

# The Living Word

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**24 December 2023**

## **First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

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.*

1. I will sing for ever 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. (R.)
2. '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.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

## **Second Reading Rom 16:25-27**

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

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

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

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.

## Reflection by Greg Sunter

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

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# HOLY TRINITY

## CATHOLIC PARISH

*Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of*

Holy Family	Our Lady Star of the Sea	Holy Trinity
101 Hitchcock Av	68 John Dory Drive	34 Stevens St
Barwon Heads	Ocean Grove	Queenscliff

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Fr Darien J Sticklen  
Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutura  
Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan  
Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes  
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Sr Nola Morrissy RSM

For all parish ministries, including Holy Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Baptism & Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

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

### PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225  
Telephone: (03) 5258 1673  
Email: [queenscliff@cam.org.au](mailto:queenscliff@cam.org.au)

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10:00am to 1:00pm (excluding public holidays)

### PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius, Queenscliff  
Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736  
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove  
Principal: Ms. Kerryn Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  
OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am  
QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available prior to each weekend Mass, and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

### BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office  
[www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/)

### COLUMBARIUM

Please visit [www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/)

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Enrolments are open for 2024.

Please visit our website for enrolment form and all information:  
<https://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-2/>

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

**Anniversaries 24<sup>th</sup> December to 30<sup>th</sup> December:** Joe Ambrose, Patricia Kane, Jack Allison, Jean Fauvel, Rose Mary Lorenz, Michael Gillian, Dulcie Duffy, Nora Ellis and Maria Bernes.

**Please pray for those who are Sick:** Elly Anwyl, Naomi Bianco, Denise Blake, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Ron & Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Brian Cotter, Jack Davin, Pat Dickeson, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Gloria Forbes, Nell Faigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Martin & Mary Grundy, Ben Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koertjes, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, George Marshall, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Frank Nelson, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Picc, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Jeannett Stevens, Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, Deanne Warren, Susan Weston, Cathy Williams, Michelle Williams, Peter Williams and Shirley Woodruff.

### ROSTERS

*If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day, please arrange a substitute. Thank you!*

COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM),  
WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

### OCEAN GROVE: 31<sup>st</sup> December at 9:00am:

(C) Michael Kirkman (L) Monica Meagher (SM) Janine Fitzpatrick, Dan O'Meara (W) Remo & Naomi Bianco.

### COUNTERS: No counting between Christmas and New Year.

New roster will be available and emailed soon.

### \*\* NEWS & EVENTS \*\*

*If you need Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.*

For all Safeguarding updates, please visit the parish website:

[www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/)

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to comply with our legal requirements. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR:** re-opening on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 10:00am.

**Christmas Masses at Ocean Grove:** children are welcome to dress as angels and shepherds for Christmas Masses.

**THANK YOU** to all involved in the Ecumenical Advent Readings and Carols Service. It was wonderful to welcome people from Geelong, Torquay and Drysdale as well as our own Parish. Special thanks to Rev'd Jo White (Anglican Parish) and Jan Hodge (Uniting Church).

**Madonna Magazine Summer Edition 2023/24:** free magazine copies available to take home or share in the narthex of each Mass centre. Copies are limited.

**Columban calendars** on sale in all 3 churches. \$10.00 each.

**Holy Family Tea & Cake:** a cuppa and Christmas cake will be available after Mass on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December. All are welcome to stay and share.

**Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR):** to donate directly to Wesley Church Welcome Place: BSB 633 000, Account 160 305 066. Website: [www.queenscliffra.org](http://www.queenscliffra.org).

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### Thought for the Week:

Christmas waves a magic wand over the world,  
and behold, everything is softer and more  
beautiful.

- Norman Vincent Peale.

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays



## LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)  
(Solemnity with octave)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove  
11:00am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St Stephen (Feast)

No morning Mass/Liturgy at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December – St John (Feast)

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion  
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Innocents (Feast)

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December – 5<sup>th</sup> day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December – 6<sup>th</sup> day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
(Feast)

[New Year's Eve]

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### Christmas message and best wishes from the PPC

As Christmas Day draws ever nearer and the preparations for celebrating this wonderful time of the year intensify it is also an opportunity to pause every now and then to reflect on the moment.

It is remarkable that for centuries, at this time of the year throughout the world, families, children, strangers unknown to each other, rich and poor alike, peoples of all ages and nationalities gather to wish each other Peace, Joy, Love and Hope. For us as Christians, we also celebrate this time by reliving the birth of Jesus to his parents Mary and Joseph. Yet this "boy child" was to have a miraculous and extraordinary influence on our Earth. For this child was not just any baby – for Christians he was the Saviour of the World.

The Parish Pastoral Council wishes everyone who is joining us at any of our Churches to celebrate a very Happy and Blessed Christmas. We hope it is celebrated with great joy and love with those near and dear to you and all remain safe during this time.

Then as we turn our attention to welcoming the New Year of 2024, may we seek and pray for Peace in our world, Hope for its people, Love displayed and lived by us all, Joy and Kindness offered to each other each day and Shelter and Safety for all.

Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All.

– Susan Weston.

For more information about the PPC, please contact the Parish Office:  
5258 1673 | [queenscliff@cam.org.au](mailto:queenscliff@cam.org.au) visit [www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au).

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### \*\* YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY \*\*

1. If an emergency occurs near you, please raise your hand or stand up and speak out to alert the Emergency Wardens. Directions as to what to do next will then be given and assistance rendered.
2. If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the Chief Emergency Warden or other nominated Safety Wardens will take control. The Chief Emergency Warden will be identified by the wearing of a yellow Hi Vis vest.  
Please remain calm and in your seats etc until you are directed by the Chief Emergency Warden as to what to do next. You will be advised as to which exit/s to use and the location of the Assembly Point. Please remain at the Assembly Point until you receive further advice.
3. In an emergency, our first priority is your safety, so please remain calm & follow all directions of the Emergency Wardens.

Thank you, OH&S Committee.

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Anthony & Letitia Dowling  
with the friendly team you know and trust.

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Visit: [www.oceaneyes.com.au](http://www.oceaneyes.com.au)



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

### Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme ("NILS")

Geelong Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions & low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical & dental services, car repairs, etc... with absolutely no interest or fees! For further information, contact Vinnies NILS Tel 5229 8829 or email [enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au](mailto:enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au).



Nelson Property  
Transfer Services  
Geelong & Bellarine

Looking to buy, sell  
or transfer property?

Contact Frank Nelson

0413 017 053

[bellarine@npts.com.au](mailto:bellarine@npts.com.au)



### CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email [charlie.sutera76@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.sutera76@gmail.com).