

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B Sunday, 24 Dec 2017

### FIRST READING *2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16*

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. see v.2*

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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| 1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;<br>through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.<br>Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,<br>that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.) | 3. He will say to me: You are my father,<br>My God, the rock who saves me.<br>I will keep my love for him always;<br>for him my covenant shall endure. (R) |
| 2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;<br>I have sworn to David my servant:<br>I will establish your dynasty for ever<br>and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)   |  |

### SECOND READING *Rom 16:25-27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Lk 1:38*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL *Lk 1:26-38*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B—24TH DECEMBER 2017

ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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Dearly Beloved in Christ

'For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.' That is our response of the Responsorial Psalm of today. But are we not guilty of some falsehood if we say that without meaning it and without being convinced of it. Don't you think it will amount to deception, deceiving ourselves and deceiving others, if we go on to tell of His goodness when we don't see, hear, taste, smell or feel this goodness? What goodness of the Lord are we talking about here? St John wrote: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

Yes, like the Psalmist today, I say 'I will sing forever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth; Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever; that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.' Jesus' coming as the son of David is unmistakably an evidence of God's faithful love and of His faithfulness to his enduring Word. His coming is a blessing to humanity. I do not think that any person has influenced the human race positively as much as Jesus did and still does. Jesus is the goodness of God personified, the Truth, the Way and the Life.

St Paul in today's second reading says: 'Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim **Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith.**' We too like St Paul, have been called to tell of the Lord's goodness and of his truth by proclaiming Jesus Christ, the revelation of that mystery that has become so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere so that all will come to the obedience of faith.

**I think we are at a point in history, where in our country the number of pagans, is so reduced, that now, baptised Christians are exponentially filling up the gap, taking the place of pagans'. Must Christians do that? Nature abhors vacuum, does this also apply to spirituality and soul saving business?** It might sound absurd to talk of Christian-pagans, but I think that is what some of us have become – partly Christian, partly pagan. That is why St Paul's kind of preaching is needed most in our generation – a kind of preaching that will announce to us the good-news of God's unfathomable love, of God's inexhaustible mercy and of His truthfulness in being faithful to his promises of sending us a Messiah. That is the sort of preaching that can bring the Christian-pagans back to the obedience of faith: an obedience of faith that will understand the limits of science and technology, philosophy and magic, kingdoms and governments in the direction of human (personal and communal) affairs.

This mission of announcing the good-news of the Emmanuel, the God-made-man, Jesus Christ, in order to bring people to the obedience of faith, starts with the moulding of hearts for God. The heart is the seat of decision making. St Paul writes: 'the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to **destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.**' (2 Cor. 10:3-5). It is in the heart that we hold captive every thought flowing from our brain. That is the stronghold of our faith. That is where we bring our thoughts to the obedience of faith, causing them to fall in line with our knowledge of Christ.

In the first reading, David having experienced the Lord's goodness, thought of building God a House. Having decided to do that, he told the prophet Nathan who gave him his support. But he couldn't outdo God in goodness: his good intentions, his thoughts which he held under control and brought to the obedience of faith, moved God to make a promise of establishing his house and dynasty forever. Today all over the world, the son of David, Jesus Christ, who sits on the everlasting throne of David, remains the King of kings and Lord of lords. And He is our blessing. God is a Promise Keeper. In today's gospel, the Angel Gabriel said to the Virgin Mary: 'You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'

Like Mary, let us welcome Jesus the Eternal Word of God. Let our love for him urge us on to the obedience of faith. And we shall tell of the Lord's goodness. Jesus the Word is the Way. Merry Christmas in advance.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

## CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church  
39-49 McLaren Rd  
Nerang Q 4211

St John's Church  
Windabout Rd  
Beechmont Q  
4211

## SCHOOL

St Brigid's  
Primary  
McLaren Road  
Nerang Q 4211  
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DAVID SEWELL  
Principal

## MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

### Week Day Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday ,Friday 7.00 am  
Wednesday 5.45 pm  
Saturday 9.00 am

Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the First Saturday of each 9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be 3rd February 2018

### Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm  
Sunday 8.30 am

### Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am, Wednesday at 5.00pm,  
Saturday at 8.30am. And Sunday at 8.00am

Divine Mercy Prayer Thursday 7.30am

Adoration Holy Hour with Benediction: Thursday 6-7pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm  
Sunday 8.00am - 8.15am

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont

2nd Sunday of each month

Next Mass at St John's Sunday 14th January 10.30 am



We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

**We pray for the recently deceased :** Bishop John Gerry

**We pray for the dearly departed whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Clive Scrivens and Ian Collins

*We also remember their families—may they be comforted and supported in their loss by This Community of Faith.*

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Jasmine Fay Parada, Maureen and Paul Hume, Patricia Smith, Patrick Mackey, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Patricia Solomon, Amanda Gordon Shelly Ryan and Jim Gardiner

**Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing homes.**



## Good day mate!

*I just found this interesting. Read on as we prepare to welcome the Great Infant King hours from now. It is copied from More Quotes & Anecdotes: An Anthology for Preachers and Teachers by Anthony P. Castle. Published by St Pauls, Bombay 1995. p. 111 – 112. Enjoy it!*

Some children were playing in their playground one day, when a herald rode through the town, blowing a trumpet, and crying aloud, 'The King! The King passes by this road today. Make ready for the King!' They stopped their play, and looked at one another. 'Did you hear that?' they said. 'The King is coming. He may look over the wall and see our playground; who knows? We must put it in order'

The playground was sadly dirty, and in the corners were scraps of paper and broken toys, for these were careless children. But now, one brought a hoe, and another a rake, and a third ran to fetch the wheelbarrow from behind the garden gate. They laboured hard, till at length all was clean and tidy. 'Now it is clean!' they said; 'but we must make it pretty, too, for kings are used to fine things; maybe he would not notice mere cleanness, for he may have it all the time.'

Then one brought sweet rushes and strewed them on the ground; and others made garlands of oak leaves and fine tassels and hung them on the walls; and the littlest one pulled marigold buds and threw them all about the playground, 'to look like gold,' he said. When all was done the playground was so beautiful that the children stood and looked at it, and clapped their hands with pleasure. 'Let us keep it always like this!' said the littlest one; and the others cried, 'Yes! Yes! That is what we will do.'

They waited all day for the coming of the King, but he never came; only, towards sunset, a man with travel-worn clothes, and a kind face passed along the road and stopped to look over the wall. 'What a pleasant place!' said the man. May I come in and rest, dear children?' The children brought him in gladly, and set him on the seat that they had made out of an old cask. They had covered it with the old red cloak to make it look like a throne, and it made a very good one.

'It is our playground!' they said. 'We made it pretty for the King, but he did not come, and now we mean to keep it so for ourselves.' That is good!' said the man. 'Because we think pretty and clean is nicer than ugly and dirty!' said another. 'That is better!' said the man. 'And for tired people to rest in!' said the littlest one. 'That is best of all!' said the man.

He sat and rested, and looked at the children with such kind eyes that they came about him, and told him all they knew; about the five puppies in the barn, and the thrush's nest with four blue eggs, and the shore where the gold shells grew; and the man nodded and understood all about it.

By and by he asked for a cup of water, and they brought it to him in the best cup, with the gold springs on it; then he thanked the children, and rose and went on his way; but before he went he laid his hand on their heads for a moment, and the touch went warm into their hearts.

The children stood by the wall and watched the man as he went slowly along. The sun was setting, and the light fell in long slanting rays across the road. 'He looks tired!' said one of the children. 'But he was so kind!' said another. 'See!' said the littlest one. 'How the sun shines on his hair! It looks like a crown of gold' (Laura E. Richards)

## HOME VISITS TO THE SICK AND AGED

Fr Isidore is happy and available to visit sick or aged parishioners in their homes. If you are housebound and would like a visit, or you know someone who is, please call the office or his mobile number to arrange for a visit. Let us all show concern and care for the sick, the needy and the aged.

## CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY

Following the 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve, there will be supper served in the Parish Centre. We are asking Parishioners to please bring a plate of food to this function. All Parishioners are welcome to attend. On Christmas Day following the 8.30am Mass morning tea will be served outside the church. To coordinate the catering for both these functions would anyone who is intending to bring food please call Maria on 0413 586 899, or Philomine on 0419 642 035 for Christmas Eve and Sally on 55749515 for Christmas Day.

## 2018 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

It is now time to enrol children who have been baptised, who are in Year 3 or have turned 8 years of age but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and children who are in Year 4 or have turned 9 years of age and have not received the Sacrament of their First Eucharist.

The parent meeting will be held in February and all parents who wish to enrol their child or children for 2018 please contact the office to obtain the enrolment forms. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 5th August 2018 at 8.30am and the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Saturday 24th November at 6.00pm and Sunday 25th November at 8.30am.

## RITE OF ELECTION 2018

The Rite of Election for 2018 in the Archdiocese of Brisbane will be celebrated in the Cathedral of St Stephen on the First Sunday of Lent, 18th February at 3.0pm.

Anyone wishing to become a Catholic should call the office on Tuesday or Thursday to pick up an Enrolment Form. All forms for 2018 should be completed and returned to the office by the end of December 2017.

## ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL DETAILS as at 19h December 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 712.55 - For Clergy Support

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,097.80 - For Parish expenses such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.

**I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers and of your divine rewards.**  
Fr Isidore



## IN EMERGENCIES or HOSPITAL CALLS

For University & Allamanda Hospital - Southport Parish on 5510 2222

For Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish on 5576 6466

For Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish on 5572 5433

For John Flynn Hospital -Coolangatta-Tugun Parish on 5598 2165

## BAPTISM PREPARATION

The first preparation meeting for 2018 for Baptisms of infants will be held on **Sunday 18th February at 10.00am**. All parents who wish to have their children baptised in the next few months are encouraged to attend.