FOR CHRISTMAS

*"The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness shall not overcome it."*



Let's make a final effort to distribute all of our Christmas invitations before Christmas Eve—only a couple of days left! Please take some fliers to deliver to the streets around you. Cross off the streets you will deliver to from the list of our parish streets in the foyer. Please do not deliver to streets outside our parish boundaries (only streets in our parish are listed). This is one easy way to be the missionary disciples we are called to be - to be Christ's hands and feet.

PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS



Please consider car-pooling or parking further away from the church (perhaps at the school) so that visitors, the elderly and the infirm are able to park without stress this Christmas.

Please do not park in the emergency bays at the front of the church and be considerate to our neighbours.

We hope to make everyone welcome when they come for Christmas Mass—whether they are regular worshippers or have come because of our letterbox drop invitation. So when you are here for Mass this Christmas, share the joy of this very special season and welcome all with your warmest smile!

PARISH VOLUNTEERS—YOU HAVE MAIL



Please help the parish save on postage and collect your letter from the foyer TODAY!

Christmas Celebrations

Tuesday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Vigil Mass at 6pm

Christmas Midnight Mass at 12.00am

- Carols 30 minutes before each Mass

Wednesday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Masses at 7.30am, 9.30am

and 11.30am (Italian Mass)

[No evening Mass]

- Carols 30 minutes before each Mass

All welcome—invite your family and friends!

Thursday 26 December—Boxing Day Public Holiday

8.30am Mass—Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr

Saturday 28 December

6.00pm Mass—Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday 29 December

Masses at 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am (Italian Mass) & 6pm

—Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Wednesday 1 January 2020—New Year Public Holiday

8.30am Mass—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Parish Office and Parish Centre
WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL GROUPS from
24 December 2019-27 January 2020



Office reopens **TUESDAY 28**
JANUARY 2020



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES - SHORTFALL

1st July 2019—30th November 2019

Envelope Pledges Made	\$ 59,240	SHORTFALL FOR YEAR IF
Envelope Receipts	\$ 56,991	TREND CONTINUES:
Current Shortfall	\$ 2,249	\$ 5,569

ARE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS UP TO DATE? Thank you!

Have you considered getting your pledges direct debited?

Just set & forget! For information, please call 9276 8500 or email accounts@infantjesusparish.org.au

*Congratulations
on Your
Wedding...*



Please keep in your prayers our newly married couples Sharon Portelli and Floyd Gomes, Larissa Yapp and Rob Falconer, Jesslyn Lie and James Hopkins. May God bless them with a lifetime of love and happiness.

We also welcome our recently baptised little ones and pray that God will bless, guide and protect them— Aaliyah Banthit, Gia Italiano, Christian Rispoli, Jack Voreheny, James Dunn, Cian Carter, Isla O'Neill, Mireya Wijeyagoonewardena, Leila Bonasera, Isla Treanor, Charlotte Whitehead, Lyla Parrella, Maryam Nevan, Frankie Brown, Oscar Coboletto, Vittorio Formato, Isaac Huynh, Lara Laffrey, Winter Domingo, Taryn Henderson, Fredrick Lawton, Georgia O'Neill, Olivia Chin, Evie Zaw, Eilis Dowd, Hannah Alexander-D'Cruz, Oliver Autunno, Lachlan Cash, Nate Priestman and Emilio Scarvaci.



PILGRIM STATUE: The Pilgrim Statue will be in the home of Mrs & Mrs D Nathanielsz; 18 Cardwell Ave, Noranda. Ph: 9276 5048

CALENDAR OF SAINTS

- 26 Dec: St Stephen, the first martyr
- 27 Dec: St John, apostle, evangelist
- 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently deceased: Stella Jarman, Jim Butler;

Deceased: Lourenco Martius, Hung Nguyen-Le, All deceased members of Peters and Mathews family

Anniversaries: Jennifer and Joseph Ngo, Antonio Panizza, Anna & Vasco Pieraccini, Jennifer Appleby, Severino Mancini, Giuseppene Iuliano and Norma Ryan;

The Sick of the Parish: Terry, Alan Summersett, Margaret Tindale, Glen and Agnes McGuinness, Peter Green, Mary Byrne, Loretta Hicks, Lucas Bendotti, Priscilla Grainger, Trudy Berghuber, and all the sick who are in need of our prayers.

"He gave us victory through Jesus Christ"

MISSION PARTNERS MORLEY

30 years on... 360+ hut restorations and over 340 families have benefitted from the generosity of IJ parishioners. Bless you all and thanks especially to Fr Greg for his open mindedness in allowing this project to exist and expand.



Please give generously at Christmas Time by making a small donation, as they all add up over time into a sizeable gift to be distributed by Marthandam Integrated Development Society in Tamil Nadu, India, to the poorest of the poor. Why not pay them a visit?

As usual donation envelopes are on the righthand wall of the church entry and can be placed in any collection bag at weekend masses. Happy Christmas. *Maggie Box*

DON BOSCO SALESIANS RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle last weekend. A total of \$627 is raised to the Salesians Fathers in assisting the poor families in India. The raffle was drawn on Monday by Fr John and congratulation to Sue Goodwin, the winner of the beautiful hamper.



DON'T THROW THAT AWAY!

UNWANTED SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils, textas, files, folders and stationery are all useful and can be dropped off to the parish office or into the Church foyer. What we cannot use, we will pass on to where it is needed.



In Our Church

Morning Prayer of the Church: Mon-Fri, 6.40am; Sat 8.00am
Morning Mass: Mon-Fri: 7am & 9am, Sat and Public Holidays: 8.30am
Sunday Masses: 6pm (Saturday), 7.30am, 9.30am (Children's Liturgy during school terms), 11.30am (Italian), 6pm (Youth Mass 2nd Sundays)
Reconciliation: Saturday 10 - 11am and 5pm - 5.30pm

Perpetual Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Wednesday 7.00pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday 9.30 - 10.30am
Eucharistic Prayer: Friday 6.30 - 7.30pm
Baptisms, Weddings & Sacraments: Please contact the Parish Office.

Our Parish Team

Parish Priest: Fr. Greg Burke - pp@infantjesusparish.org.au
Assistant Priests: Fr. John Pallipadan— ap@infantjesusparish.org.au and Fr. Tadgh Tierney - tadgh_t@yahoo.com.au
Infant Jesus Primary School: Principal - Paul Hille - info@infantjesus.wa.edu.au
Parish Secretary: Billie Dewitt - secretary@infantjesusparish.org.au
Reception: Theresa Choo - enquiries@infantjesusparish.org.au
Youth Co-Ordinator: Roger O'Neill - 0434 988 711 | rogersonell@gmail.com
PREP Coordinator: Sue Goodwin - prep@infantjesusparish.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Faith Rico - sacramental@infantjesusparish.org.au
Parish Account Officer: Darren Parnell - accounts@infantjesusparish.org.au

Maintenance Manager: Andrew Davini - maintenance@infantjesusparish.org.au
Admin Assistant: Carol Smith - admin@infantjesusparish.org.au
Parish Safeguarding Officers: Paul Hille - paul.hille@cewa.edu.au
Columbarium Committee: Angela Youens - columbarium@infantjesusparish.org.au
Parish Inclusion Coordinator: Sue Baile - 0497 163 387
PARISH OFFICE: 47 Wellington Road, Morley 9276 8500
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Facebook: [infantjesusmorley](https://www.facebook.com/infantjesusmorley) Web: www.infantjesusparish.org.au

THIS WEEKEND — 21/22 December—4th Sunday of Advent

Ministry	Sat 6pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.30am	Sunday 6pm
Acolytes/Altar Ministers	John Tomczak	Chris Wray	Josephine McManus	Tung Nguyen
Altar Servers	Brian; Angel; Erin and Aleena	Jamie and Mary	Allan; Akash; Lyn and Jules	Dylan; Marcus and Oliver
Proclaimers	Chris A and Donna Marie	Joanne and Sjen	Mark and Charles	Anna and Alan
Extr. Ministers Of Communion	Team A—Lenna; Betty; John T and Larissa	Team C—Tony; Delia; Brian; Debbie; Carl and Josie	Team A—Annette; Jeanette; Peter; Nevellene; Tanya and Magdalene	Team B—Ivor; Rita; Tristan; Teresa; Josephine and Anna
Hospitality	Carmel and Ann	Mavis and Nancy	Annette and Lucy	Joanne and Fely
Church Cleaning	TO BE ARRANGED			

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange for someone else in your Ministry to take your place.

NEXT WEEKEND —28/29 December—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Ministry	Sat 6pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.30am	Sunday 6pm
Acolytes/Altar Ministers	Peter Nguyen-Le	Eamon Delaney	Sophie Menezes	Marion Wayne
Altar Servers	Josemiguel; Abigail and Meghan	Madeleine and Frank	Crissanto; Victoria and Denver	Alex; Dorothy and Bryant
Proclaimers	Marie and Mellisa	Liz and Brian	Pat and Barry	Michael and Margaret
Extr. Ministers Of Communion	Team B—Chris A; William; John T; Chris T and Tracy	Team A—Mike; Frank; John S; Anna; and Lesley	Team B—Patrick; Annette; Maureen; Joan; Teresa and Errol	Team A—Ivor; Rita; Marie; Maureen; Luisa or Glenn and Thuy
Hospitality	Rose and Milly	Barb and Veronica	Josephine and Joshila	Rita and Marina
Church Cleaning	TO BE ARRANGED			

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange for someone else in your Ministry to take your place.

**Expressions of Interest for Enrolments
at Infant Jesus School**



The family is the first and most important influence in the development of religious faith in the child. Parents who enrol children at our school are asking us to share with them the responsibility of bringing up their children as Christians under the guidance of the teachings of the Catholic Church. The school supports parents in this important role.

Infant Jesus School welcomes expressions of interest for enrolments in all year levels from Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six.

#ExpectGreatThings

Please contact Infant Jesus School (Cheryl) on 9276 1769 or visit the website www.infantjesus.wa.edu.au for information regarding an enrolment pack.

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