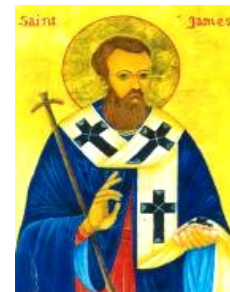


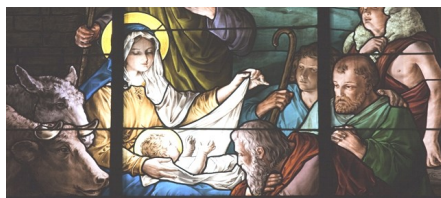
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS 25 DECEMBER 2019

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



Bringing Home the Gospel

December 25, 2019 • 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

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?

Santa, Santa in your sleigh,
Come and take my toys away
While I'm sleeping in my cot
Visit me and take the lot.

Santa, Santa set me free,
Clear an open space for me;
Me and all the girls and boys
Buried under heaps of toys.

Santa, Santa with your sack,
Come and take some plastic back;
Take it back and in its place,
Leave a little breathing space.



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**"He was created of a mother
whom He created. He was
carried by hands that He
formed. He cried in the manger
in wordless infancy, He the
Word, without whom all human
eloquence is mute."
(St Augustine of Hippo)**



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Pontius' Puddle



Administration

Parish Priest	Fr Francis Belciña OSA	3397 1671
Assistant Priest	Fr Ngọc Hải Đăng Nguyễn OSA	3397 1671
On Pastoral Experience	Br Tuan Anh Le OSA	3397 1671
Retired	Fr Peter Hayes OSA	
Parish Secretary	Trish Rashad	3397 1671
Parish Council Chairperson	Ray Mitchell	3892 1682
Finance Committee	Mark Garden	
Pastoral Care	Parish Office	3397 1671
Safeguarding Officer	Kate Pearson	capearson@optusnet.com.au

Mass Times & Services: **WEEKEND:** Saturday 8 am; Vigil 6 pm;
Sunday 7 am, 9 am, 6 pm.

WEEKDAY: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30—5.30 pm.

ADORATION: Thursday 8 am.

PRAYER GROUP: each morning prior to Mass.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 3rd January 2020.

NEXT ANOINTING MASS: Friday 7th February 2020, at 10am (no 8am mass on this day).

Today's Readings: Nativity of the Lord:

First Reading *Isaiah 9: 1-7* A son is given to us.

Second Reading *Titus 2: 11-14* God's grace has been revealed to all people.

Gospel Reading *Luke 2: 1-14* Today a saviour has been born for you.

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

www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/sundays-readings.

*May God's love surround,
God's grace abound,
And heavenly peace
Be all around.*

With Blessings for the Season