



Embracing the communities of:
 St Mary's South Brisbane,
 St Francis of Assisi West End,
 St Ita's Dutton Park and
 Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Fairfield

Under the care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars



The community of St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parishes stand.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24th December 2023 - Year B

Good News Reflection: Our personal connection to Mary

This Sunday's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.

Three decades later, Jesus would become the Savior of the world. However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. He is the uncreated Divine Son, the Person of the Holy Trinity who, as we proclaim in the Nicene Creed, was "born of the Father before all ages, God from God...."

His salvation plan could -- and did -- impact Mary since the moment of her own conception.

In order for God to come into our world in the flesh, his Spirit totally bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Therefore, even though she could not understand how the promised Messiah could be conceived within her, since she'd had no sexual relations, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it. That's all she needed.

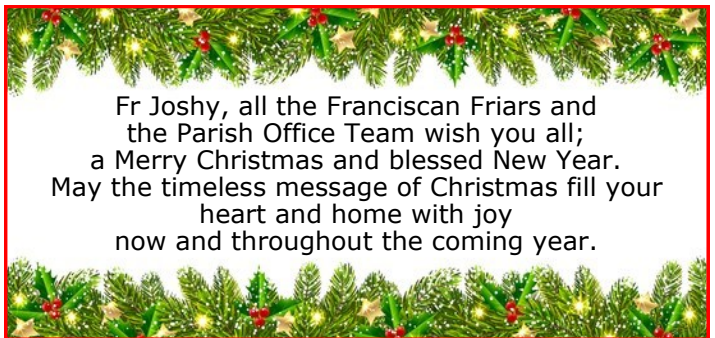
All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what Mary be-

gan, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right? Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan, and we say yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

Often, we feel inadequate, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God.

© 2023 Terry Modica, Catholic Digital Resources, www.catholicdr.com. Printed by permission.



Welcome to New Parishioners

Please make yourselves known to our Priests and to the parishioners who greet you as you arrive. For more information about our parish or how to volunteer in the Church ministry or our activities, please contact the Parish Office below.

MASS TIMES

St Mary's (20 Merivale St, South Brisbane)

- Mon-Fri: 7am | Sat: 8am (Rosary after Mass)
- Sunday: 9am and 5pm

St Francis of Assisi (47 Dornoch Tce, West End)

- Sunday: 9am

St Ita's (Pope St, Dutton Park)

- Saturday (Vigil): 5pm
- Sunday: 10.30am (Indonesian)

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
 (68 Victoria St, Fairfield)

- Sunday: 7am

CONFESSION

St Mary's:

Sat: 8.30am-9am | Sun: 4.15-4.45pm

St Ita's:

By appointment (contact parish office)

More information:

Websites: - www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au
 - www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au

FB: - www.facebook.com/stmaryssouthbrisbane/
 - www.fb.me/duttonparkwestendcatholicparish

PARISH OFFICE

47 Dornoch Tce, West End, Q 4101

Ph: 07 3324 3734

Postal: PO Box 3857, West End, Q 4101
southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au
stitaspar@bne.catholic.net.au

- **Parish Priest:** Fr. Joshy Parappully OFM Cap pp.southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au
- **Parish Deacon:** Deacon Adam Walk walka@bne.catholic.net.au
- **Pastoral Coordinator:** Sr. Salvation Bunao SFI
- **Parish Secretary:** Niken Westerman
- **Finance Officer:** Kevin Bhasin

Safeguarding Officers:

- St Mary's Church : Chris Bolger (0407 480 205)
- St Francis of Assisi: Liam Cunnane (0477 306 166)
- St Ita's Church: Liam O'Rourke (0411 033 321)
- OLPS Church: Paul Hogan (0418 742 760)

ST ITAS'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

247 Gladstone Rd, Dutton Park, Q 4102

Ph: (07) 3838 8400

Email: pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au

First reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

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; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

R: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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/**

'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/**

'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; with him my covenant shall last. **R/**

Second reading: Romans 16:25-27

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.

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

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.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Is 7: 14

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

Reflection Prayer:

Your plans and your timing, my Lord, are perfect. Help me to believe in You beyond my understanding and my opinion of events. Amen.

© 2023 Terry Modica, Catholic Digital Resources, www.catholicdr.com. Printed by permission.

THIS WEEK'S Psalm Responses

Monday 25th: Solemnity with octave

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Tuesday 26th: Feast (St Stephen)

Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

Wednesday 27th: Feast (St John)

Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

Thursday 28th: Feast (The Holy Innocent)

Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

Friday 29th:

Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

Saturday 30th:

Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The Holy Family

1st reading: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

2nd reading: Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22,39-40

St Mary's - Fundraising New Year's Eve

For those wishing to attend the Southbank Precinct on New Year's Eve, parking will be available at St Mary's - \$20 per vehicle payable on entry. Entry is via the Merivale Street driveway.

Please do not leave your vehicle in the St Mary's precinct's car parking areas after the 5pm Mass without arranging payment.

Please contact Dianne on 0411 869 017 to arrange payment.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SVDP CONFERENCE



'Serving Christ in the Poor' in the suburbs of South Brisbane, West End, Highgate Hill, Dutton Park & Fairfield

Thank You

Our sincere THANKS for your wonderful support of our Christmas Hamper Appeal. Through your concern and generosity, we have been able to provide 82 Hampers to families and individuals in need within our area.

With the ongoing impacts of the cost-of-living crisis, alarmingly, the number of people urgently seeking help in Qld has risen by a massive 15%. What's more 24% of these are reaching out to us for the very first time.

Your prayerful support for our ongoing mission offering hope & helping to shape a more just and compassionate society, is also greatly appreciated.

ST FRANCIS TABLE MINISTRY FOR THE ELDERLY Christmas Hampers



It is that time again when Sr Salvacion and her team from St Francis Table Ministry delivered 185 Christmas hampers to the elderly, families in need and the homeless. The team also delivered hampers to West End, Dutton Park and Annerley Police Stations, to thank them for their work in keeping our community safe.

Thank you to St Ita's School's community, All Hallows' School's community and all the parishioners who donated and helped towards these hampers.



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE 2024 For children in year 5 or older ENROLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

If you would like to enrol your child to join our sacramental program, please complete [this enrolment forms](#) and return to the Parish Office by **Monday, 5 February 2024**.

Information Evening
Wednesday, 7 February 2024 - 6pm
St Ita's Church Dutton Park

You could also download the forms from our websites: www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au or www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au

LAUDATO SI'

Seeking a more sustainable Christmas?

As we prepare for Christmas and the coming of Christ, celebrating with festive decorations, fancy food and fun-filled presents can be done in a sustainable way. Brisbane Sustainability agency has a range of tips to "Make it a meaningful Christmas" and "Easy ways to make sustainable choices this Christmas".

Visit their website at <https://www.sustainablebrisbane.com.au/> and sign up to their newsletter to make the gift of sustainability last the whole year.

TWO MINUTES CATECHISM

Where is Christmas in the Bible?

While the name Christmas comes from the fact that the Church celebrates the day with a special Christ Mass, the event itself is recounted in the Infancy Narratives of the Gospel of Matthew, esp. 1:18-25, and the Gospel of Luke, esp. 2:1-20.

Each account is unique in its details. Matthew, whom scholars believe was a Jew writing for Jews, provides his readers with the prophetic preparation for Christ. Whereas, Luke, a Greek physician, writes to give an accurate account (Lk. 1:1). The many details of the angelic announcement, visitation to Elizabeth, birth and early years are believed to have been obtained by interviewing the Blessed Virgin.

How do we know where Jesus was born?

Both the Old Testament prophet Micah (5:2) and the Gospels (Mt. 2 & Lk. 2) point to Bethlehem. The knowledge of the place was, as well, passed down among the Christians of Judea. In the third century AD, Origen of Alexandria wrote,

In Bethlehem the cave is pointed out where He was born, and the manger in the cave where He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. And the rumor is in those places, and among foreigners of the Faith, that indeed Jesus was born in this cave who is worshiped and revered by the Christians.

In the 4th century, St. Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage to locate the important sites in Christianity. With the help of locals in the Holy Land, St. Helena located the spots of Jesus' Birth, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. Today, the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre mark these locations.

Taken from <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th December

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Fairfield:

- 7.00am Mass

St Francis of Assisi, West End:

- 9.00am Mass

St Mary's, South Brisbane:

- 9.00am Mass



CHRISTMAS VIGIL

St Ita's, Dutton Park:

- 5.00pm Mass
(4.30pm - Carols & Nativity Play)
- 8.00pm Indonesian Mass
(7.30pm - Carols)

St Mary's, South Brisbane:

- 7.00pm Mass
(6.00pm - Nativity Play & Carols)

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25th December

- **OLPS:** 7.00am Mass
- **St Francis of Assisi:** 9.00am Mass
(8.30am Carols)
- **St Mary's:** 9.00am Mass
- **St Ita's:** 10.30am Indonesian Mass



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE



Parish Office will be closed
from 22 Dec 2023 to 7 Jan 2024.

The office will re-open on
8 January 2024.

When was the last time you reviewed your Will?

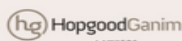
/ HopgoodGanim Lawyers is a leading Australian independent legal and advisory firm operating nationally and internationally from Brisbane and Perth.

We can help you with:

- Wills and estate planning
- Estate administration and disputes

/ Key contact:

Greg Cox
Special Counsel
+61 7 3024 0331
g.cox@hopgoodganim.com.au



Visit our website www.hopgoodganim.com.au

Celebrating 140 years of family tradition.

1883-2023

K.M.SMITH

FUNERAL DIRECTORS since 1883

Phone 3252 2031 kmsmith.com.au



PARISH ACTIVITIES 2023

BAPTISMS

- 2nd Saturday of the Month - 9.30am: St Mary's
(Booking is essential.)

PRAYER & ADORATION

- Tuesday 6.30pm: St Mary's Church
- Sunday 4pm: St Mary's Church

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturdays after 8am Mass until Sundays 8.30am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

- 1st Friday - 7am: St Mary's Church
- 1st Saturday - 5pm: St Ita's Church
- 1st Sunday - 7am: OLPS Fairfield

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (School Term Only)

- Saturday - 5.00pm: St Ita's Church (Vigil Mass)
- Sunday - 9.00am: St Mary's Church

FAMILY MASS (School term only)

- 4th Saturday - 5pm: St Ita's Church

ST FRANCIS TABLE - Ministry to the Elderly

- 1st and 3rd Monday: 9am -1pm
St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Tce, West End

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Please consider giving to our planned giving program.

Your continued support for our Parishes is appreciated. If you'd like to use direct debit please complete the form below and return to the Parish Office.

- [St Mary's Parish Direct Debit Request Form](#)
- [Dutton Park Parish Direct Debit Request Form](#)

Other ways of giving direct internet transfer:

- **St Mary's Parish South Brisbane**
BSB: 064-786
Acc No: 100 009 890
Ref: Your Last Name and Collections
- **Dutton Park Parish:**
BSB: 064-786
Acc No: 100 022 825
Ref: Last Name and Collections

We also have **Tap n Go**
see Church Coordinator at Mass.

SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding everyone involved in their activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

To make an anonymous report call 1300 304 550. For more information visit brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding

