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COMMUNITY

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## **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH**

in the care of the Carmelites since 1937

[www.mtcarmelcoorparoo.org.au](http://www.mtcarmelcoorparoo.org.au)

### **4th Sunday of Advent - 20 December 2015**

#### **Reflection**

And so we wait...in anticipation...! This time of Advent challenges us in a world where instant gratification is our modus operandi.

We are not accustomed to hanging around much anymore; to watching the minutes move ever more slowly; to dreaming, imagining and wondering. We have conditioned ourselves away from embracing the waiting as if it were somehow getting in the way of living life in all its fullness.

Yet in the waiting, in the anticipation, there is a space of sacred presence. What if we dared to embrace that space? To immerse ourselves deeply within it? Might that not slow the seemingly ever-increasing pace of life? Might it not provide us the possibility of seeing the sacred in the waiting? For it is in such a moment that Elizabeth of today's Gospel profoundly encounters the person of Jesus and the utter faith of Mary who is soon to give birth. It happens in the waiting time that Elizabeth exclaims, "...blessed is the fruit of your womb". Insight often emerges when we least expect it and usually in times of reflection and quiet – in the between times; the waiting times.

And so we are reminded to slow a little in this time of Advent. In amongst our preparations to greet family and friends, to be ready for Christmas, it is important that we also create a quiet space of anticipation. At first we may feel a little restless or anxious as we let go of all of our "doing". It might feel as if we are wasting time better spent in decorating, cleaning, messaging and purchasing. It might feel as if, therefore, we will not be properly ready. It might even feel like wasted time.

But of course it is not. For it is in the waiting, in the quiet waiting, that we recognise Jesus already fully present.

Christine Clarke, Parishioner.

## PARISH MASS TIMES

**Weekends: Saturday Vigil: 6pm**

**Sunday: 8.30am & 5.30pm**

**Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 9am**

*\* The first Wednesday of each month, a Mass of Anointing is held at 10am. This replaces the 9am Mass.*

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 9.30am – 10am

### ROSARY:

Mondays –after 9am Mass

*Our Church is always open during daylight hours, to allow you the opportunity to come in and spend some time with Our Lord.*

## This Week at Mt Carmel

**Baptisms: Thomas Poulsen, Austin Smrecnik  
William Anderson, Daisy Nock**

*God's richest blessings on these children*

**Wedding - Saturday 19th December**

**Thomas Fenelon & Georgina Couper**

*Congratulations and God bless as you begin your married life together.*

*Wishing all the joys and blessings of the Christmas season to you and your loved ones.*

### Next Sunday's Readings:

**Year C: The Holy Family**

**Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 or 1 Sam1:20-22,24-28**

**Gospel: Lk:1:39-44**

## Christmas Mass Times

**Christmas Eve—6pm Children's Mass**

**Christmas Eve—9pm Mass**

**Christmas Day - 7am and 9am**

**Christmas Carols will be sung half an hour before the start of each Mass.**

**Please note there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day**

Thank you

"The Friends of Zumalai Committee wish to thank everyone who supported our Christmas stall and raffle.

The stall raised \$3179.90.

These funds will go towards the completion of the Boarding house in Zumalai".



**Today we light  
our fourth  
Advent Candle**

**The candle of JOY  
This is the Angels candle.**

**As we light this flame, we are reminded of the heavenly hosts that proclaimed Christ's arrival**

**"Behold I bring unto you good tidings of great joy"**

# Christmas Lasts Forever

The last four weeks of Advent was basically the season of hope and promise, a season for personal and communal renewal as God's family, as we prepare for the celebration of the birthday of Jesus at Christmas. It is now that we thank God for our family, friends and parish who helped us in our preparation.

I now know what Christmas meant for me like what a theologian Karl Rahner said: At Christmas, through his grace-filled birth, God says to the world: "I am there. I am with you. I am your life. ... Do not be afraid to be happy. For ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope. ... This reality, this incomparable wonder of my almighty love, I have sheltered safely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. I no longer go away from this world. Even if you do not see me. I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas lasts forever."

On the other hand I prayed and acknowledged the least fortunate around this season whose preparation was distracted by various challenges like loneliness, discrimination, sickness, tragedies and death. I assured you of my thoughts and prayers. God becoming one of us does not mean that God saves us from pain of this life. It means that God –is-with-us. For all of us Christians, just as for everyone else who had prepared this season, there will be cold and lonely season, time of sickness, frustration, and a season within which we die. However Jesus promised us that in spite of this season, God will be always there with us. One their way for the birth of Jesus, the angel said to Mary and Joseph, do not be afraid, God will be with you always. "The word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Christmas is here. I hope that we can now draw breath after the efforts of the past weeks and focus our heart of the mystery we are celebrating: **Emmanuel**, Hebrew for **God-With-Us**. At the heart of our family gatherings and celebrations with friends old and new is the profound awareness of how closely God is present in all what happened that night in Bethlehem. It's about how sacred all our work, our family, and our social life is now. The God of the Crib is the Jesus present in the home, the factory, the farm, as well as our Church. May we continue to find him there and work with him for the growth of His Kingdom of truth, justice and peace.

A word of thanks to all who have sent us greetings and gifts over these past days. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. I know you will understand that it is impossible to reply to all. So please know that all of us on the parish team are most grateful for your prayers, greetings and gifts.

We will keep all of you in our Christmas Masses as we celebrate together this profound mystery of God's love.

A happy and holy Christmas to all of God's love.

**Paul Sireh O.Carm**  
**Parish Priest**



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**We remember those in God's care...**

**Recently Deceased:**

Amy Robertson, Harold Stain,  
Edith Brennan, Joan O'Leary, Raymond  
O'Connell, Sean Atkinson, Ester Carlevaro,  
Anna Moroavia, and all who have died  
recently. *May they Rest in God's Peace.*

**We pray for our sick....**

David Weston, Brian Cochrane,  
Kathleen Horne, Brian McErlian,  
Brian Sykes, Joan Logan,  
Maryanne Faulkner, John O'Loughlin  
To have someone included in the Newsletter,  
please phone or email the Parish.

**Names for the sick will be removed after two  
months, unless notified for them to continue.**

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**Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards are  
now for sale at the SVDP stall at the front en-  
trance to the Church.**

**Columban Calendars \$9.00**

**Christmas Cards—\$3.00 for packs of 8**

**Pope Francis has declared this year as a**

**Year of Mercy**

**At the front entrance to our church, the  
right hand door has become our**

**'Entrance of Mercy'**

**In the foyer is our **Mercy Tree**, to keep us all  
mindful of Christ's mercy.**

**You are invited to write a small contribution  
which can then be hung from our Mercy Tree. It  
could be a reflection, a prayer or some thoughts.  
Please hand in your contribution to one of the  
Priests or drop it into our mailbox on Norfolk  
Street. We will then hang it from the Mercy  
Tree. We look forward to your contributions and  
seeing our parish Mercy Tree flourishing with the  
thoughts and prayers of our parishioners. Fr Paul**

**Next Week's Rosters**

**26-27th December**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6pm:** M Sayer, M Sayer

**8.30am:** D Austin, C Johansen

**5.30pm:** R Kreger, M Land

(Facilitator—Ron Kreger)

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**Ministers of Communion**

**6pm:** R Heath, M Heath, B Kennedy,  
E Kennedy, M Martin, M Sayer,  
M Sayer

**8.30am:** N Ansell, R Branch,  
M Liddy, P Mitchell, M Nicol,  
M Pigram, P Weatherley

**5.30pm** J Connolly, R Dall'alba,  
L Egan, J Fitzgerald, C Holmes,  
R Kelly, R Kreger

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**Communion to the Sick**

J O'Brien, M Dale, M Shelly

**C.L.O.W.**

No CLOW—school holidays

**Reflection:**

Fr Paul Sireh

**Mount Carmel Parish acknowledges the Turrbal people as the traditional owners of the  
land on which we live.**