

The community of St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parishes stand.

Second Sunday of Advent 8th December 2024 - Year C

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Advent is a period of preparation for the coming of the Lord, where God became man so that we might share His life. This is the "marvelous exchange" ("O admirabile commercium") that we exclaim at the end of the Christmas octave. Our Creator came, in the person of Jesus, born of a virgin, and we, through the mystery of the Incarnation, have been made into sharers "in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

While it is a season of preparation for, and anticipation of, His coming the key question is: Are we ready to meet him? Traditionally, Advent is a season of penitence where fasting was observed and festivities downplayed. It is hard to imagine – as we proceed through "silly season" where end-of-year celebration blends into (another!) celebration – that this was a season to deny ourselves and to strip back those things which distract us from God.

Maybe this is what we should do as Christmas approaches: filter out all the noise of all the celebrations and focus on what matters. While fasting might be out of place, what we could do is to recommit to a life of prayer where we reqularly converse with God, and place before Him the needs of our community. And, especially when so many are struggling, perhaps we could commit to giving our time and/ or our resources to make the season a little bit more comfortable for those who would otherwise go without. Emmanuel City Mission is right next door to St Mary's so we have the perfect opportunity!

I hope you are having a blessed Advent.

Dcn Adam

CATHOLIC PARISH

Welcome to New Parishioners We welcome any new Parishioners among us. Take the time to meet with our priests and get connected to the broader community.	
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Websites: - <u>www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au</u> - <u>www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au</u>	FB: - <u>www.facebook.com/stmaryssouthbrisbane/</u> - <u>www.fb.me/duttonparkwestendcatholicparish</u>
 Parish Priest: Fr. William Aupito Iuliano Assistant Priest: Fr. Ravi Koyya Parish Deacon: Deacon Adam Walk Pastoral Coordinator: Sr. Salvation Bunao SFI Parish Secretary: Stephanie Rogers 	ST ITAS'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 247 Gladstone Rd, Dutton Park, Q 4102 Ph: (07) 3838 8400 Email: pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au Web: www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au

First reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: reassembled from west and east see your sons at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**/

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. *R*/

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**/

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R**/

Second reading: Philippians 1:3-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Communion Antiphon:

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming.

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st reading: Zeph 3:14-18 **2nd reading**: Phil 4:4-7 **Gospel**: Lk 3: 10-18

THIS WEEK'S PSALM RESPONSES

Monday 9th: Immaculate Conception Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds

Tuesday 10th: Tuesday 2nd Week of Advent *The Lord our God comes in strength*

Wednesday 11th: Wednesday 2nd week of Advent *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

Thursday 12th: Thursday 2nd week of Advent *The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion*

Friday 13th: St Lucy, virgin, martyr Those who follow you Lord will have the light of life

Saturday 14th: St John of the Cross, priest, doctor Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved

MASS TIMES

St Ita's (Pope St, Dutton Park)

- Saturday (Vigil): 5pm
- Sunday: 10.30am (Indonesian)

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

- (72 Victoria St, Fairfield)
- Sunday: 7am

St Francis of Assisi (47 Dornoch Tce, West End)

- Sunday: 9am
- **St Mary's** (20 Merivale St, South Brisbane)
- Mon-Fri: 7am | Sat: 8am (Rosary after Mass)
- Sunday: 9am and 5pm

CONFESSION

St Mary's: Sat: 8.30am-9am| Sun: 4.15-4.45pm

FAREWELL TO STEPH ROGERS AND FAMILY

It is with great sadness that we prepare to farewell Stephanie Rogers who has been our Parish Secretary over the past couple of months. Steph and family will move down to Tasmania as her husband takes on a new role in the diocese of Hobart. In the short time we've spent together, Steph has been an amazing asset for the team contributing to our Admin team and ministries within the Parish. We wish Steph and her family safe travels as they prepare to move and we pray God's blessings over their family in this new season of life.

NATIVITY REHERSAL

Rehearsal for families who would like to be part of our Nativity Play will meet **on 15th & 22nd December after the 9am Mass at St Mary's.** We encourage all children to participate and play a role as one of the beloved characters in the Nativity scene. If your child would like to participate, please email the Parish office by the 12th December.





CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Tea, coffee or milo

g-life milk or custard

Over the next two weekends there will be collection boxes in each of the Churches for small gifts and non -perishable food items. There will also be envelopes for cash or card donations if you are able to donate.

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

In the New Year we will roll out our new Newsletter design. We wanted to update our look across our media so this will be part of a new re-vamping of things to come in the New Year. We look forward to sharing this with you.

ADVENT GROUPS

Come along to our last few Advent Reflection groups where we explore the readings of the day with the resource provided by the diocese. Advent Reflection groups is a great time prepare for Christmas in prayer and scripture reflection. See you there 8:30am Tuesday (10th and 17th Dec) 6:00pm Thursday (12th and 19th Dec)

ST FRANCIS TABLE

On Monday St Francis Table had a beautiful morning with a special visit from the Prep and Year 1 students of St Ita's Catholic Primary School. Over 70 elderly in our community were able to experience the angelic voices from the students who sung carols and also made beautiful ornaments that they gifted to the elderly. Some of our members were emotional recount being emotional when they saw the children. Thank you to the staff from St Ita's for their mighty efforts in coordinating a positive and impactful event in preparation for Christmas.



LAST YOUTH GROUP FOR THE YEAR

You're invited to our final Youth Group of the year on the **13th December.** Come celebrate with us as we wrap up an amazing season

of fun, growth, and new friendships. We'll have plenty of food, games, and special activities to mark the occasion. Bring your friends, your energy, and your excitement – we can't wait to see you there! 6-8pm at St Ita's Church Dinner provided!



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE A reminder that the Parish Office will be closed from 21st of Dec to 5th Jan.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

9th December: St Francis Table Christmas Party

- 10th December: Advent Group
- 12th December: Advent Group
- 13th December: Final Youth Group
- 17th December: Advent Group
- 19th December : Advent Group
- 20th December: Last office day
- 21st December: Carols and Adoration
- 23rd December: Second Rite of Reconciliation



To make an anonymous report call 1300 304 550. For more information visit <u>brisbanecatholic.org.au/s afeguarding</u>