



# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

4 HARTLEY STREET, P.O. BOX 9, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871



*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, strengthened by the Word of God, is united by our Sacramental Life into a Covenant to make Jesus the Christ known and loved in Central Australia.*

## Parish Contacts:

**Phone:** (08) 8952 1049

**Fax:** (08) 8952 9823

**Sick Call:** 0400 469 540

**Email:** olsh\_parity\_asp@bigpond.com

**Website:**

www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au

**Bulletin: Email:**

olsh.parity.bulletin@gmail.com

Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday 5 p.m.

**Parish Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday

9 am - 12 noon & 4 pm - 5 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am - 10:30 am

## Parish Team:

**Parish Priest:**

Fr. Jan Szweda, SVD

**Aboriginal Chaplain:**

**Syro-Malabar Chaplain**

Fr. Binesh Naramattathil

cstnariman@gmail.com

(08) 8985 1238

**RCIA Coordinator:**

**Secretary:**

Mel Buenviaje

**Parish Past. Council Chairman**

Fred Twohig

**OLSH College Principal**

Br. Matthew Green, FMS

## Parish Mass Schedule:

Monday to Friday: 7 am & 5:30 pm

Saturday 11 am & (Sun Vigil) 6 pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

**Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community**

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Sundays of the

month - 11am *Aboriginal*

*Community Mass at South Terrace.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month—11 am

*Aboriginal Community Mass at*

*Amoonguna, Southeast of Alice Springs, off the Ross Highway.*

## Sacraments:

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

**Baptism:** By appointment: one month's notice required.

**Marriage:**

By appointment only, 6 months' notice required.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> December 2014

## BLESSED ARE YOU

*From: Sunday Reflections by Fr. Eugene Lobo, SJ*



Today's Gospel brings us the Annunciation narrative. The first thing we notice here is that the initiative for the entire event comes from God. We are also given the clues that this is not going to be like anything traditionally associated with the coming of the Messiah. The woman chosen for God's great work is a very young unsuspecting virgin who comes from a town not even mentioned in the Old Testament. Indeed that is the way God works. When Luke pictured God's announcement through the Archangel to Mary of the coming birth of Jesus, much of what he wrote had to do with Prophecy. The Annunciation to Mary is a parallel to the earlier episode where the Archangel Gabriel announces to Zechariah the birth of John the Baptist. There is a similarity in structure: the announcement is made, the recipient is troubled by the message proclaimed, the recipient is told not to fear, and a sign is given confirming the announcement. In both cases the Archangel points to a sign and then expands the meaning of it. The function of the explanation is to make clear that the child to be born to Mary is superior to the child to be born to Elizabeth. John the Baptist is to be the precursor of the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. When Luke describes the message to Zechariah he gives many details, while in the annunciation to Mary we have only the time and place mentioned. The Angel comes to Zechariah it is within the gold-plated walls of the Temple at Jerusalem, but is in the humble dwelling of Nazareth six months later to bring the message to Mary. The angel comes to Zechariah when a large crowd is found but appears to Mary in private.

With Mary, the angel's greeting began by calling her God's favoured one. Honouring God with her whole being, Mary displayed what it meant for a human being to be full of grace. The angel's statement that the Lord was with Mary, when it comes from God, implies a special position of importance for her. Much more than God's presence with David, the Lord is literally with her. She is the New Ark, beyond all reasonable expectations. She was to be the first human being who could say of Jesus, "This is my body and this is my blood." It is no wonder then this simple girl was greatly troubled. Unlike Zechariah who was afraid of the sight of the angel, Mary was only troubled by his words. Gabriel understood her perplexity and spoke her name for reassurance. He then proceeded with the promise that Mary would conceive and bear a son. In the Jewish tradition this was a blessing from God. Yet Mary asks the question how is it possible because she was told that the child she would bear would be son of God and she had no relation with man. The angel's response is that all will be accomplished by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit that was present at the first creation manifested the glory of the Temple and signified the divine presence in the world will now bring the new creation in her. She understood it all and said yes to God and the miracle of God becoming human person took place there.



**Parish Diary**

**Sunday 21 December**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Monday 22 December**

**Tuesday 23 December**

**Wednesday 24 December**

**Thursday 25 December**  
*Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)*

**Friday 26 December**  
*Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr*

**Saturday 27 December**  
*Feast of St John, apostle, evangelist*

**Sunday 28 December**  
*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve: 7.00pm Family/Children's Mass**  
**9:30pm Carols singing**  
**10:00pm Mass**

**Christmas Day: 7:30am and 9:30am.**  
**11:00am Syro-Malabar Mass**  
**11:00am Ngkarte Mikwekenhe**

**ATTENTION: NO EVENING MASS**

**Ministers Needed for Sundays in January 2015!**

There is no roster for Commentators, Readers, and Communion Ministers of the Eucharist for Sunday Masses in January 2015. We are looking for volunteers to fill these positions. Please write your name down on the roster placed at the church entrance. Thank you.

Sincere '**Thank you**' to those who worked hard on past two Saturday mornings to clean our church for Christmas.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- This scene from the Gospel of Luke, where such a momentous exchange takes place, is known as *the Annunciation*, meaning the announcement of the conception of Jesus.
- From the time of the exile in Babylon, Israel had longed for the Messiah to come. He was to be the anointed one of God and the prophets foretold that he would come from the House of David and be born in David's hometown of Bethlehem.
- According to Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph live in Nazareth in the north and travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census because Joseph is of David's line and must return to his 'home' country

**Roster for Christmas 2014**

	Commentator	Readers	Special Ministers
<b>Vigil 7:00 pm</b>		Gesheila Cortez Kath McGargill	
<b>Night 10pm</b>		Margaret McNaught Matthew Smith	Christine Grant Helena Casseeram Darrel Smith
<b>Xmas 7:30 am</b>		Sr Magdalena Patricia Rademaker	Margaret Lillecrapp
<b>Xmas 9:30 am</b>		Sue Bain Charles Gamon	Helena Casseeram

**SVDP Food Van Volunteers**

Vinnies are seeking additional volunteers for their weekly food van from Monday to Friday (not including Thursdays) for the 2015 roster. The aim is to distribute sandwiches, fruit, tea, coffee and cordial to the needy each evening between 5:00 and 6:00pm.

Any help either weekly, fortnightly or even monthly would be a great help in spreading the workload.

Please contact Bruce Clifford on 89522172 or by email: [brucejoyceclifford@bigpond.com](mailto:brucejoyceclifford@bigpond.com)

**Cleaning:** 27 December **Group 3**  
 Fred & Lyn Twohig, Jim & Clare Lorkin

**Counters:** 28 December 2014  
 Mike & Rita Steller, John Lillecrapp

**Last Week's Collections:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1,147.50 (for the presbytery)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$3,171.95 (for the parish)

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*Groups please remember to keep the Bulletin team informed if you change your days/times etc.*

**Roster for weekend of 27 / 28 December 2014**

	Commentator	Readers	Special Ministers
<b>Sat 6:00 pm</b>		Margaret McNaught Binu Katherine	Christine Grant Darrel Smith
<b>Sun 7:30 am</b>	Kath McGargill	Sr Magdalena Patricia Rademaker	
<b>Sun 9:30 am</b>		Sneha Nair Gesheila Cortez	Margaret Lillecrapp Helena Casseeram
<b>Sun 5:30 pm</b>			

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014



Isa 45:8

### Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### First Reading:

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12.14.16

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord..*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established forever."' "

The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 88:2-5.27.29

**R/** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

### Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia**

### Gospel:

Luke 1:26-38

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob forever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord', said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Lord, hear our prayer.

### Communion Antiphon:

Isa 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and name will be called Emmanuel.