

**FOR CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES.**

**GOSPEL:** Jn 1: 1-5, 9-14

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**  
*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

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.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**FOR SUNDAY MASSES – HOLY FAMILY**

**GOSPEL: Holy Family** Luke 2:41-52

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**  
*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and

asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**

**View the Archdiocese of Sydney website.**

The Archdiocese Policies, Protocols and guidelines are public documents and are available on their Archdiocese website.

**The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office:** If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney please call the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812.

**PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE**



**Presbytery and Office**

8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone 2114 Tel: 9809 2925, Fax 9809 5546

Website: [www.sttherese.org.au](http://www.sttherese.org.au)

Parish Priest: Fr Roberto Castillo

Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera

Parish Secretary: Gayle White [admin@sttherese.org.au](mailto:admin@sttherese.org.au)

Office hours Tues-Fri 9am-3pm

[St Therese's School](#)

448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412



**MASS TIMES:**

SATURDAY VIGIL:	6:00 pm.
SUNDAY:	8:00 am and 10 am.
MONDAY:	No Mass.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY:	9.00 am Mass. Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION	Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
Baptism:	Every Sunday at 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage:	By appointment.
Anointing of the sick:	Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

**CHRISTMAS AND HOLY FAMILY CELEBRATIONS (Y C)**  
**24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



**FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES.**

**GOSPEL:** Lk 2: 1-14

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**  
*Today a Saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'God to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## From Father Roberto.

My dear good friends of St Therese, this year, 2021 which comes to an end in a few days, was not too different from 2020 - a very difficult year. We have seen the world fighting the pandemic, economic troubles and there have been many other events/difficulties within our world. Today it is a worrisome sign that countries are growing hostile to each other; they are growing distant and distrusting. If you think about all this and more, Christmas can make so much more sense because we can see the darkness spreading and 'the world who is still walking in darkness this Christmas can see a great light.' Yes, Christ our Lord, has come to dwell amongst us to bring a light the world didn't know. A light that can dissipate the worst of darkness. The creator of all that exists has become one of us to bring a message of peace and love. Yes, peace is possible among human beings if they decide to follow the path of our Lord practising his words of wisdom. Love is possible and can be extended to all, even to our enemies; if one just follows the words of our Lord who came to transform the world through his death and resurrection. Christmas is a time of peace and love when we allow the Lord to dwell in us, forgive and be a person of goodwill.

I am aware that life has been hard for many over the past few years; it has been difficult for the majority of people. But a Christian does not stay in the darkness. At Christmas time, we once again go out to find the divine light and we can surely find it in the manger of Bethlehem. This child is the light that we need to receive, Christ our Lord.

The journey of the wise men, reminds us of the spiritual journey that we all need to continue travelling in amidst the deserts, valleys, conflicts and pandemics of life. In the final end we will meet Christ our Saviour in his kingdom of light and life. I wish that this Christmas you remain strong in your journey of faith; this is not the time to get discouraged, on the contrary, it is a time of hope and courage to continue to stand up against the enemies of God and remain strong. May this Christmas renew your faith and love in the Lord and fill your hearts with hope for a brighter future not just for this world but for the better one that it is to come. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

With all my love and blessings to every person of goodwill and all the parishioners of St Therese Denistone and their families. May our Mother Mary and St Therese continue to look after us and help us to reach the Kingdom of peace and love. Feliz Navidad!



### JOY TO THE WORLD I Watts

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and Heav'n and nature sing,  
and Heav'n and nature sing,  
and Heav'n and nature sing,  
and Heav'n and Heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

### SILENT NIGHT Josef Mohr & Franz Gruber *In Public Domain*

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

### AWAY IN A MANGER William Kirkpatrick *In the Public Domain*



Away in a manger, no  
crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid  
down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright  
sky looked down where  
He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL John Wade

O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### HARK THE HERALD ANGELSING

*Felix Mendelssohn/Charles Wesley*

*In Public Domain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"



Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

## PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

### Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died and all the deceased especially Johanna Bohm. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time especially Janice White, Ronald Taffa, Janet Flaton, Hugh Jayasundera and Diana Jayasundera.



### Advent-Christmas Giving Tree.

Our Advent Giving Tree was a little different this year as collected cash donations which we in turn turned into gift cards. As a result we have forwarded \$2,760.00 worth of gift cards to St Vincent de Paul to be given to families this Christmas. Such generosity will certainly make a nice difference to families in need. Many thanks to all those who donated.



### No Bulletin Throughout January.

In an effort to give our secretary some time to have a holiday, archive files and organise the Parish Office there will be no bulletin whilst Fr Roberto is away. To view the current rosters please view the church notice boards or visit the our website at:

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



## Masses and liturgies during Fr Roberto holidays:

Fr Roberto will be taking holidays from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January till 31<sup>st</sup> January inclusively.

- **Weekend Masses** will be celebrated by Fr Kerry Bayada and Fr Terry Bell. Please make them feel welcomed.
- **Every Friday during January** (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) Fr Roberto will celebrate Mass at 9.30am. No benediction.
- **Communion Services during January** with Deacon Aruna Perera will be held on Tuesday through to Thursday and Saturday beginning on 4<sup>th</sup> January till Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> January.