

ST MARY'S PARISH, SALE

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SALE; ST PATRICK'S, STRATFORD;
ST ROSE OF LIMA, ROSEDALE; ST PATRICK'S, BRIAGOLONG;
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LOCH SPORT.

47 Foster Street, PO Box 183, Sale.

Parish Office Tel: 5144 4100 Hours: Mon - Fri 9.30am to 3pm

Parish email: Sale@cdsale.org.au

Parish website: <http://www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au/>

Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Gregory Bennet. DD

Very Reverend Francis O'tobo, Mobile 0448 529 712

Assistant Priest: Fr Jithin Anto. Mobile 0490 364 751

Fr Mark Hughes 5144 4100

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Staff: Clare O'Brien, Parish Secretary. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am - 3pm. **Mark Durrant**, Finance Manager.

Hours: Wednesday 9.30am - 3pm. **Jennifer Fitzgerald**, Sacramental Coordinator Email: Sale.sacraments@cdsale.org.au.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Fr Francis, Fr Jithin, Rose Lee, Brenda Burditt, Cijo Kuriakose, John Dykun, Michele Wakeham, Doug Waite, Claire Everard, Tim Morrison, Carmel Kuizenga, Anita Little, Filomena Padula, Jennifer Fitzgerald.

Safeguarding Statement: Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. **Our Safeguarding Officer is Tim Morrison.** Ph 5144 4100



The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas), Year A 24 - 25 December 2022



BISHOP GREG'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

Warmest Christmas greetings from the beautiful Church of St Jarlath, Yarragon, where people have gathered to pray for over 120 years and to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

I think of all of you and your loved ones as you gather to celebrate Christmas this year. I picture the many beautiful churches across the Diocese of Sale, where you will gather to remember the birth of Jesus. Some of you may be at home, or in aged-care; wherever you are, I send my greetings to you.

Our hearts are filled with awe as we contemplate the birth of this fragile baby. God chose to come among us sharing our humanity. In the poverty of the manger of Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph present their child to the shepherds who search for him, and they hold him out to us to cradle too: Come let us adore him!

As we reflect upon this year, we remember the thousands of people whose lives have been so affected by the devastating floods. Many will not be in their own homes this Christmas and have lost so much. We are inspired by the witness of so many generous people who went to rescue those in need, to provide shelter to the homeless, to feed the hungry, offer them clothes and who continue to accompany people with such empathy. Seeing communities supporting one another, reminds us of the goodness which truly exists and surrounds us – we see people at their very best in times of crisis.

There are many others across the world whose lives are currently beset by poverty, the turmoil and the violence of a war they did not choose: The loss of so many innocent people are tragic as are the horrors which have been inflicted upon them. We pray for the work of nations to seek peace, and the many agencies which offer solace and comfort. We might think of how we can support Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and other agencies who can really assist people in crisis.

For some of you, there will be an empty chair as you gather for Christmas. May you share your memories of your loved one with the hope of the promise of the child of Bethlehem.

Wherever we are this Christmas, and however we are this Christmas, God meets us, holds us, carries us. He is born for us – Emmanuel – God with US. All we need to do is to open the wrapping of our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all, Jesus born for us that we might live.

I wish you every peace, joy and blessing for Christmas and for 2023!

+Greg Bennet
December 2022

PARISH CALENDAR.

Tuesday 17 January 9.15am: Parish Office reopens.

PARISH OFFICE The office has moved to the old Chancery Office (next to the Chapter House) The opening hours of the Parish Office have changed. Clare will be working **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only.** Mark will continue to work on **Wednesday's. This means both the office and the Cathedral will be closed on Mondays.**

The Parish Office will be closed at 3.15pm on **Friday 23 December 2022** for the Christmas break and will reopen on **Tuesday 17 January 2023.**

31 CLUB REMINDER for 26 Dec to 1 Jan 23. Please pray for vocations.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS: The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Groups around Australia have spent time in responding to the Document which reflect the voices of the People of God from over 114 countries around the world. A collation of the Australian submissions is being prepared for the Bishops from the Oceania region when they meet in Fiji in February 2023. Access the Document for the Continental Stage www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch.

UKRAINE COLLECTION Thank you for your generosity so close to Christmas. We raised **\$870.25 for this worthy appeal.**

FRIDAY MASS till the end of January will be at **9.30am with no Exposition.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 24 Dec 6.00pm: Eileen & William Lyons (A's)

HE SHALL BE CALLED EMMANUEL

Growing up, I read and heard the word Emmanuel used in different contexts: as another title/name for Jesus (used alongside saviour, prince of peace, Christ etc), in advent songs and in others, in personal names, and in poems etc. This word/name has its root in the OT.

There was a king in Judah during the prophetic ministry of Isaiah; his name was Ahaz and he reigned from Jerusalem. Ahaz became very fearful and petrified when he learnt of an impending attack against Jerusalem. Isaiah describes the fear thus: "the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind" (Isa 7:2). The Lord God sent Isaiah to assure Ahaz to "take heed, be quiet, and do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint..." (Isa 7: 3-4). The message was meant to guarantee Ahaz that he was not alone, that God was with him. In an effort to convince the frightened king Isaiah prophesied about the young woman who shall bear a child whose name will be Immanuel - literally, "God with us" (Isa 7:14).

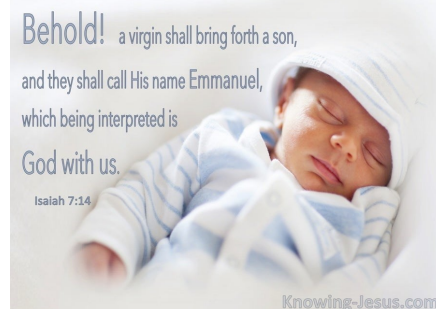
At a time when the early Christian community was facing challenges of different kinds: physical (in persecution), social (ostracised), and psycho-emotional (Jesus' identity challenged), the author of Matthew's Gospel makes recourse to Isaiah's prophecy and reassures the community that Jesus is the fulfilment of a divine reality, the God who is with us (Matt 1:23). Jesus always is present in the community.

Matthew subscribes to Isaiah 7:14 and offers an interpretation of Emmanuel for his community, "God with us". Jesus, true God wanting to be with us in the form of true human — the mystery of the incarnation — this is what Christmas is all about, God wanting to be with us. In this name Emmanuel, Matthews establishes Jesus'

status as a divine representative on earth. This role comes to its climax in Matt 28:20 when Jesus tells his disciples at the end of Matthew's Gospel that "I will be with you till the end of the age." This name recalls God's use of "I AM" as God's name in Exodus 3:14. It means God always is. Similarly, in the use of Emmanuel, Matthew emphasises that in Jesus, God always is with us. This emphasis invites us to not be afraid. Faith, not fear. We are not alone, God is with us because God is in us (John 14:17).

In trust and faith, let us go out this Christmas (and always) and live out the reality of Emmanuel in our community as believers today.

Fr Francis



PARISH PRAYER.

*God our loving Father,
we give you thanks and praise for our
Cathedral Parish of Sale,
for your people and your Creation.
Nourish us by your daily
Word and Eucharist.
Enrich us in our faith, hope and love.
Strengthen us with the spirit
of your mercy and grace.
Make us grateful for your gifts as we
journey through our lives together.
May we be a welcoming and
serving community,
always discerning and
doing your will for one another.
We make this prayer through
Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

BAPTISMS: By arrangement through the Parish Office phone 5144 4100.

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday after Mass 11.30am — 12.00noon

At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am — 10.30am

RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday 11.30am after Mass, Saturday 10.00 — 10.30am

Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening: Before or after Mass or anytime by arrangement with the Priest.

MARRIAGES: Not less than six months notice please.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving:	\$1,292.00
Presbytery:	\$914.95
Credit Cards	\$30.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$1,055.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$70.00

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**Mass Timetable this week
The Nativity of the Lord, Year A
24 - 25 December 2022**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 24 December <i>Christmas Eve Vigil</i> <i>Christmas Family Mass</i> <i>Christmas Night Mass</i>	11.00am	Loch Sport
	7.00pm	Rosedale
	6.00pm	Cathedral
	9.00pm	Cathedral
Sunday 25 December <i>Christmas Day Mass</i>	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Stratford
	11.00am	Seaspray
WEEKDAYS		
Monday 26 December	NO	MASS
Tuesday 27 December	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 28 December	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 29 December	9.30pm	Cathedral
Friday 30 December	9.30am	Cathedral
WEEKEND		
Saturday 31 December	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
	9.30am	Stratford
Sunday 1 January 2023	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral

Date & Time	Sat 24 Dec 6.00pm	Sat 24 Dec 9.00pm	Sun 25 Dec 9.30am
Welcomer	Claire Everard	Please offer	Kate Meehan-Oxford
Commentator	Liz Tabuteau	Christine Lyon	Susan Mattson
Offertory	Morrison's	Please offer	Please offer
Reader/s	Lilli O'Brien Clare O'Brien	Lyn Althaus Brenda Burditt	Nick Hall Vince Beer
Counter	Sue Harvey		

Date & Time	Sat 31 Dec 5.30pm	Sun 1 Jan 2023 9.30am	Sun 1 Jan 2023 5.30pm
Welcomer	Please Offer	Please Offer	Please Offer
Commentator	Please Offer	Please Offer	Please Offer
Reader	Please Offer	Please Offer	Please Offer
Counter	Len & Lyn Althaus	(before 3 January)	

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We offer prayers for those who have died and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Eileen & William Lyons, Fr Daniel Lordon, Mgr Jim Fitzpatrick, Fr Dan Dee, Fr George Todd, Fr Kevin Moriarty**. Please pray for those who are sick Eric Tabuteau, John Schroeder, Jim Clottin, Neha De Alwis, Helena Klimas, Gabriel Hall, Helen O'Kane, Rachel Stefanetti, Andrew Geary, Michael McGrath, Troy Barney, Miguel Stehr, Bill Harkin and Maureen O'Kane. **We pray in thanks for all who care for the sick.**

THANK YOU

A big thank you from Frs Francis, Jithin and Mark for your presents, cards and good wishes. We wish you a merry Christmas with your family and friends. A New Year full of blessings, good health and contentment.



There is always peace of mind when you work with people who are competent and conscientious in carrying out their duties. As we come to the end of the year we would like to express our deep gratitude to our Parish staff (Mark, Clare, Jennifer and Myriam) for their diligence in their work. A special thanks to our sacristan Brenda.



Thank you to all those who participated in the various Parish ministries during the Christmas period. We greatly appreciate your willingness to stand up and help when asked.

NEW TO THE PARISH? CHANGED ADDRESS IN THE LAST YEAR? NEED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES OR TO UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?

Please let us know we'd like to meet you!

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Please tick: If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program

If you would like to join a Family Group

Please place on the plate at Mass or drop into the Parish Office

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CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Today you will know that the Lord will come,
and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.' (R.)

SECOND READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed

to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS:

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

1st Reading: **Isaiah 9:1-7**

Response: **Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

2nd Reading: **Titus 2:11-14**

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

Gospel: **Luke 2:1-14**

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS:

Entrance Antiphon: **A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great
counsel.**

1st Reading: **Isaiah 52:7-10**

Response: **All the ends of the earth have seen the saving
power of God.**

2nd Reading: **Hebrews 1:1-6**

Alleluia Verse: **A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.**

Gospel: **John 1:1-18**

Communion Antiphon: **All the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.**



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READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

1st Reading: **Numbers 6:22-27**

2nd Reading: **Galatians: 4:4-7**

Gospel: **Luke 2: 16-21**

WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday: Loch Sport - 11.00am (2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month)

Saturday: Cathedral - 5.30pm

Saturday: Rosedale - 5.30pm

Sunday: Cathedral - 9.30am and 5.30pm

Sunday: Stratford - 9.30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the Month)

Sunday: Briagolong - 9.30am (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month)

Please check the bulletin each week for weekday Mass times.