

47 Adelaide Street, Fremantle, WA, 6160

Basilica of St. Patrick

The Nativity of the Lord, *Year B*

Monday 25th December, 2023

Oblate Priests' at the Basilica

Fr Slawek Plonka OMI (Parish Priest & Rector)
Fr Giancarlo Iollo OMI
(Assistant Priest & Italian Chaplain)
Fr John Patrick John Mary OMI
(Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain)
Fr. Anthony Colbert OMI (Assistant Priest)

Church Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm
(Basilica Guardians Permitting)

Daily Mass & Adoration

Monday to Saturday: 11am Adoration followed by
Angelus and Midday Mass

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8am, 8.15am (St Anne's, North Fremantle),
9.30am (Italian) 11am and 5pm

Confessions

First Friday of Each Month: 11am
Saturday: 9.30am, 10.30am (Italian), 11am and
4.30pm

Parish Council Members

Marlene Dullard (Acting Chair)
Maria Gorman
Sonia La Macchia
Rob De Sousa

Parish Finance Committee

Collin Visaggio (Chair)
Trevor Gorey
Michael Piu

Basilica Parish Office

Angie Emanuele (Parish Manager)
email: parishmanager@fremantlestpatricks.org.au

Parish Office working hours

Monday to Friday (9am to 3pm)
Closed Weekends and Public Holidays

Contact

Office phone number: (08) 9335 2268
Email: parishmanager@fremantlestpatricks.org.au
Website: <http://fremantlestpatricks.org.au>

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Mary Davis 0409 115 191
Lynn Tomlinson 0424 243 224

Safeguarding of our children in the Parish

The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Project was started in 2016 by Archbishop Timothy Costello SDB with the aim of providing a safe and secure environment for all its members, leaders and especially children and vulnerable adults. The parish of St Patrick's Basilica is committed to creating a safe parish. To read more, visit <http://fremantlestpatricks.org.au/parish-safeguarding-project/>

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children. (Source Loyola Press)

Music Ministry

Organists & Cantors

Monday 8am: (cantor), Josh Adams (cantor)

Andrew Brown (organist)

11am: Choir conducted by Josh Adams, Andrew Brown (organist)

NO 5pm Evening Mass

Hymns

Mass Setting: Marty Haugen - Mass of Creation

Processional Hymn: CWB 760 O Come All Ye Faithful

Thanksgiving Hymn: CWB 697 Good Christmas All Rejoice

Recessional Hymn: CWB 728 Joy to the World

The Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 9: 5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great
counsel.

First reading Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling his people

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 97(98):1-6

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

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **Response.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **Response.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy. **Response.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **Response.**

Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

God has spoken to us through his Son

At various times in the past and in various different
ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the
prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has
spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has
appointed to inherit everything and through whom
he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of
God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature,
sustaining the universe by his powerful command;
and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin,
he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right
hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the
angels as the title which he has inherited is higher
than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son,
today I have become your father; or: I will be a father
to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the
First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of
God worship him.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word:

and the Word was with God

and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him

who was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh

or will of man

but of God himself.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our
prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the

Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting.

Amen.

Our Parish Prayer

O God, the creator and giver of all good
things, bless our Parish and

Basilica of St Patrick and the community
that worships here.

Inspire us to work together to spread your
love.

Strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit
of service so that, with your grace and the
help of Mary Immaculate and St. Eugene de
Mazenod, we may glorify you, provide for
the needs of our wider community and make
ourselves Holy.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
‘This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.’
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart,
who has made him known.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to be God Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 97: 3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Parish Notices

Christmas Offerings

Usually twice a year you are invited, as a community, to make a special effort to financially support the Priests of the Basilica. Envelopes are available in your planned giving boxes or in the pews of the Church. Your generosity is very much appreciated along with your prayers, encouragement, and blessings.

Weekend Bulletin

Please be advised that there will be no weekend bulletin printed and no ebuletin on website after Sunday 24th December until end of January. Bulletin and ebuletin will recommence the first weekend in February, 2024.

Please Note: From 26 December to 26 January 2024
Saturday Reconciliation only at 11am-12noon
and 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Prison Christmas Baking

A sincere THANK YOU! to all those who baked for the prisons this year. We had a great number of volunteers both from our parish community and also other parishes.
Unfortunately at the last minute, due to Government red tape we were unable to provide the biscuits to the Women’s Prison. But the biscuits were given to Karnet Prison Farm and they were all well received. Thank You once again for all your hard work!

Mass Intentions

Monday 25th December
8am Mass: Winnie & Jim Gilvary (dec'd)
11am Mass: Delphin Lopez Senior, Delphin Lopez Junior and Cherry Lopez (dec'd)
NO 5pm Evening Mass
Tuesday 26th December
Midday Mass: Helen Griffith (dec'd)
Wednesday 27th December
Midday Mass: Holy Souls
Thursday 28th December
Midday Mass: Josip Peranic (dec'd)
Francesca Germinario (dec'd)
Friday 29th December
Midday Mass: Pasqualina & Pietro Tempra (dec'd)
Saturday 30th December
Midday Mass: Leonardo Goncalves (dec'd)
6pm Vigil Mass:
Michael & Marie Rousset-Wayne (dec'd)

The Oblates wish to
sincerely thank you
all for your support
throughout the year
and wish all families
a very Blessed
Christmas and
Peaceful New Year.

The Basilica Parish Office will close at
Midday on Friday 22 December and will
reopen at 9am on Wednesday 3 January.

I wish all Parishioners and Friends a
very safe and Holy Christmas and New
Year. Thank you for all your support
throughout the year. God Bless!