

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10 (R.) **Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

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 had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

©Liturgy help

**GOLBURN MISSION CONTACTS**

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 6pm SPP Goulburn
6pm Taralga
Sunday -8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
9am (Crookwell)
Binda -10.30am (1st Sunday)
Marulan -8.30am (2nd Sun)
Tarago -8.30am (3rd Sun)
Bungonia:7pm, Thurs Rosary

CONFESSIONS

SPP: 11.30 -12 (Fri), Sat 5.15pm
OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am
Taralga: 4.30pm (1st Sat)
Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

SPP 11am Fridays
Holy Hour: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 5.30pm OLOF
Guided Adoration Fridays, 5.30-6pm OLOF

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday -5pm (OLOF),
Wednesday, Thursday 7.30 am OLOF,
Friday-9.30am St Mary's Crookwell
Friday -12 noon (SPP)
Sat -9am (OLOF)

Mass Offerings: Please send to office, or central collection boxes.

ROSTER Coordinator- judith.stuart11@gmail.com

BAPTISMS: QKR, WEBSITE OR OFFICE
PLEASE USE THIS QR CODE FOR
PARISH INFORMATION

We are a safe Church.
We have committed to zero
tolerance of abuse, and the
Protection of all our people.

our website:

**MISSION CALENDAR DATES**

DEC 22: Christmas carols in the Cathedral 6.30-8pm
DEC 25: CHRISTMAS DAY 9am Mass SPP & STM
DEC 24-JAN 6th OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
JAN 01: Adoration 11pm Mass 12am OLOF (MIDNIGHT)
JAN 01: NO 7.30am OLOF MASS 9.30am Mass SPP
JAN 3: Men's Rosary Crusade OLOF Forecourt 10am
JAN 7: Indian Community Mass 5pm OLOF
JAN 21: Taralga Prayer Meeting School Hall 10am
JAN 26: AUSTRALIA DAY MASS

REFLECTION:

Problems and difficulties are part of our life: some of our own making and others not. Joseph is caught up in a problem not of his own making. Mary, his betrothed, appears to have been unfaithful. How is Joseph going to resolve this heartache-his dark night? As a man of honour, Joseph does not act in haste nor in the heat of hurt emotions. He gives himself time-sleeping on his problem and waiting for divine light. In his sleep, Joseph is informed by an Angel of Mary's situation-the blessing bestowed upon his beloved. Furthermore, Joseph is invited to accept the challenging situation and is invited to cooperate with God, by taking responsibility for Mary and her child. Joseph accepts God's invitation however demanding. Doing God's will is always a blessing, but often costly. We too, when confronted with problematic situations, like Joseph, would profit from waiting upon the Lord in prayer for light and the grace to act with integrity, charity and justice. Like Joseph, we too may come to recognise that our way forward is to accept and take responsibility for the situation which may not be to our liking but, nevertheless, may facilitate unforeseen blessings for us and others.

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Goulburn Mission Notice board

Wednesday December 24th

6pm

Sts Peter and Pauls Old Cathedral Goulburn
St Mary's Church Crookwell
Christ the King Taralga

8pm

Sts Peter and Pauls Old Cathedral Goulburn

12am

Our Lady of Fatima Church Goulburn

Thursday December 25th- The Nativity of the Lord

9am

Sts Peter and Pauls Old Cathedral Goulburn
St Mary's Church Crookwell
St Joseph's Tarago

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New Year's Day Mass

Adoration 11pm and Mass at 12am -Our Lady of Fatima Church
9.30 am Mass- Sts Peter and Pauls Cathedral NO 7.30am OLOF MASS

The office wishes you all a merry
Christmas tide and a safe and new year.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

All Christmas masses

Available on Qkr app under "SPECIAL
APPEALS".

Bran plays the
organ at SPP after
Vigil 6pm Mass and
Sunday 10 am

St Vincent de Paul
Goulburn thanks the
Parish for their
Generosity. \$1036.00
was raised and many
donations of food from
St Josephs, trinity OLOF
and SPP. Blessings!

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Saviour of the world, we ask you to bless all who gather round this Advent Wreath which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem, and your final coming in Glory and of your coming in grace among us. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as King for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Priest: Come Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love.

All: Teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge.

Priest: Come leader of ancient Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai.

All: Rescue the world with your mighty power.

Priest: Come flower of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people.

All: Save us without delay.

Priest: Come radiant Dawn, Splendour of Eternal Light, Son of Justice.

All: Shine on those lost in the darkness of death. (All Four candles are lit)

Priest: Come Emmanuel, God's presence among us, our King, our Judge.

All: Save us, Lord our God.

Priest: During this Advent Season, may Almighty God let the light of his Son shine upon us.
May he fill our hearts with joy at his coming and lead us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.



Recently Deceased: Sally Bensley, Ron EcEntee, Agnus Casey, John Lowe, Ida Jarvis, Marjorie Avery, Lee Clune, Richard Cromack, Sr Aileen Wailes RSM, Christakis Antony, Murray Scott, Dorothy Brewer, Nicholas Chetcuti, Peter Croker, Erica Jones, Darcy Orford, Margaret Tozer,

Anniversaries: Therese McInnes, Alma, Harry, Don, Anne, & Luke Elvins, Michael & Julie Elvins, Debbie Schirk, Maureen & John Heaton, Esma, Reg & Ian Clune, Sonya Ling, Alwyn & Wayne Bensley, Betty & Deb Burgess, Kevin Bogg, Geoffrey Bogg, Patrick fisher, Agnes McGann, Patrick Hart, Henry and Beatrice Putsey, Thomas and Ivy Cooney, Matthias and Elizabeth Ench, Spen & Edith Read, Ruth-Kirsten Read, Clare Jasek, Natalie Misfud, McMahon & Byron Families, Boleslaw Peplowski & Kazimierz Brawata, Kit McCabe, Tom & Margaret Walsh

Prayers: Denise Duck, Jo Pugh, Di Smith, Peg McEntee, Dulcie & Charles Millyn, Dorothy & Winston Selmes, Emilio & Leonardo Zalapa, Gardner & White Families, Tommy Marinovic, Sr Celine Marie, Brendan Walsh, John Murrell, Bernadette Flannery, Brendan Bott, Sr Marie Kearns, Ruth Read, Mark Taylor, Marilyn Mullen, Chelsea Martin, Christopher White, Leslie King,

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let
the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a
son; and his name will be called
Emmanuel.

When God comes into our lives, we will have trouble.

This is the last Sunday in our preparation for Christmas. Advent is something like a four-act play. It began in 700 B.C. with the prophet Isaiah announcing the coming of the Messiah; then followed the prophecies through the intervening centuries; then the birth of John the Baptist. Now today we meet Mary and Joseph, and learn that the Child has been conceived.

Joseph and Mary are so prominently featured that we can miss its central focus, which is on Jesus. St Matthew himself makes that point in the lead sentence: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way." Jesus, the main actor, is still in Mary's womb, but he is the source and purpose of the drama. St Paul also makes this clear in today's Second Reading, "The Gospel of God, concerning His Son."

Mary and Joseph are servants of Jesus Christ, preparing for his birth—preparing for Christmas, as we are. By examining their preparation, we can be helped in ours.

If we do not find our preparation easy, we may be consoled that Joseph found his a torment! It would be hard to find anywhere, a more pathetic passage than this account of Joseph's agony. He was engaged to a virgin, whose innocence he believed in beyond telling, and whose faithfulness he would have defended with his life.

Yet here she was with child! Impossible! Her innocence and her pregnancy together shattered all logic! Mary saw Joseph's torment, and she made it her own. But what could she do? Mary was helpless. So, the problem God had caused, would have to be solved by Him.

Joseph was a just man. He had to obey God's law. What was he to do? He solved the problem by accepting the facts. Mary was pregnant; he was not the father; he knew no more. Therefore, all he had to do was cancel their marriage.

If we try to draw, from the experience of Joseph and Mary, a general religious principle, it might sound like this: 'When God comes into our lives, we will have trouble'. What is happening in their lives is that the great prophecy of Isaiah about the virgin giving birth to a child (First Reading) is being fulfilled—and that is what is causing their torment.

The great event which Isaiah made joyful is beginning, for Joseph, to be sorrowful. In reality, this is simply the cross, which marks the life of Christ and of Christians. What happens next in today's Gospel leads us to formulate our second principle: 'When we have trouble, God comes'. God did come to Joseph and explain to him the mystery of the Incarnation, and Joseph took Mary home.

We too may have to undergo sometimes sufferings and torments, if we are faithful to God's law, and the Church's teaching as well as to our commitments to our loved ones. How often today the bond of marriage, meant for joy, brings sorrow? But endurance brings a saving love, like Joseph's and Mary's.

Whatever our problems or trials, we can learn a good lesson from the experience of Joseph and Mary. It tells us that for people faithful to God troubles prepare them for the cross, which in Christ is the sign of the coming resurrection.

If we believe that, we can imitate Joseph and Mary in being faithful to God and our loved ones, whatever our troubles.

By this faithfulness, we will be well- prepared for Christ's birthday.

Fr Herbert F. Smith, sj

