

**THE NATIVITY OF
THE LORD:
CHRISTMAS
25 DECEMBER 2020**

**The Parish of St James
Coorparoo
A Vibrant, Prayerful, Inclusive
Augustinian Parish
Archdiocese of Brisbane**



JOY

Bringing Home the Gospel

December 25, 2020 • Christmas Day • John 1:1-18

Jesus Is Born

In John's Gospel there is no account of Jesus' birth. Instead, John reminds us that Jesus has been a reality since the beginning, even before creation. Jesus is the Word who was with God and was God. Father, Son and Spirit are not sequential. They are One. The Word became flesh, he brought new life, and this life was a light shining in the darkness. "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (v. 9).

On the first Christmas, a child was born who would change the world forever. He brought strength to the weak, courage to the fearful, consolation to the sad, and hope to the abandoned. The child was Jesus. He brought light into the darkness.

All through the New Testament, and especially in John's Gospel, we hear Jesus referred to as "the light." We can understand this metaphor when we contrast the gift of light to darkness. Nothing else changes when the lights go out, but in the dark we may feel disoriented and vulnerable, sometimes even afraid. Turn on the lights, and we regain our sense of place and position. This is precisely why Jesus came.

When the world was created, it was good. There was harmony in the universe and a sense of peace in that harmony. When people were created, they were created good. Scripture tells us that humans were created in the image and likeness of God. With their Creator they shared the ability to love and to create good out of love. Somewhere along the way this was forgotten, evil moved in, and the lights went out. Disorientation, vulnerability and fear followed. Love became tarnished, and what humans designed was not always good.

Then came the first Christmas, and a new light came into the world. As John tells us in his Gospel, those who accepted the light were given the power to become the children of God. They regained their sense of place and position. The darkness had no power over them. They knew who they were and whose they were. Christmas celebrates this light, this life born in Bethlehem, with us still today and yet to come in glory.

Bringing Home the Gospel: Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels • Copyright © 2007, 2019 Judith Dunlap. Published by the Pastoral Center, PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved. Scripture passages have been taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and used by permission. All rights reserved.



FAMILY RESPONSE

Share the Christmas traditions you remember from when you were growing up. Ask family members to talk about their favorite family Christmas traditions.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What are the positive things you want to remember about the family you grew up with?

YYAM



St James Youth and Young Adults Ministry [YYAM] was initiated by Fr Jaison Francis back in 2016 when he rounded up a bunch of young misfits [well, not so young now] and asked what can we do for the community. Fast forward to Dec 2020, the ministry has been through some challenges but is still standing and growing from strength to strength. We remain committed to being a platform where the youth and young adults [and those young at heart] can gather to learn, grow in fellowship and volunteer their God-given talents to serve and be active members of the St James community. Our theme for the ministry is "Take courage, Rise, he is calling you". [Mk 10:49].

No doubt 2020 has thrown us a massive curveball in more ways than one, but we are forging on ahead with resilience and renewed hope for we do so with the Spirit of God as our Joy, Advocate and Counsellor. 2021 will see us organising a BBQ and music night, the **Alpha** program and worship evenings to name a few things in the works. If you would

like to know how you can get involved, feel free to contact the parish office or meet any of the young adults after mass. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Fabulous New Year!

Alpha — explore the big issues of life and faith

Curious about Alpha? Visit <https://www.alpha.org.au/try>

Welcome and Overview to St James Parish for 2021

Take this handy info sheet home and keep on your fridge—or give to a family that needs this information...

Mass times & Services: current, but we will check with Archdiocese of Brisbane as CV19 conditions change—keep an eye on our website for details www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au

WEEKEND: Saturday 8 am; Vigil 6 pm.
WEEKEND: Sunday 7 am, 9 am; we do not have Sunday 6pm mass at this time.
WEEKDAY: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8am. Church closed on Thursdays.
WEEKDAY: Friday 9 am. (Anointing Mass time to be finalised, usually 1st Fri 10am)
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30—5.30 pm via appointment (book online)
ADORATION: every 2nd Friday evening 7.30pm (*still to be confirmed*).
ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 5th February 2021; first Friday evening of every month 7.30pm
NEXT HEALING + ANOINTING MASS: Friday 5th February 2021 (time to be finalised) at 9am.
NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY (at this stage).



Baptisms **Baptism Preparation** - Dcn Tuan-Anh is offering this baptismal preparation in our church. Come with your partner and your child. Baptisms can only occur after the baptismal preparation has been completed.



Welcoming Rite - Presentation of your child to our parish community a week or 2 before the Baptism at a mass that is convenient to your family (Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 7am or 9am).

BAPTISM - after Sunday 9am mass at 10.30am (to be attended by baptismal parents; baby; godparents; family & friends according to number restrictions + hygiene procedures given by Qld Gov't and Arch Bne).

January 31 st	Baptismal preparation 10.30am in the church
February 7 th and 14th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday)
Lent 21st February—28th March March 28th	No baptisms during Lent Baptismal preparation 10.30 in the church
April 11th and 25th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday)
May 2nd and May 9th May 30th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday) Baptismal preparation 10.30am in the church
June 13th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday)
July 4th and July 11th July 25th (TBC)	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday) Baptismal preparation 10.30am in the church
August 1st and 8th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday)
September 5th and 12th September 26th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday) Baptismal preparation 10.30am in the church
October 10th and 17th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday)
November 7th November 28th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday) Baptismal preparation 10.30am in the church
December 19th	Baptisms occur Sunday 10.30am (3 families each Sunday)

Sacramental program for children

After Baptism, your child will be Confirmed (usually around 8yrs of age). After

Confirmation, your child will receive First Holy Communion (usually around 9yrs of age). And finally, your child will have receive Penance or Reconciliation (usually around 10yrs of age).

Sacramental Preparation



This process has been agreed upon by the Archdiocese of Brisbane (we can send you this article). In 2020, St James Parish had

*Sacrament of Reconciliation completed in Term 1 (Yr 5 or older).

*Sacrament of Confirmation Program completed in Term 2 (Yr 3 or older).

*First Holy Communion completed in Term 3 (Yr 4 or older).

Dates for Sacramental Program 2021 are still subject to change.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Dates – Sunday mornings from October—November 2020 + January 31st-March 28th 2021 inclusive.

Times – 9.30-10.15am. Those who then wish to be received into the Catholic faith will be baptised (if necessary), receive Confirmation and receive the Eucharist at the Easter vigil on Saturday, April 3rd, 2021.

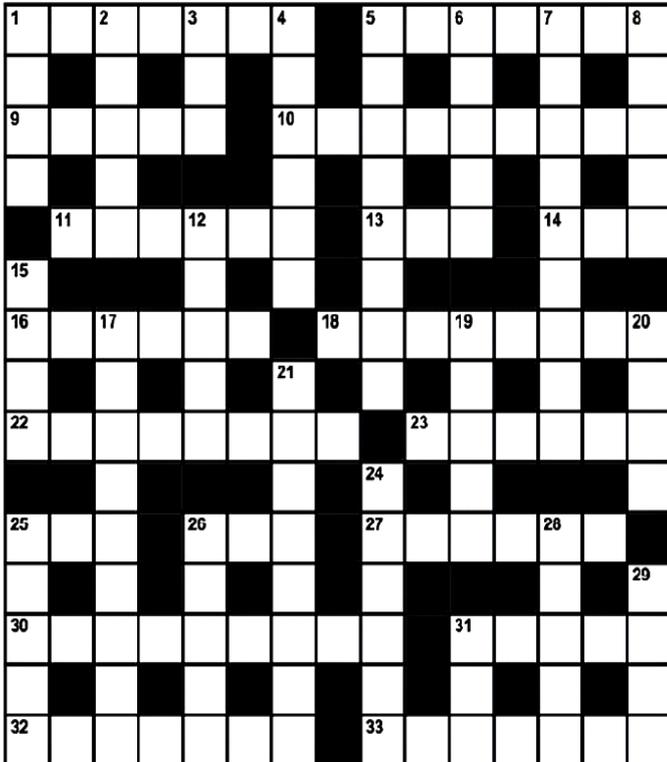
Contacts – Priory (3397 1671) or Kevin Mahoney (38475778) or kevmahoney2@bigpond.com

The Parish of St James

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Parish Administrator: pp.stjames@bne.catholic.net.au
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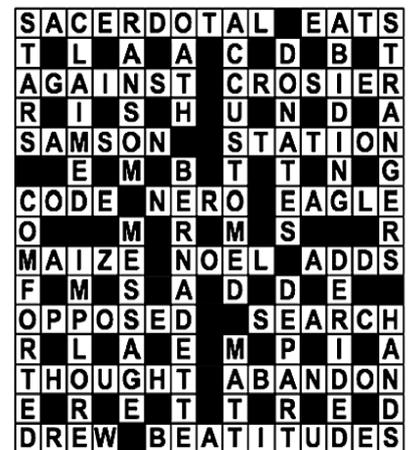
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Unconsciously (7)
 - 5 Woodlands (7)
 - 9 Should (5)
 - 10 Vanish (9)
 - 11 Nearer (6)
 - 13 The tree is known by ___ fruit (3)
 - 14 ___ Great Thou Art (3)
 - 16 Longest of Paul's epistles (6)
 - 18 In ___ green he leaeth me (8)
 - 22 Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths ___ (8)
 - 23 Embraced (6)
 - 25 Purchase (3)
 - 26 Help (3)
 - 27 His eyes were ___ (6)
 - 30 Sponsor (9)
 - 31 Colour of baptismal garment (5)
 - 32 Old Testament book (7)
 - 33 Found (7)
- Down
- 1 Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit ___ them (4)
 - 2 The ___ of the Lord appeared before them and the glory of the Lord shone round them (5)
 - 3 Do (3)
 - 4 Senior members (6)

- 5 Celebration (8)
- 6 Used for binding (5)
- 7 Christmas visitors (9)
- 8 Cattle food (5)
- 12 Moses got the ten commandments here (5)
- 15 Creative activities (4)
- 17 Suffer death for faith (9)
- 19 Yours (5)
- 20 Wash me with water flowing from thy ___ (4)
- 21 One of the twelve (8)
- 24 Subject to death (6)
- 25 Started (5)
- 26 Spiritual love (5)
- 28 Forcibly remove (5)
- 29 Show the way (4)
- 31 World Council of Churches (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



www.catholicleader.com.au

The Catholic Leader, Christmas, 2020

Administration

Parish Priest
 On Pastoral Experience
 Parish Secretary
 Safeguarding Officer

Fr Francis Belciña OSA
 Deacon Tuan Anh Le OSA
 Trish Rashad
 Kate Pearson

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 3397 1671
 3397 1671

capearson@optusnet.com.au

Today's Readings: Nativity of the Lord:

First Reading *Isaiah 52: 7-10* All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

Second Reading *Hebrews 1: 1-6* In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel Reading *John 1: 1-18* The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

For complete Sunday's readings, visit our St James website (look for the Prayer tab).



Privacy: The privacy of all individuals is important to the ST JAMES PARISH and we are committed to protecting all personal information we collect and hold. Our Privacy Policy is available at ST JAMES PARISH WEBSITE AND ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE WEBSITE or on request from the Parish Office.

Privacy Collection Statement: The parishes, schools and agencies of the Archdiocese of Brisbane (we, us or our) may collect, use and disclose personal information about you. We collect personal information directly from you and may also collect personal information passively through our website. We collect your personal information to fulfil the mission and directions of our organisation, to administer the sacraments and provide pastoral care to you, to provide you with other services and products you are seeking, to communicate with you about the services and products we offer, to solicit donations and to comply with our legal and regulatory requirements. If the personal information you provide is incomplete or inaccurate, we may not be able to provide you with the services or products you seek. We may disclose personal information about you to our parishes, schools and agencies and service providers who assist us in operating our organisation.