

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS VIGIL

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 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

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 Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow) born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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.

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the joyous season of Christmas, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your wonderful support and cooperation throughout the year. Your faith, commitment, and generosity continue to inspire me, and I am truly blessed to serve as your parish priest.

During this special time of Christmas, please know that you and your families will be in my prayers. May the light of Christ fill your hearts and homes with peace, love, and joy.

As we prepare to welcome the New Year and embark on our Jubilee Celebration, I pray that your lives be filled with renewed hope and blessings during this significant year. The upcoming canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis is a great inspiration for our youth, and I hope his example will guide and encourage them in the years to come.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a hopefilled New Year. May God's abundant grace bless you and your families. With prayers and blessings, Fr. George Anthicad

Parish Office Closure: The parish is currently closed to the public and will re open on January 7 2025. For anointing of the sick, please contact 0428017273. If anyone passes away and you need to contact the funeral ministry please call 0428220997.



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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.