



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS VIGIL Mass of Midnight

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,
heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Isaiah 9:1-7 A son is given to us.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;

on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the
spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us

and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:

Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,

for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,

the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**

**Resp. Psalm (R.) Today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Second Reading *Titus 2:11-14 God's grace has
been revealed to all people.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and
taught us that what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God, and all our
worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and
live good and religious lives here in this present
world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing
which will come with the Appearing of the glory of
our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from
all wickedness and to purify a people so that it
could be his very own and would have no ambition
except to do good.

**The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Good
News and great joy to all the world: today is
born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!**

Gospel *Luke 2:1-14 Today a saviour has been
born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the
whole world to be taken. This census – the first –
took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria,
and everyone went to his own town to be
registered. So Joseph set out from the town of
Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to
the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of
David's House and line, in order to be registered
together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with
child. While they were there the time came for her
to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her
first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger because there was no
room for them at the inn. In the countryside close
by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and
took it in turns to watch their flocks during the
night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and
the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were
terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid.
Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be
shared by the whole people. Today in the town of
David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ
the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a
baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a
manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a
great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and
singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven (*all bow*)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen

Universal Prayers

Celebrant: Christ is the light of the world, with His light shining on us this day, let us pray for those who are in any kind of darkness.

Prayer Leader: The response is

'Lord let your light shine on them this day'

We pray for the homeless. **Response**

We pray for the hungry. **Response**

We pray for the lonely. **Response**

We pray for those who live in the midst of war and upheaval. **Response**

We pray for prisoners. **Response**

We pray for the sick. **Response**

We pray for those who are away from home this day. **Response**

We pray for those who are grieving. **Response**

We pray for those who have died. **Response**

We pray for our own special needs. **Response**

Celebrant: God of Love and Mercy, may your Son scatter the darkness of the world, and make this day radiant with His light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Communion Antiphon The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Christmas Collections

Our first collection will be used
for the care and support of our clergy
within the Diocese

The second collection

Each community will be donating to their
nominated charity all funds collected during
the second collection

East Maitland	FoodBank Australia and St Vincent de Paul Assist-a-student
Beresfield	St Vincent de Paul—Beresfield Conference
Rutherford	St Vincent de Paul—Rutherford conference
Lochinvar	Fr Chris Reilly Youth off the Street
Morpeth	Mercy Services a charity by the Sisters of Mercy
Largs	Dr without Borders
Campbell's Hill	Dr without Borders
Paterson	Jesuit Mission in Myanmar
Outdoor vigil	Dr without Borders & Jesuit Mission in Myanmar



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We are in the country of the Worimi, Gamilleroi, Wonnarua, Gweagul, Darkinjung, Biripi and Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors.