



### Gospel Lk 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 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.

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

mtate@bigpond.com

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## WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

*St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**20 December 2020**

### First Reading 2 Sm 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 for ever."

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2**

*(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;  
or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

### Second Reading Rom 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

*Alleluia!*

**St Bridget's Parish Greythorn - Parish Directory:**  
 48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104.

**Parish Priest:**  
 Fr John Salvano  
**Assistant Priest:**  
 Fr Lenin Thenamiratham  
 (Contact the Parish Office of St Bede and St Anne on 9401 6355)  
**Priest in Residence:**  
 Fr Kevin Lenehan  
**Parish Secretary:**  
 Mario Landini  
**St Bridget Parish Contact:**  
 Phone: 9857 6395  
 Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9-3.  
 Email: [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au)  
 Web: [www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au](http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au)  
**Parish Hall Hire:**  
 Enquiries – Parish Office 9857 6395  
**Sacramental Program:**  
 Contact: Edgar D'Souza  
 0412 183 141  
**Child Safety Co-ordinator:**  
 Anne Credlin  
 (Contact via Parish Office)  
**Refugee Action Group:**  
 Chair: Robert Stewart  
 Contact via Parish Office  
**St Vincent De Paul Society**  
 President: Anne Hartley  
 Help Line 1800 305 330  
**Parish School:**  
 Principal: Robyn Thomson  
 Contact : 9857 6394  
**NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.**

**We Remember:** We pray for those who have died recently, especially Frank O'Connor, Margaret Lauritz, Patty Brettal and Mary Jendrusina; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Elisabeth Sach Thi Le, Denise Meehan, Nat and Claudia Italiano, John Howard, Susan Green and Dorothy Smith. May the Lord rejoice to lead them home.

**Parish Office:** St Bridget's Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period and will reopen on January 13, 2021. For all parish related enquiries, please call 9401 6355, the Parish Office of St Bede and St Anne, 9-1pm on Tuesday-Friday.

**Stewardship:** Your Stewardship envelopes can now be returned when attending Mass and placed in the baskets in the narthex. For convenience you may continue to do a Direct Credit Transfer to the parish accounts directly online, details are:-

- **Church Account** – for envelopes and donations; Bank NAB, BSB 083-347; Acct. No 64 341 3829 (Please include your name and if applicable your Stewardship Envelope Number for correct recording)
- **Presbytery Account** – support of the Parish Priest; Bank NAB, BSB 083-347; Acct. No 64 341 5066

**Meditation Group** will continue to meet via Zoom on Wednesday morning at 9.30am - contact Susie Hii on [susiehii.hc@gmail.com](mailto:susiehii.hc@gmail.com) for connection details.

**Scripture Reflection** Group is in recess until Sunday 24 January, 2021.

**Broadcast Mass:** We will continue to offer the broadcast Mass this weekend and for Christmas Day. Online Mass is available from 5pm Saturday, and Christmas Eve and can be accessed from either parish website [www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au](http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au) or [www.parishofstanneandstbede.org.au](http://www.parishofstanneandstbede.org.au) and follow the prompts.



*On behalf of Frs Lenin and Kevin I would like to wish all parishioners joy and peace this Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe when travelling during the holiday season, and together we pray that 2021 will bring hope, peace and joy to everyone. With every blessing, Fr John*

**Parish Survey:** Thank you to all the parishioners who responded to the recent Parish Survey. The response rate was great! Your feedback was excellent and is valued. The working group is currently valuating the feedback and will provide you with a summary shortly. A Focus Group is being planned for early February 2021 to enable parishioners to meet in a forum to discuss/clarify issues raised.

**Lector Roster:**

	Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am	Sunday @ 5.30pm
December 26 & 27	A Mariadason	V Brunton	
January 2 & 3	Margaret Stewart	B Potter	
January 9 & 10	B Shepherd	Sr P Watson	

**NOTE: Lectors please ensure that you book your attendance via Trybooking.**

**Mass and Liturgy Times at our Parishes:**

	St Bridget	St Bede	St Anne	St Joachim
<b>Tuesday Dec 22</b>		9.15am Reconciliation 7pm – 8pm		
<b>Wednesday Dec 23</b>			10.00am	
<b>Thursday Dec 24 Christmas Eve</b>	5.00pm 7.00pm 9.00pm	5.00pm 7.30pm 10.00pm	5.00pm 7.30pm 10.00pm	
<b>Friday Dec 25 Christmas Day</b>	10.00am	9.00am 11.00am	10.30am	8.30am
<b>Saturday Dec 26</b>		5.00pm		
<b>Sunday Dec 27</b>	10.00am	9.00am 11.00am	10.30am	8.30am
<b>Tuesday Dec 29</b>		9.15am		
<b>Wednesday Dec 30</b>			8.30am	
<b>Thursday Dec 31</b>		9.15am		
<b>Friday Jan 1, 2021</b>	10.00am	9.15am	8.30am	
<b>Saturday Jan 2</b>	5.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm	
<b>Sunday Jan 3</b>	10.00am	9.00am 11.00am	10.30am	8.30am

**Please note the following:**

- Reconciliation will be available at St Bede's on Thursday 22 December between 7pm – 8pm. Reconciliation is also available at St Bede's on Saturday at 9.30am (following Mass) and before Mass at St Anne's at 4.30pm and St Bridget's at 4.30pm. A booking is not required to attend Reconciliation.
- Change of Mass times for Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 December.
- The 5.30pm Sunday evening Mass at St Bridget's is in recess and will resume on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

While the DHHS limits and guidelines remain in place, bookings to attend Mass are essential. Parishioners are welcome to book for any Mass across the affiliated parishes. **Parishioners must continue to book using Trybooking** despite information to the contrary being circulated. The link will be sent out each Thursday from the Parish Office only. If you do not have the internet, then ring the parish office on Wednesday morning to be booked in. If you find that after booking you are unable to attend, please cancel so that someone else can use that place.

Based on the density limits imposed by DHHS, there is a strict limit on the number of people that can attend each Mass. Social distancing applies at all times, and no one may be admitted unless wearing a mask (except people with a medical exemption) or **without a prior booking**. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the Mass so that you have time to hand sanitise and are marked off the list as an attendee. If you are unwell, please do not attend Mass. Note, once Mass has commenced we are required to lock the doors, and cannot admit late arrivals.

Bookings for the Christmas Masses will open on Sunday at noon.

To assist with compliance, ushers and door marshals are required to monitor parishioner seating and mark parishioner names off the booking list. Please advise the Parish Office on [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au) if you can assist.

Special Ministers and Lectors are required for the Christmas Masses. Please advise the Parish Office on [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au) if you can assist.