

4th Sunday in Advent – Year C

21st / 22nd December, 2024



Next week:
4th Sunday
The Holy Family-
Year C

1 Sam 1:20,24-28
 1 John 3:1-2,21-24
 Luke 2:41-52

Micah 5:1-4a

In the time of Micah, a promise was made to Bethlehem. This obscure town would someday be the birthplace of the Messiah. How the people of Bethlehem must have celebrated this promise! But their celebration was strictly an act of faith, because the Messiah would not come for over 700 years.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Each time we participate in the mass, we celebrate Christ's death on the cross. But that celebration is a supreme act of faith because it involves seeing one man's death as the sacrificial atonement for the sins of the whole world. Let us hope for the redemption of the whole world through Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:39-45

Mary and Elizabeth had many things to celebrate. Each had been chosen to bear a child of promise who would do mighty things for God. But their vibrant joy was also a remarkable affirmation of faith. They had no guarantees that their unborn sons would launch the messianic age.

Universal Prayers, Year C

4th Sunday Advent – Year C

1. God of all hope, help those who suffer from any form of depression. We pray to the Lord.
2. God of all hope, help those who must face daily violence on the streets where they live and work. We pray to the Lord.
3. God of all hope, fill the hearts with your love, of those who are alone or forgotten. We pray to the Lord.
4. God of all hope, help those who are unemployed and cannot support themselves or their families. We pray to the Lord.
5. God of all hope, comfort those who suffer from serious illness or injury. We pray to the Lord.
6. God of all hope, show forth your brightness in the form of your Son, Jesus, the light of the world. We pray to the Lord.

Weekday Liturgical Schedule

Tuesday Mass 8.00am

No Mass Boxing Day

Friday Mass 8.00am

Confessions

No Confessions

Mass Intentions

Saturday 21st Josephine Frost
 Sunday 22nd Frances Larkin

Benard McRae
 Tuesday 24th McRea Family

Keenan Family

Wednesday 25th Maureen Hogarth

Friday 27th Barry Howard

Vinnies News

This has been a busy and taxing year for Vinnies both Bowral and Mittagong. Without your continued generous support, we would not be able to achieve what we do.

This is a heartfelt Thank You to all Parishioners for that generous support.

We wish you and yours a very
 Happy and Holy Christmas.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025.

A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. In the Hebrew tradition, as recorded in Leviticus, a Jubilee was celebrated every 50 years with the freeing of slaves and the forgiveness of debts.

The 2025 Jubilee will focus on the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

Pope Francis.

The Jubilee begins on December 24, 2024, with the official Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, and runs to January 6, 2026, the Feast Day of Epiphany, with the Closing of the Holy Door.



Christmas Mass Times	
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
5.00pm	8.00am
9.00pm	9.30am

Where the Truth Lies

In the Readings for Sunday, there is the sketch of a wonderful world.

In that world there are angels, who take care of human beings. There is a ruler, who shepherds people and protects them. By his power and his goodness he brings peace to all the earth.

What world are the writers of the Readings living in?

There is peace for the troubled psyche of every person too. God turns each unsettled, uneasy, unhappy heart to himself. And, turned to God, every heart can be at peace.

There is salvation from sin and even holiness. God has redeemed his people and consecrated them to himself. They are the saints of God.

And there is glory.

Who was this Elizabeth? An ordinary Jewish woman of her time, distinguished by her barrenness and not much more. And yet look at her in the Gospels, filled with the Holy Spirit and exercising the office of prophet to Mary, mother of the Lord. She is glorious in this story, isn't she? In the world sketched by the Readings there is the glory and beauty of holiness available for all God's people.

But consider the everyday world we live in. Do we find angels, majestic rulers, goodness protecting the people, peace in the world, holiness in our hearts, glory in our lives? Look around the mall, listen to the news media. What world are the writers of the Readings living in?

And yet our own experience of grace gives us hope in the world of the Readings, doesn't it?

The ugliness and the evil, so easy to see, overlie a deeper reality, which we can sense in the quiet moments of our lives when, like Mary, we are open to the call of the Lord. The everyday world of the mall and the news media, which looks so compelling, is a thin thing which will crumple and dissolve in time. What will remain is the world we hear about in Sunday's Readings.

In Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people, "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms!" (Dt 33:27). Underneath, in the refuge of the everlasting arms, is where the truth of the Readings lies. And the Truth behind the Readings lies in the womb of Mary, waiting to be born.

Eleonore Stump

