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Parish Office Hours: 9.00am –3.00pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Year B)

18th December 2011



Fr Gerard Spillane
 66 Aitken Street
 Gisborne Vic 3437

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In Our Prayers We pray for the wellbeing of all parishioners their families and friends who are currently in ill health especially Marion Gebbie. We pray for the recently deceased, especially John Harris and Maree Leddin and also for those whose anniversary occur at this time especially, Robert Thompson, Susan McLaughlan and Norri Gardiner.



"May they rest in Peace"

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Over the last few weeks, we have had Gospels which have spoken of the one who was to come - but which have stopped short of letting us see Jesus. Today's Gospel is the same. Again we hear words of promise - that He is coming - but not yet...

The words of the angel Gabriel to Mary are among the best known and most loved in the history of the world. Some Catholics pray them daily in the Angelus. Many of us have heard them spoken by children in Nativity plays. This is often delightful - but we run the risk of losing the power of what this mighty archangel was actually announcing.

If we reflect on the prophecies that we have read over the last few weeks - and the promise of what is to come when Jesus comes again, we can begin to feel something of the significance of what is happening in the Gospel today. God has seen the plight of His people and has promised that His people will be comforted - that they will be gathered together - that His eternal Jubilee will be established. Naturally, people saw this as the God of might and power coming in glory.

Of all the kings, prophets and holy people who had waited in faithful hope for the glorious coming of the Promised one, God chose to send the angel to a young woman. The message was not proclaimed in a palace nor even the Temple in Jerusalem - but in a backwater called Nazareth.

In this encounter between the human and the divine, we see again God's capacity to confound human expectations. The words that the angel announces are rich in power and promise - "You have won God's favour - He will be the Son of the Most High - He will rule over the House of Jacob and His reign will have no end - the Holy Spirit will come upon you - and the power of the Most High will cover you..."

At this point, God entered His creation - He breathed the air we breathe - drank the water we drink - walked the earth we walk. Everything in earth became sanctified because God became human. God became incarnate in His Son, Jesus Christ - born of Mary. The world would never be the same again.

What does it mean for me?

This Gospel marks a turning point in history-reflect on the difference this encounter made to the world. © 2008 Wellspring

A Christmas prayer;

*Christ be
 ever in our minds
 and at the heart of our every thought.*

*Christ be
 ever in our eyes
 and at the heart of all we see.*

*Christ be
 ever in our ears
 and at the heart of all we hear.*

*Christ be
 ever on our lips
 and at the heart of every word we speak.*

*Christ be
 ever in our hearts
 and at the heart of all our meetings with others.*

*Christ be
 all in all of us
 and at the heart of all we do.*

*Christ be
 All in all*

A joy filled Christmas to all parishioners of St Brigid's Parish Community. Thanks to all those people who have given of their presence & giftedness over the past year. May Christ's peace reign in our hearts.

Christmas Timetable

Christmas Eve

24th Dec 7pm St Brigid's Gisborne (carols 6.30pm)
 24th Dec 9pm St Patrick's Macedon (carols 8.15pm)
 24th Dec 11pm St Brigid's Gisborne (carols 10.30pm)

Christmas Day

25th Dec 9am St Ambrose Riddells Creek
 25th Dec 10.30am St Brigid's Gisborne

New Years Day

31st Dec and 1st Jan Normal weekend Masses celebrated



In preparation for our Christmas liturgies a Communal Service of Forgiveness will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 21st December At St Brigid's Church AND Reconciliation on Thursday 22nd December Between 9.00am—10.00am

Christmas Eve Mass 24th Dec at 7pm will be an outdoor Mass, weather permitting. Please bring a chair and blanket if needed for your comfort

Departing Parishioners - We'll miss you.

Please notify the presbytery.



New Parishioners - Welcome to St Brigid's Parish.

Please register at the Parish Office.





Rosters and Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses:

6.00pm Mass: St Brigid's

Reader: Volunteers
Offertory: Chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers

9.30am Mass: St Patrick's

Readers: Volunteers
Offertory: Chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers
Children's Liturgy: No Liturgy



8.00am Mass: St Ambrose's

Welcomer: Max McMahon
Readers: Volunteers
Offertory: chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers



11.00am Mass: St Brigid's

Readers: Volunteers
Offertory: To be chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers
Children's Liturgy: No Liturgy
Flowers: Carmel Cribbes & Trish Armstrong



Counters: White Family
Please keep both sides of envelopes together.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

A group of Japanese children aged 10-16 will be visiting Victoria in Dec 2011. The organiser is the Hiroshima YMCA and the children will be attending ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Holy Cross PS. From 25th December to 2nd January (8nights).

If interested, please contact Yoshi Uemura at yoshi@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au or 0420 502 340

St Brigid's "Camino" Walk—the "Cross to Cross"

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of St Brigid's Camino Walk. (money is still coming in)

As at 13th December the total figure raised is \$6084.15

A really great effort by everyone.

Thank you from the Columban Partnership Group

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

"May Saint Vincent de Paul inspire us to do better"

This Christmas you can help by supporting Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2011

Your generous donation to the Christmas Appeal will provide a welcoming relief not only to families and individuals in need of assistance within the community but also reaching far beyond our region to support struggling families in India-Did you know The Gisborne Conference is twinned with Christ the King conference in Nedumangal (Kerala)

Your continuing support for our work is greatly appreciated.
Thank you

Donations can be made online or by mail-envelopes can be found in the porch of all churches.

Gisborne Conference

Relection for the week

**The true meaning of life is to plant trees,
Under whose shade you do not expect to sit.**

Nelson Henderson

ROSARY

We invite you to pray the Living rosary on Tuesday mornings at 11am at St Brigid's Church. Bring your personal prayer requests.

We welcome you to experience the PEACE given by this miraculous meditative prayer.

Weekday Masses: Tues 20th Dec-Friday 23rd Dec

Tues: 5.00pm
Wed: 9.15am
Thur: 8.00am
Frid: 9.15am



Reconciliation & Spiritual Direction: Saturday 9.00 - 10.00am

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2011

The Malate Medical Centre is located in a 4-storey building at the rear of Our Lady of Remedies Parish in inner-city Manila. The ground floor has recently been renovated to house the clinic and a soup kitchen. It is quite basic but clean and functional. Inside the clinic there is some short-stay accommodation for patients who are undergoing treatment. The clinic offers the following services; gynaecological, dental mental health, nutrition education and vaccinations.



On the second floor of this building there is a centre for children with cerebral palsy, down-syndrome and other disabilities. The third floor is home to a nursery school for children whose families can afford 100p(\$2.50 per month). These children are considered reasonably privileged, wear uniforms and are well behaved. The fourth floor has nursery school for street children. They are beautiful and free spirited and just want to be hugged. These children have nothing-thank god for the Columbans and their supporters. Trained volunteers from the Malate parish are on duty to make appointments for patients and to organise the clinics. Looking after the Malate parish was the first work to be taken on by the Columban Fathers in 1929 when they started their mission work in the Philippines over 80 years ago.

This information has been sourced from Janette Mentha, Director of Mission Programs; Philip King, Ferntree Gully and Kathryn Boyle, ACU Melbourne. www.columban.org.au/e-news-vol.-2-no.-2/its-better-than-no-clinic/

The Parish Columban Partnership team invite you to support this worthy venture through the Advent Giving Tree. We also wish to thank you for your recent support of our Cross to Cross Camino

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Thanksgiving

Total Amount Received \$1227.50
Total Amount Pledged \$2028.00
Presbytery Collection \$765.75



*Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.
May the Lord bless you all.*