



# St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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**Sunday, 24 December 2017**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B**

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

In the First reading for today's mass, King David's conscience troubles him: 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' But David has overreached: God is perfectly capable of providing a suitable dwelling place for His presence. The tent suited God at that time. In due course the divine presence would dwell in the Temple built by David's son Solomon in Jerusalem. God was preparing for a different kind of house among us. And when all was ready, God would find a dwelling place in Mary's womb, and in human flesh: Jesus, God-with-us. David's hopes for a dwelling place for God and posterity for himself have been fulfilled in a way far beyond his capacity to imagine.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?  
Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?  
(Hebrews 1.5)

So God chose to become one of us. God the Son came to die for our sins. That should trouble our conscience far more than David's pangs about the ark in the holy tent. But it should also fill us with joy: God has done all this for us, because he loves us. This is the light that shines even in darkness.

Peace and joy be with you throughout the Christmas days ahead.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

*Liturgy...*

**First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**

*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 for ever."'

**The word of the Lord.  
Response: Thanks be to God!**



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**Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29.**

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


1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)



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*Liturgy...*

**Second Reading Rom 16:25-27**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*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 for ever and ever. Amen.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Response: Thanks be to God!**



**Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**



*Liturgy...*

**Gospel Lk 1:26-38**

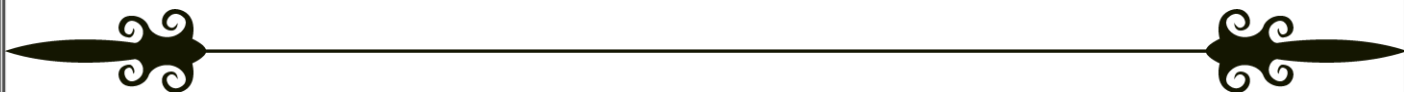
**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

*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 for ever 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**

**Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**



**CATHEDRAL CLERGY**

*Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
 Father Donald Richardson, Dean  
 Father Brendan Purcell  
 Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo  
 Father Pierluigi Passoni*

**CATHEDRAL STAFF**

*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan  
 Thomas Wilson – Director of Music  
 Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys  
 Cathedral Precinct*

**A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2**

**FOR CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES PLEASE REFER  
 TO THE ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL WEBSITE:**

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

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12noon Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised)
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Monday-Friday: 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm Saturday 11.30am- 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
<b>Vespers (Evening Prayer)</b>	Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm; Sunday 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacraments)

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
 23 DECEMBER 2017 AND WILL REOPEN ON 02 JANUARY 2018**

**\*\*COELIACS: Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.**