



St Mary MacKillop Parish

Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Minimay, Penshurst and Tarrayoukyan.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

22 December 2019

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

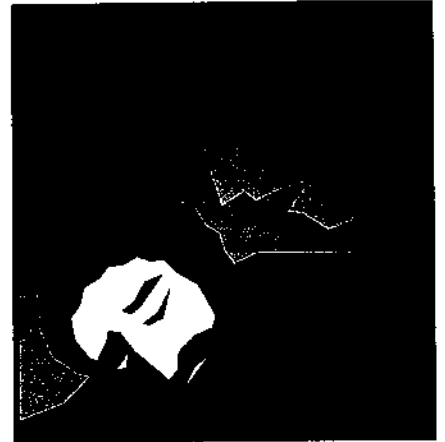
Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

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john.mckinnon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Open Hours: 9am—4pm Tues to Fri

Email: admin@westernborder.church

Website: www.westernborder.church

Office Address: 23 Dinwoodie St, HAMILTON

Weekend Mass Times @ Hamilton: 6pm Sat & 10:30am Sun

Weekday Mass Times @ Hamilton: Tue, Thu, Fri. 10am & Wed 5.15pm

Reconciliation (Confession): Sat. 5.30pm & after weekday Mass

We are a Child Safe Parish.

Child Safe Officer: John Hockey 0439 319 823

<http://westernborder.church/child-safe-policy-and-protocol/>

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON
Principal: Mrs Terrielynn Groves
Phone: (03) 5551 9000

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSURST
Principal: Mr Matthew Uzkuraitis
Phone: (03) 5576 5438

MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON
Principal: Mr Mark McGinnity
Phone: (03) 5551 1200

Country Mass Schedule

St Joseph's Penshurst

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun	Sunday 29 Dec - NO Service at Penshurst To Hamilton for Fr Doan's Farewell & Thank you.	
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Hamilton)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Hamilton)	29th December 2019	
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC	Lector	No Service at
						Prayers	Penshurst
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC	Gifts	to Hamilton
						Special Minister	Fr Doan's Farewell
Macarthur 8:30am	Mass	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	Leader	Sun. 29th @ 10.30am.
						Communion to Hospital	Terry Pezzutti

Our Parish Collections

1st Collection: Priest Support: \$1,489

2nd Collection: Stewardship 2020 FY

Full Year Pledged: \$141,438 Given YTD: \$61,444

Western Border Parish Mission Outreach

(10% of Stewardship \$141,094 2019FY)

Sr Lourdes—Kenya Mission \$7,000

Sr Stella's—India Mission \$7,000

Ministry Roster If you are unavailable for your ministry please try to arrange swap & advise office of change.

21 & 22 Dec Ministers of Communion

28 & 29 Dec. Ministers of Communion

6 pm	K Stevens, P & M Dunn		J Ryan, T Oliver & R Roache.	
10.30am	P Stanhope, T Irving, P Fitzgerald, S Byron & M Bell		Charlotte S, Nicola, R Fitzgerald, D Dunn, D Brody.	

Date	Welcome	Computer	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Commentator	Gifts	Cuppa	Count Team
21/12	Gerald Healy	Jacinta Ryan	Michael McGrath	John Duyvestyn	Karen Brewis	Francis & Rosemary	B & T Shanahan	M Cook & Kymhan
22/12	Terry Hurley	Glenn Howell	Geraldine McDonald	Rohan Fitzgerald	Ursula Murphy	Noreen Doherty	A & D Slattery	
28/12	Sandra McCaskill	Pauline Kelly	Maureen Dunn	Chris Jansen	Annette Mason	B & T Shanahan	B & J Roache	Frank & Di Soulsby
29/12	Richard & Ursula	Rafael Gaio	Helen Triopvich	Margaret Meagher	Mo Abody	Jo & Anthony Ozoani	Noreen McLeish	

**Farewell & Thank you
Fr Doan Nguyen
Sunday 29th December**

Farewell



after 10.30am Mass
please bring a plate to
share for a light lunch
after Mass.



St Mary's Parish Office will be closed
between Christmas & New Year
Wed 25th - Wed 1st.
May your Christmas be blessed with
Love, Peace & Joy.

Saint Mary MacKillop Parish

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deaths:

Anniversary:

Edward Brown, Timothy Neeson, Jackie Foster,
Terry Nunan, Nellie Landini, Melva Ackland,
Vincent Kennedy.

SICK:

Jack Handley, John Healy, John O'Brien,
Michael & Judy Bowden, Emilie
McIntyre.

Children's Liturgy of the word

Sunday 22nd — Margaret & Bryan Roberts



**Happy
89th Birthday
Don Schultz
22nd December**



22nd December
4th Sunday of Advent

God is With Us.

Blessing of Expectant
Parents.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2019

**"Thank you to so many of you for your
generosity towards our forthcoming
Parish Christmas Lunch.**

Would those donating hot food items please
have them to the Dunworth Centre hot and
ready to serve no later than 11.30 am on
Christmas Day.

We will be serving lunch at 12 noon. Other
food items can be left at the Presbytery,
or call us to arrange delivery.

Sincere thanks,

Chris & Kathie Jansen 0407 719 530

Prayer

Higher than the heavens,
O Lord our God,
and deeper than the nether world
is your steadfast mercy
and unwearied love,
revealed in the child we call Jesus,
Emmanuel,
God with us until the end of time.
Make us as obedient as Mary
in embracing the mystery
of your will,
as unafraid as Joseph
in welcoming the unfolding
of your purpose.
May the promises of the gospel
embrace us all.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christmas Offering



Christmas Offerings

It is a Catholic tradition to include in our Christmas gifts an offering that contributes to the support of our priests.

Their annual stipend is drawn from the First Collections which needs "topping up" with your generous Christmas Offerings.

(Envelopes can be returned by placing on either collection plate or to Parish Office.)

Thank you for your generosity.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Nativity

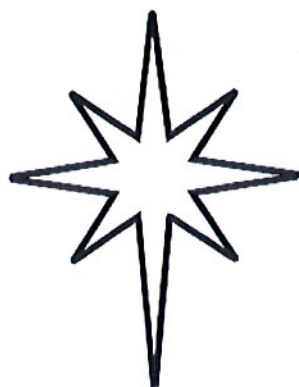
Children are again invited to join in the Christmas Nativity **at the 6pm family focused Mass.**

Come dressed as Shepherds or Angels and join the First Communion class of 2019 to help act out the Nativity story at the Gospel.

All the more the merrier. Noreen

Christmas Choir

LAST PRACTICE
TODAY Sunday 22nd
after 10.30am Mass.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve
Hamilton
6pm (Family focus)
& 8pm Vigil.



Dunkeld - 6pm Vigil
Penshurst - 7.30pm Vigil
Glenthompson - 7.30pm Vigil
Macarthur - No Service

Christmas Day - Hamilton - 9am

Carols

5.30 & 7.30pm
1/2 hr before Christmas
Eve Masses.

