

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

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Message by Parish Priest



Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas!

This week we enter into the Christmas week. And for the past four weeks have been preparing and anticipating this great day. In Bethlehem, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. He was born, not by the will of man, but by the gift of the love of God

our Father, who "so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

This event is renewed today in the Church, a pilgrim in time. For the faith of the Christian people relives in the Christmas liturgy the mystery of the God who comes, who assumes our mortal human flesh, and who becomes lowly and poor in order to save us. And this moves us deeply, for great is the tenderness of our Father.

The first people to see the humble glory of the Savior, after Mary and Joseph, were the shepherds of Bethlehem. They recognized the sign proclaimed to them by the angels and adored the Child. Those humble and watchful men are an example for believers of every age who, before the mystery of Jesus, are not scandalized by his poverty. Rather, like Mary, they trust in God's word and contemplate his glory with simple eyes. Before the mystery of the Word made flesh, Christians in every place confess with the words of the Evangelist John: "We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14).

Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an outdated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and to recognize him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, "there is no place in the inn" (Lk 2:7).

We see Jesus in the children of all the displaced people. On this festive let us ask the Lord for peace for our country. Let us pray that the every member of our nation learn to value one another irrespective of the religion. That all are equal citizens of our venerated nation. May the Prince of Peace bless our Mother Land with Peace.

Happy and Peace-filled Christmas!



Parish Priest

Fr. Lawrence PR

Asst. Parish Priests

Fr. John Britto

Fr. Shinil Jacob

Mass Timings

Saturdays

6.00 pm (Eng)

Anticipated Mass

Sundays

6.30 am - English

7.30 am - Malayalam

9.00 am - English

10.15 am - Hindi

11.30 am - English

4.00 pm - Hindi

6.00 pm - English

Weekdays

6.30 am - English

1.00 pm - English

6.00 pm - English

Tuesday evening

Mass is in Hindi

* No mass at 1.00 pm
on Saturdays

Sunday Liturgy

29th Dec. 2019

Combined

English & Hindi

Mass at 9:30 am

St. John Paul II &

St. Francis Xavier

(((SUNDAY READINGS & REFLECTION)))

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz refuses to accept a sign from God, nevertheless a sign is given to him: A young woman shall bear a Son and his name will be Emmanuel.

Response Ps: 23

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets and invites the Romans to be obedient to Jesus through faith because it is through him we have received our mission.

Gospel : Matthew 1:18-24

Mathew narrates the angel's annunciation to Joseph and clarifies how the birth of Jesus will be the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Lord, be with us always.

पहला पाठ: इसायस का ग्रंथ 7:10-14

नबी इसायस भविष्यवाणी करते हैं कि एक कुंवारी गर्भवती होगी और पुत्र प्रसव करेगी और उसका नाम एम्मानुएल रखेगी।

अनुवाक्य: स्तोत्र 23

प्रभु प्रवेश करे! वह महिमा का ईश्वर है।

दूसरा पाठ: रोमियों के नाम पत्र 1:1-7

संत पौलुस कहते हैं कि मसीह अपने देहधारण द्वारा दाऊद के पुत्र हुए, किन्तु अपने पुनरुत्थान द्वारा वे ईश्वर के शक्तिशाली पुत्र प्रमाणित हुए।

सुसमाचार: संत मती 1:18-24

नबी इसायस की भविष्यवाणी के अनुसार मसीह ने कुंवारी मरियम के गर्भ में देहधारण किया।

विश्वासियों के निवेदन

हे पिता, हमारी प्रार्थना सुन।

REFLECTION

For the last number of weeks, we have been surrounded by all the signs, sounds, symbols of Christmas; lights, decorations, carols, trees, gifts and presents. These are all very important parts of our festivities and celebrations; it wouldn't be Christmas without them. But in the first reading the Prophet Isaiah, we read, "The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us'." So let us not lose sight of this wonderful sign from God amidst all the other signs surrounding us these remaining few days before Christmas.

We generally focus our attention on Mary, who is not only central to the narrative of Christmas, but also to the history of salvation. God called and chose Mary personally by her name to be the Mother of Jesus. In faith and humility she agreed to what was asked of her. She neither looked nor asked for this great honour and responsibility. Through her courageous act of faith, God breaks into our world and our lives.

Today's Gospel highlights another person through whom God worked; Joseph. We may think that he doesn't get the notice he deserves. Like Mary, he too was called by name. He too heard the word and message God had for him through an angel. Like Mary, he too was encouraged with the words, 'Do not be afraid.' In faith and humility, Joseph too says 'Yes' to what God is asking of him. Joseph had his own personal annunciation!

God chooses ordinary humans to be part of his plan for the world. It is through Mary, Joseph and countless millions throughout history that God's kingdom is proclaimed and built. We think of the famous and well known saints that we know and pray to every day since we were children. But it would be a mistake to think that it is only these people who were and are called by God. Today, each of us is called by God personally with these words; 'I call you by your name, do not be afraid. You are precious to me and I love you.' In whatever way we can, today we are called to make God real in and for the world.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

23 Mon: Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Ps 25 /Lk 1:57-66

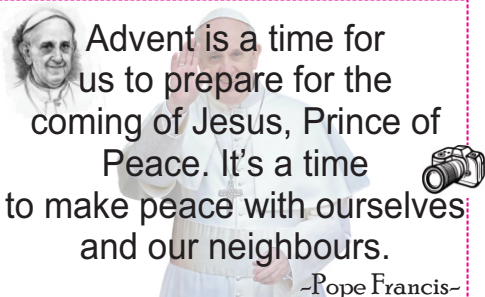
24 Tue: 2 Sam 7:1,5, 8-12,14,16/Ps 89 /
Lk 1:67-79

25 Wed: Isaiah 62:11-12/Ps 96/Titus 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20

26 Thu: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59/Ps 31/ Mt 10:17-22

27 Fri: 1 Jn 1:1-4/ Ps 97/ Jn 20:1,2-8

28 Sat: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124/ Mt 2:13-38



PARISH NEWS

1. There will be a meeting of all the Associations soon after the 9.00 am Mass. All are requested to kindly attend the meeting.
2. On Christmas day for the Mass the entry will be from St. Columba's School gate. Mass Schedule for Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day are given in the Cathedral calling and also in the parish website. Kindly note on Christmas day there will not be any mass in any of the mass centre. Christmas day mass will be in St. Columba's School ground. 7.30 am Mass in Malayalam, 9.00 am in English. 10.30 in Hindi and 11.30 in English. There will not be any mass in the evening.
3. We are looking for some sponsors to come forward who would like to bear the cost of this year's Christmas crib, tent, light and sound and decorations. The estimated expense for the entire celebration is 5 lakhs. All those who would like to sponsor cake for the 'Christmas vigil service' and 'Christmas tree celebration' and for Christmas gifts for children, kindly do so by making your contribution at the help desk or in the box which is kept outside the church for this purpose.
4. On 28th we celebrate the feast of the Holy Innocents. The 6 pm Holy Mass will be specially offered for the children of the parish, the parents are requested to bring all the children of our parish for this special Mass on that day.
5. As we celebrate the Christmas tree will be celebrated next Sunday we will have a combined mass in English and Hindi at 9.30 am followed by games in CJM School ground. Games will be conducted for the children and for the parishioners. Free lunch coupons will be given to the Catechism students of our parish. For others lunch coupons are available at Rs 50 in the Help Desk.
6. On 29th we celebrate the Holy family Feast. This year we will be honoring all the couples who got married in the 1992 onwards. We also will celebrate the couples who have completed 40 years of their marriage. All the registered members of the parish are kindly requested to register your name along with the copy of your marriage certificate in the parish office.
7. All SCC units are requested to elect the representatives of the Parish Council by the end of December.
8. Thanks to St. Francis of Assisi & Vailankanni Matha units for animating the liturgy today.
9. Next Sunday, the combined Mass will be animated by St. John Paul II and St. Francis Xavier SCC units.
10. Kindly pay your Church Support Fund regularly at the Help Desk.
11. Parish Calendars and stars are available in front of Maria Bhawan.

Fr. Lawrence PR
Parish Priest

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Ashok Place, New Delhi-110 001

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMES 2019

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	REMARK
24/12/2019	Tuesday	11:00 pm	Carol Singing by SHC Choir	St. Columba's School Ground	Entry through Church main gate/ School gate
24/12/2019	Tuesday	11:45 pm	Solemn Bilingual Christmas Vigil Mass (English & Hindi)		
25/12/2019	Wednesday	7:30 am	Malayalam (Syro-Malabar Mass)	St. Columba's School Ground	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only
		9:00 am	Solemn English Mass		
		10:30 am	Solemn Hindi Mass		
		11:30 am	Solemn English Mass		

Kindly Note:



On 25th December, there will not be any Mass in the Mass Centres. Except at 7.30 am Mass in Malayalam, 9.00 am Mass in English, 10:30 am Mass in Hindi and 11:30 am Mass in English at St. Columba's School grounds. Thereafter no Masses in the Cathedral (No mass at 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm).

Fr. Lawrence PR
Parish Priest

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEAR-2020

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
31-12-2019	Tuesday	10.45 pm to 11.45 pm	Adoration
31-12-2019	Tuesday	12.00 midnight	Thanksgiving Mass (English & Hindi)
01-01-2020	Wednesday	07.30 am	Malayalam (Syro-Malabar Mass)
		09.00 am	Solemn English Mass
		10.15 am	Solemn Hindi Mass
		11.30 am	Solemn English Mass
		06.00 pm	Solemn English Mass

Kindly Note: Kindly note that on the eve of New Year (i.e. on 31st December), we will begin the Thanksgiving adoration at 10.45 pm followed by the Solemn Holy Eucharist. The first day of the New Year being the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Masses will be as per the Sunday Schedule except the masses at 6.30 am & 4.00 pm.

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