



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

in the care of the Carmelites since 1937

www.mtcarmelcoorparoo.org.au

church: 312 Cavendish Road, Coorparoo 4151

office: 2 Norfolk Street, Coorparoo 4151

Sunday
18th December
2016



Fourth Sunday
of ADVENT
(Year A)

How difficult it is to prepare for Christmas, the coming of the Lord, and yet so much of our activity is related to Christmas – staff parties, Christmas shopping, family preparations, holiday preparations, and so it goes on. What opportunity do we give to absorbing the spiritual dimension?

We've heard in previous weeks how John the Baptist challenges us to prepare for the coming of Jesus. He went to extraordinary ways in his life to listen to what his God was saying to him. Few of us can do so in the extreme way he did. In today's Gospel, we are presented with Joseph's reaction to his learning that Mary is pregnant. These verses give more insight into Joseph than almost anywhere else in the Gospels. He is a righteous man we are told, and decides not to treat Mary harshly as he could have, according to the Law. But then, when Joseph has the dream about the nature of this birth, he listens to it and absorbs it. Joseph is not consumed by self-righteousness, not concerned about his own reputation. I think this Gospel is about *listening* to God's word in our lives. At a time when Joseph was under pressure, maybe personally hurt, he is open to hearing what his God says to him. *Hearing* something can happen by accident, but *listening* never happens by accident. Joseph must have been very confident of the presence of God in his life and a person of great trust.

Poor old Ahaz in the first reading cannot do this, despite God asking him to listen. Even when the Lord, through Isaiah, says, "Blow you, I'm going to give you a sign!" unfortunately, Ahaz (King of Judah) cannot see beyond his own treacherous plans for power, and refuses to trust in God.

The reading from Paul is just one sentence, but what a sentence! As he gives his introduction to the Letter to the Romans, he outlines what his pedigree is – but it's actually not about him, it's about what God has done in his life, and what is there for those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. It's about what happens when one *listens* to what God is saying and then acts on it. And what an extraordinary example Paul was and is.

So, here we are in Advent, preparing for the coming of Jesus. Is *listening* part of our preparations? Are we giving ourselves a chance to step aside, quieten down and *listen*?

*Yahweh is **waiting to be gracious** to you. ... Blessed are all who hope in him. (Isaiah 30: 18)*

Mark Sayer, Parishioner.

Carmelite Prior & Parish Priest: Fr Wayne Stanhope O.Carm
Carmelite Community: Fr Jerome Watt O.Carm
Fr Augusto Da Costa Galhos O.Carm
Fr Fausto Tilman de Araujo O.Carm

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am & 5.30pm

(note no 5.30pm mass on Christmas
or New Year's Day)

Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 9am

*A Mass of Anointing is held on the first Wednesday of
every month at 10am followed by morning tea.*

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 9.30am - 10am

Rosary: Mondays - after 9am Mass

Next Sunday's Readings 25th December Christmas Day

Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December
6pm (Children's Mass) &
8.30pm

Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December
7am & 9am

(no evening mass on Christmas Day)

Christmas Carols will be sung half an
hour prior to the commencement of each
Mass.

Warning: Advent Virus



Be on the alert for symptoms of inner HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus:

- * A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- * An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- * A loss of interest in judging other people.
- * A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- * A loss of interest in conflict.
- * A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- * Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- * Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- * Frequent attacks of smiling.
- * An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- * An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.



May Christmas be a celebration of Peace, Joy, Hope and Love in our hearts and in our homes, and may the holiday period be lived safely. It is with gratitude in our hearts that the Carmelites, Fathers Jerome, Augusto, Wayne and Fausto, wish all within our Mount Carmel community a Christmas abundant with Christ's blessings for now and for the coming year.

Fr. Wayne



A very warm welcome to our Mount Carmel community to our Carmelite Brothers, Martinho Lemos and Albino dos Santos who are visiting us from Melbourne and will be with us during the Christmas and holiday period.

Fr. Wayne



Congratulations to Phelim and Eileen Reilly who this week celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Now available in the St Vincent de Paul stall Christmas Cards— \$3 for a pack of 8 Columban Calendars 2017- \$9

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Rita Carroll

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord ...

Anniversaries and Memorials:

Andrew Moffett, James Brock, Nora Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Andrew McNab O.Carm, Bernard Payne O.Carm and Peter Byrth O.Carm.

We pray for our sick...

Teresa Nunan, Michael Roache, Damian Holt, Wanda Stumpf, Sandra Hart, Mary Hannah, David Isaacs, Clare Kinross, Sue Fennell-Ivas, Liliana Erceq.

There are envelopes at the back of the Church for your Mass intentions. These can be given to one of the Priests.

Next Week's Rosters - 24/25 December

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm: Margaret Land

8.30pm: Leon Capra, Tricia Ryan

7am: Anne McKenny, Jacqueline Weidman

9am: Anthea Bach and Sue Delaney

(Facilitator: Tricia Ryan)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

No CLOW ... school holidays

Reflection

Madeleine Sayer

December

December Diary

Mon 19: SVDP 7:30pm CCR

Sat 24: Christmas Eve - Mass 6pm & 8:30pm

Sun 25: Christmas Day – Mass 7am & 9am

Sun 1 Jan: New Year's Day Mass usual times (but no 5.30pm mass)

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Fr George Joseph MCBS, is leading a 14-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 21st May—3rd June 2017. This pilgrimage is being organised by Magi Pilgrimages and features Petra, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Jericho, Mt Carmel, Mt Tabor, Mt Nebo and Jerusalem. This all-inclusive pilgrimage is priced at an early bird offer of \$4,990. Reserve your seats with an initial deposit of \$500 prior to 31st January 2017. For the detailed itinerary or to reserve your seats contact Mr Rajesh George on 0422 215 855 .



It is not uncommon for children to want a bike for Christmas. They want to play and have fun on them. For some

children, however, in countries served by missionaries, a bike is essential for children to access a life-changing education. Through Catholic Mission's Life Giving Gifts catalogue, you can ensure a child receives the education they need for a positive future. Visit www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts to find out how your gift of \$53 can transform a life.

David McGovern, Director, Brisbane Archdiocese



Christmas Choir

If you would like to join the choir for the **8.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve**, please email your interest to John Clarke at jck@lhc.qld.edu.au. There will be a rehearsal at 7pm on Thursday 22 December.