

Christmas message from Fr Byrne:

Nothing says Christmas like the Christian image of the Holy Family, a true community of life and of love. The mother and father of every family have a likeness to God by virtue of their mutual love for each other and their nature as man and woman. God's life is what we see in the Christ child, our infant King. We can understand how much God loves us by considering the birth and death of Jesus—his death brought life; his birth brought life. His birth pulls all of humanity into sharp relief, as no one would have expected God to actually appear as a human person. God was thought to be so utterly apart from humanity that his incarnate real presence with us was inconceivable, beyond anything that anybody could believe. Keep in mind that people of Jesus' day thought that those who saw the face of God would die; we see the face of God and live. Mary gave Jesus' flesh, and he used her very body as a canvas that allowed us to see the face of God and live. Christmas is about God coming to us so that we can go to God, every Sunday and not just at Christmas and Easter!

Christmas Message from Fr Lim:

Insightful synopsis from Fr Dominic that we "see" God in the flesh and yet did not die. The coming of the God in the flesh has two-fold meaning.

Firstly, to manifest the visible image of the invisible God in himself so that in human languages and concepts, reveal to us who God the Father is, God the Son is, and God the Holy Spirit is. The birth of Jesus is the pivotal moment of History when God insert himself into our time and space. The Emmanuel: "God lives among us".

Secondly, to reveal the greatest act of love. The unfathomable love of God for humanity through the reconciliation of the Cross of His only Begotten Son.

Christmas is the beginning of God's love "set in motion" in the person of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is an opportunity for us to grasp this moment. If we haven't made the journey, it is time to do so. God made himself accessible to everyone. No one is a "Write Off".

I and Fr Dominic and office staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and all the parishioners for the wonderful love and generous support in 2025. We wish you and the families a Blessed Christmas and

Happy New Year!

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Isaiah 9:5 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.

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God. How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ©Liturgy Help 2024

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

