

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

21st December 2008

THEME: Luke 1: 26-38

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Let us ask God to prepare our hearts and our homes, our communities and our world for the coming of Jesus, God made man, to live among us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Thursday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 26th December

Stephen, first martyr

Saturday 27th December

John, apostle, evangelist

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

With the coming of God in Jesus Christ, Holiness took up residence in a new location. No longer would humans commune with God solely in the precincts of the temple, with its varying degrees of holiness. Rather, Holiness itself had come to live within the parameters of the human condition, and humanity itself became a holy space. This wonder is celebrated in today's Gospel as St Luke tells the story of Jesus' conception. Through the power of the Most High and Holy God, the very Spirit of God overshadowed Mary, and she became what the early church was proud to call the living Ark of the Covenant. A holy place, a sacred space by virtue of the child she conceived and carried, Mary is held out to Advent believers as both an example and an inspiration.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Michael Rooney, Mihovil Katalinic, Dinny Wighton, Vin Griffiths, Bruce Tate, Juanita Jervois, Norina Spinelli, Bishop Brennan, Nancy Gibson, Anne Ferguson, John Hunt, Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Joan Sullivan, Mary Cooper, Stan Sawaski, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Luke Heffernan, Rosel Free, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, Ben Harper, Bess Harris, Gregory Cummins, Patricia Bourke, Nicholas Hetherington, Joseph Doran, Effie Ray, Sandra Varrasso, Bob Woods and Marie Cook.

Grant eternal life to:

Wendy Murphy, John Dortkamp, Geoff O'Brien, Kathleen Gomes, Jack Hannan, Ethel French and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Carmel Hunter and all our loved ones whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

May Kirley, Lionel Kirley, Michael Kirley, Dorrie Ries, Bert Scammell, Peter Blattman, Lorraine Hill, Eila Cain, Patrick Cain, Noel Cain, Deceased Members of the Cain & Tredrea Families, Phillip, Anne-Maree, Frank & Mary Percy, Neville, Inez, Stephanie Fields, Bill Boote, Alf Alias and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

LYLA FERRARI

FOR YOUR DIARY

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Thank you to those who contributed so generously to the St Vincent de Paul special collection last weekend for the poor and needy of Albury and surrounds. \$2,247.00 has been received at this stage.

PRIEST'S HOLIDAY

Fr Fulton will leave on 26th December 2008 and return on Friday 9th January 2009. Fr Jim McGee will assist Fr Lee with weekend Masses on Sunday 28th December and another priest is being arranged for Sunday 4th January 2009.

LAY MINISTRIES - CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Because many people are away at Christmas, if available, please list your name as Lector, Commentator or Eucharistic Minister on the appropriate form on the noticeboard.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Patrick's Meals on Wheels Team will deliver meals the week commencing Monday 22nd December 2008.

TOGETHER

The Christmas edition of Together is available for free distribution at the church doors.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The St Vincent de Paul Society would be grateful for donations of toys and non perishable food items which may be left under the Christmas Tree in the front of the church for distribution by the Society to people in need.

YOUTH GROUP(12-17YRS)

St Patrick's Youth Group meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 5.30pm Mass in the hall. If you like meeting new people, eating junk food and getting to know your faith better, then youth group is for you. Contact Fr Lee: 6041 2588 or Miriam: 0400 419 981.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP, 18-35 YRS

St Patrick's holds a weekly discussion group for 18-35 year olds on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm in the upper room of St Patrick's hall. For more information, contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 or email mizmim@gmail.com , John Burton 0400 574 958 or Marcus Shaw 0418 463 952.

SNIPPET

"Watch!" (Mk 13: 33, 35, 37) involves a proper detachment from earthly goods, sincere repentance for one's errors, active charity to one's neighbour and above all a humble and confident entrustment to the hands of God, our tender and merciful Father. (Benedict XVI).