

St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Parish



Moonah-Lutana

St Therese of Lisieux Church

In the care of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC)

Tuesday, 25th December, 2018

CHRISTMAS - YEAR C

FROM THE PASTOR

CHRISTMAS – THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE

Christmas is out of the ordinary! Christmas lifts our spirits, raises our hopes, gives us an infusion of joy. Every year it returns, and yet every year it offers us something new. It invites us to believe that all things good and positive are possible. In fact, the story tells us that the impossible is possible for people who have faith.

The Christmas story begins in Luke's gospel with the Angel Gabriel visiting Zechariah and telling him that his prayer has been heard and that his wife, Elizabeth, is going to conceive and give birth to a son. This is an impossibility because Elizabeth was barren all her life and childless, and now is well on in years and past childbearing age. Nonetheless, in spite of Zechariah's doubt and incredulity, Elizabeth does conceive and subsequently gives birth to John.

The story, which is familiar to us all, moves to the town of Nazareth where the Angel Gabriel visits Mary, a young virgin, and announces that she is to conceive and give birth to a son. She is bewildered by the announcement because she is a virgin, and the angel assures her that the power of God can and will do this, and announces that it has already been done to Elizabeth, for *nothing is impossible for God*. Mary then invites this word, this creative action of God to be done to her, and it is. The virgin gives birth to Jesus.

The emphasis in both of these instances is that the impossible becomes possible when the Spirit of God is invited in and believed in.

Last week, we were shown by Marty Ogle a video clip which displayed what he calls a "Spirit of Jesus moment" in the work he does with school students. It presents to us a young lady, Mandy Harvey, who performed on *America's Got Talent*. With her devoted father standing in the wings, she explains to the compere that she is deaf because of a neurological illness she acquired when she was eighteen. From age four until then she sang and played music, but then gave up for the next ten years. Now she has written a song called "Try". She stands barefooted on stage so she can feel the beat of the bass guitar and the keyboard..., plays the ukulele... and trusting her vocal pitch, sings. Her performance had the audience on its feet shedding tears of happiness.

At age eighteen she gave up. From age eighteen until twenty-nine she believed it impossible that she would sing again. On that night, the impossible became possible... manifested before us.

FROM THE PASTOR

Does she have a faith in God? I don't know. Was the Spirit of God at work there? Indeed it was!

Back home in Australia, it must have seemed a forlorn hope to the First Nations of this country a century ago that they would ever be treated with equal rights, that they would have the right to possess their ancestral lands of tens of thousands of years, in a country which had a legal doctrine of *terra nullius*, a term coined by Cpt James Cook. It may have seemed an impossibility. Yet, in a David and Goliath struggle for land rights, a simple gardener at James Cook University (this having an irony in itself) led a ten-year struggle which resulted, on the 3rd June 1992, in the High Court of Australia overturning that legal doctrine and establishing land rights. What once would have been impossible became possible... and manifest.

What else appears impossible in our world? Peace in the Middle East and Africa? Justice and equity among the world's peoples? The healing of a heart that has been broken? Reconciling a rupture in the family relationships?

We Christians have become somewhat used to the name, Emmanuel, meaning God Is With Us, yet the idea of the Divine One, the Creator of All That Is, being born, being human, being one of us is an impossibility to imagine, yet this is the event beyond imagining that we are celebrating. This impossibility became possible... and manifest! Thus, God is with us, not only when Christ was physically born and living among us as a man, but for all time in every person, every circumstance, every moment of joy, every time of trial, every moment of desperation.

Gerard W. Hughes wrote a book which he entitled *God of Surprises*. In short, he explains how to discern God's presence in each of our life situations. The incarnation of Christ is the extraordinary statement that God can surprise us in any moment of our lives. Whatever situation we may find ourselves in, God can resolve in an unexpected way. What is humanly impossible, God can turn on its head, and a previously unimagined possibility can present itself to us if we open our eyes of faith and trust in the unexpected.

May your eyes of faith perceive something new that the God of Surprises want to give you this Christmas. May Peace, Hope, Joy and Love be yours.

In the Heart of the Saviour
Fr Mark MSC

A Holy and Merry
Christmas 2018

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Thanh Huynh, Shirley Lehner, Susan Wilson, Josh Stokes, Lise Levaque, Mary Hughes, Drina Paradzik, Olga Woods, Jay Jennings, Tony Dalton, Elsa Bazan, Bev Murray, Kayden Edwards, Marie Morrisby, Lorna Brazendale, Leo Manning, Felicity Matthews, Marie Knight, Alicia Stroud, Will van Luxemborg, Peter van Loggerenberg, Jan Grubb, Fr Kazimierz Bojda.

Anniversaries

John B Driessen, Fredrick Harry Butler, Gilles Jacobus Stokman, Ernie McGuinness, Iris Burnett, Annie Winifred Williams, Stefan Chrost, Wladyslaw, Dorzdz, Geoffrey Brazendale, Oliver John (Jack) Baker, Herminio Gabriel, Nellie Cashion, Anna Catharina Stokman, Charles John Devereux, Eileen Hardinge, Anna Balazs, Reginald Herbert Watson, Wasyl Haluszak, Harold Vivian Halton, Jan (John) Rakowski, Susane Hansch, Jean Mary Round, Michael Duggan, Nancy Mackey, Aleksander Cisak, Pauline Sikora, Violet Monaghan, Mary Hinds, Jadwiga Wyrwa, Fr John Northey, Gladys Haley, Alicja Krawczyk, James Francis Coad, Janet Jones, Janina Sadkowski, Claude James Coad, Kathleen Mary Wood, Carol Trojan, Joshua Flack, Otto Fritz, Jadwiga Dmuchowski, Marianna Gladysz, Paul Taylor, Elizabeth Ann Rakowski, Teresita Gabriel Despacio, Fr Vincent Dwyer, Fr Patrick Moloney, Hedley Hodgetts, Richard Daniel Coad, Camden Cashion, Wilhelm Waiser, Charles Burnett, David Curtin.

Recently Deceased

Geoff Goss, Christopher Reeves, Peggy Dean.

PARISH OFFICE AND PRESBYTERY

24 Hopkins Street, Moonah

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Email: moonahlutana@aohtas.org.au

Web: <http://cdtas.org.au/moonah>

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Friday

9:00am - 5:00pm,

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Hanns MSC

Phone: 03 9412 8472

Email:

pastormoonahlutana@aohtas.org.au

Deacon: Rev Michael Hangan

Phone: 0438 243 533

Email: michael.hangan@aohtas.org.au

Polish Chaplain: Fr Kazimierz Bojda SChr

Phone: 03 9412 8429

Email:

polishchaplainmoonah@aohtas.org.au

ST THERESE'S SCHOOL

24 Hopkins Street, Moonah

Phone: 03 6272 1403

Principal: Mr Cameron Brown

Email: sttherese@catholic.tas.edu.au

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 11:00am-11:30am

BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES:

By appointment

ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITE:

www.hobart.catholic.org.au

SAFE COMMUNITIES:

<https://hobart.catholic.org.au/content/safe-communities>

TOWARDS HEALING HELPLINE:

Phone: 1800 356 613

PLENARY COUNCIL:

<http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

READINGS

24th/25th December, 2018

Christmas - Year C

FIRST READING: (Isaiah 9:1-7)

A son is given to us.

PSALM: (Psalm 95:1-3, 11-13)

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING: (Titus 2:11-14)

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Luke 2:1-14)

Today a saviour has been born for you.



READINGS/ROSTERS

29th/30th December, 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and
Joseph - Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

FIRST READING: (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28)

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent
to the Lord.

PSALM: (Psalm 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10)

How happy they who dwell in your house,
O Lord.

SECOND READING: (1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24)

He calls you his own children, and that is what
you are.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (Acts 16:14)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Luke 2:41-52)

His parents found him in the temple, sitting
among the learned men, listening to them.

MASS TIMES

Monday 24th to Sunday 30th December

2018

	English	Polish
Monday	9:15am 6:30pm (Carols 6:00pm) Midnight (Carols 11:30pm)	10:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am	10:45am
Wednesday	12:00 noon	10:00am
Thursday	9:15am	
Friday	12:00 noon	9:00am
Saturday	6:30pm	
Sunday	9:00am 4:30pm	10:45am