



*A weekly lantern of grace guiding our parish through the days ahead.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

21ST DECEMBER 2025

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.



**St. Joseph and the Christ Child**

Painted by Doménikos Theotokópoulos, most widely known as El Greco (1541-1614), Painted circa 1600, Oil on canvas, © Museo de Santa Cruz, Toledo  
See art reflection here: <https://tinyurl.com/4vt4yc8z>

Source: Loyola Press

### ADVENT 2025



Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

This Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the fourth of four candles: the Candle of **LOVE**.

As we enter this sacred season, we prepare our hearts to remember Christ's coming at Christmas and the hope His presence brings to our world.

### NEXT READINGS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

#### First Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

#### Responsorial Psalm - 97:1-6

*R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

#### Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

#### Gospel Reading - John 1:1-18

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

## MASSES & MEETINGS

### Cannon Hill - St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 6:00pm; Sunday - 9:30am

### Tingalpa - Holy Family Catholic Church:

Thursday - 9:00am; Sunday - 8:00am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 5:00pm - 5:30pm - St Oliver Plunkett Church

**Prayer Intentions Prayer Group:** Every Friday at 9.30am - St Oliver Plunkett Church (exc. during Lent).

**Eucharistic Adoration:** 1st Friday of the month following 9:00am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett Church (except during Lent).

**Baptisms:** 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month held after the 9:30am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett Church. (*Welcoming Mass combined with the Baptism Mass.*)

**Little Lanterns Liturgy:** 1st Sunday of the month (except January) during the 9:30am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett Church. All primary school-aged children are welcome to attend.

**Parish Morning Tea:** 1st Sunday of the month following Mass at both Churches; Every Wednesday after 9:00am Mass in the Parish Hall.

## THIS WEEKEND..

**20 DEC - SAT:** Christmas Dinner, 6:00pm, Parish Hall.

## COMING UP...

**24 DEC - WED:** Christmas Vigil at St Oliver Plunkett, 6pm, Carols start at 5.30pm. NO 9am Mass at St Oliver Plunkett.

**25 DEC - THU:** Christmas Mass - Holy Family, 7.30am; St Oliver Plunkett, 9am.

**26 DEC - FRI:** Feast of Saint Stephen, the first martyr; Boxing Day - Public Holiday. NO 9am Mass at SOP.

**27 DEC - SAT:** Feast of Saint John, apostle, evangelist.

**28 DEC - SUN:** Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; morning tea following Mass at Holy Family.

**01 JAN - THU:** New Year's Day Mass; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 9:00am, St Oliver Plunkett Church; World Day of Prayer for Peace.

**02 JAN - FRI:** Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (Mem).

**4 JAN - SUN:** The Epiphany of the Lord.

## REGULAR MEETINGS

**MON:** Cannon Hill St Vincent de Paul Conference

Fortnightly at 6:15pm

Next meeting: **Monday, 9th February**

Contact: Paul 0418 750 367

**TUE:** Parish Leadership Team

Fortnightly at 6:00pm

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, TBA 2026**

**WED:** Parish Liturgy Meeting

Monthly at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, TBA 2026**

**THU:** Parish Finance Council Meeting

Bi-monthly at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: **Thursday, 12th February**

### Plate Collections - 14th December

1st Collection (Oblates): **\$560.55** | 2nd Collection (Parish): **\$475.20**

*Thank you for your ongoing support.*

## THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - MATT 1:18-24

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-14**

*The virgin will conceive.*

**Responsorial Psalm - 23:1-6**

*R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

**Second Reading - Romans 1:1-7**

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

**Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 1:23**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A virgin will give birth to a son;*

*his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 1:18-24**

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*



*"Hanukkah proclaims that light cannot be extinguished by darkness. Our faith, too, calls us to be a light for the world—to resist despair, to name evil truthfully, and to move together from desolation toward hope."*

Pope Leo XIV, 15th December 2025

## ARCHBISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY'S RESPONSE TO THE BONDI ATTACK

The tragic events that occurred at Bondi on Sunday (14 December) were confronting to witness and appalling to even consider. I thank those first responders and other heroes who intervened and helped in the awful scenes before them. The Catholic community in Brisbane joins with people of all faiths and cultural traditions across Australia in expressing our deepest condolences and are praying for those who are grieving and affected by this terrible attack.

## Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who have served so generously throughout 2025. Your dedication, time and commitment are deeply appreciated and play a vital role in the life of our Parish community. We thank God for each of you and pray for His continued blessings upon you and your families.

# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### OUR SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is sick and would appreciate a home visit. **We pray for those in the community who are sick. May the healing spirit of Christ bring them comfort and hope.**

Lameki Eketi, Damon Stokes; Eli Jorna, Marina Gilbert, Edgar Tan, Vincy Law Tan, Sam Swann, Athol Young, Ken Drego, Karen Marrinan, Carol-Ann Marrinan, Jeanette Hill, Lucia Giaccio, Rob Connolly, Ashley Anthony, Daniel Normyle, Jo Lorsch, Lani Clow, Carol Flannigan, Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika, Harry Lynas, Michael Simpson, John la Spina, Von Leeman, Imelda Khoo, Lorretta Stephenson, Brian Crimmins, Angela White, Mary Stevenson, Veronica Roberts, Melisa Duffy.

*Names will remain on Our Sick list until advised otherwise. Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by Thursday morning at the latest (preferably via email). Thank you.*

### ANNIVERSARIES

June Lambourne; Iris Moulden

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to all the children baptised in our Parish this year. In total, 48 children were received into our faith community. We pray that God will guide them, their families and their godparents as they walk in their journey and grow in faith.



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, we give thanks for the gift of Christ among us. May this holy season renew our hearts with hope, peace, joy and love, as we reflect on God's great gift in the birth of Jesus. We extend our warmest Christmas wishes to you and your families, and pray that the coming year may be filled with God's blessing and grace.*

Fr. Vasanthan, Norma and Ronda

## Feast of the Holy Family

On **Sunday, 28th December** we celebrate The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Following the 8.00am Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church, there will be a special morning tea. Please join us to honour the occasion

## PARISH OFFICE

### CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Parish Office will close from **2.30pm Christmas Eve** and will reopen on **Tuesday, 20th January**. Father Vasanthan will be available at all times via the Parish mobile phone on 0493 096 073.

Please note: this will be our last newsletter for the year until our return. Have a wonderful Christmas break!

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Wednesday, 24th December: Christmas Eve Vigil**  
6pm at St Oliver Plunkett - Christmas Carols at 5.30pm.

**Thursday, 25th December: Christmas Day**  
7.30am at Holy Family Church; 9am at St Oliver Plunkett

**Saturday, 27th December & Sunday, 28th December:**  
*Feast of The Holy Family, normal Mass times.*

**Thursday, 1st January: New Year's Day Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
9am at St Oliver Plunkett Church. **NB. NO 9AM MASSES ON 24TH & 26TH DEC**



## CANNON HILL CATHOLIC PARISH



### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 9.00am - 2.30pm

### ADDRESS

**St Oliver Plunkett Church & Parish Centre**

21 Beauvardia St, Cannon Hill Q 4170

### Church of the Holy Family

41 Belmont Rd, Tingalpa Q 4173  
(enter via 56 Palgrave St)

### CONTACT

**Phone: (07) 3853 7490 (NEW)**

Mobile: 0493 096 073 (after hours)

WhatsApp: 0493 096 073

### EMAIL

cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au

### WEBSITE

www.cannonhillparish.org.au

### FACEBOOK

Cannon Hill Catholic Parish

### PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest:** Fr Vasanthan Anthonipillai  
OMI [pp.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pp.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Norma Martiri  
[cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Administration Support:** Ronda Vorrasi  
[sc.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.cannonhill@bne.catholic.net.au) (NEW)

**Local Safeguarding Rep:** Ronda Vorrasi  
Mobile: 0494 166 815

### Parish Leadership Team:

Sachin Rasquinha, Ronda Vorrasi, Guy Elliot, Aaron Tippetts, Michael Hill



MISSIONARY  
OBLATES  
of MARY IMMACULATE

From the moment the Oblates arrived in Fremantle in 1894, they have dedicated themselves to the mission of the Church in Australia. They dedicate themselves to serving the poor in parishes, schools, prisons, among the youth and with those on the streets. The Oblates preach Christ to the poor and the most abandoned and have served them in Australia for more than 100 years.

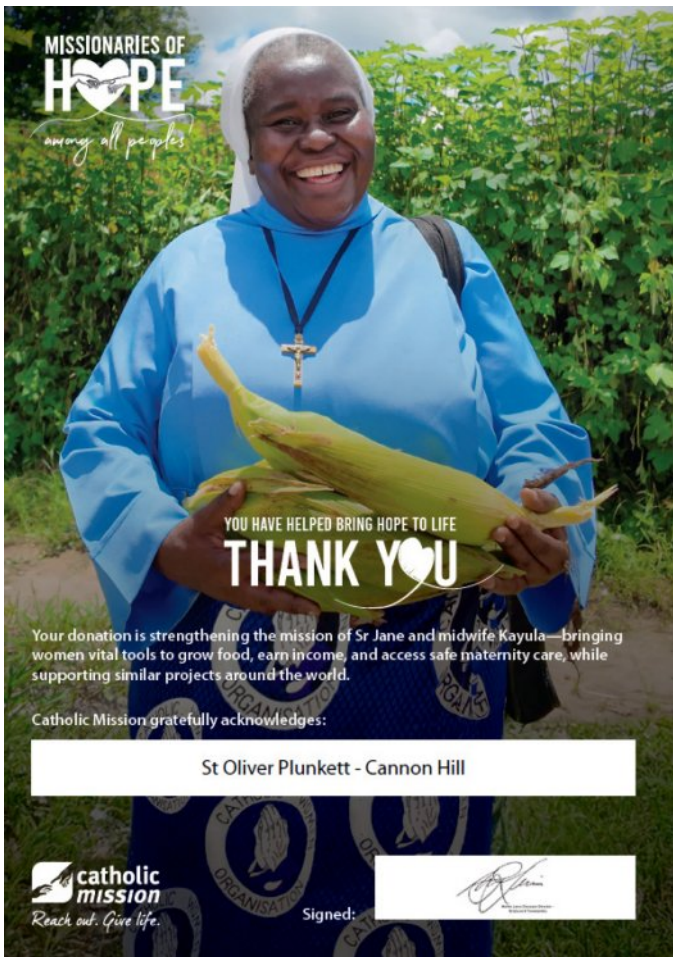
To learn more go to [www.omi.com.au](http://www.omi.com.au)

### DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Thank you for your generous support, which impacts the lives of those we serve. Your donations directly foster the growth and prosperity of our community and sustain our ministries. Donations can be made via the EFTPOS terminal at the church entrance (split between 1st and 2nd collections) or through our secure online direct debit system (call the Parish Office to organise). Please consider including our *Perpetual Endowment Fund* in your Will to help continue our mission for future generations. For more Bequest info. contact the Catholic Foundation on 3324 3200 or call the Parish Office. Donate using the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/parish-donate>



# OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS



**MISSIONARIES OF HOPE**  
among all peoples

YOU HAVE HELPED BRING HOPE TO LIFE  
**THANK YOU**

Your donation is strengthening the mission of Sr Jane and midwife Kayula—bringing women vital tools to grow food, earn income, and access safe maternity care, while supporting similar projects around the world.

Catholic Mission gratefully acknowledges:

St Oliver Plunkett - Cannon Hill

**catholic mission**  
Reach out. Give life.

Signed: [Signature]

**KENYA MISSION** - Paul Vorrasi is seeking monetary donations for his mission trip to Kenya next month to make up for the shortfall. If you are able to help, please contact the parish office or contact Paul directly on 0412 852 111. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Let's keep in touch in 2026

If you have not already done so, please register in Flocknote to connect with the parish and receive important updates. Your information is kept secure and private.

[www.cannonhillparish.flocknote.com/register](http://www.cannonhillparish.flocknote.com/register)



## St. Thomas Parish – Sacramental Coordinator Position

St. Thomas Parish is seeking a dedicated Sacramental Coordinator to join our parish team. This important role supports the faith journey of children, families, and parishioners by coordinating the preparation and celebration of the sacraments, including Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Interested in this role?

Please apply through the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yw479bak>



**HEARTS FOR MISSION APPEAL**

**TURN FAITH INTO ACTION**

We invite you to make a difference to our Missions which provide food, shelter and education to communities in need.

**WEBSITE**  
[QR Code]  
[bit.ly/mamiomi](http://bit.ly/mamiomi)

**SIGN UP TO NEWSLETTER**  
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[bit.ly/MAMnewsletter](http://bit.ly/MAMnewsletter)

**MAKE A CONTRIBUTION**  
[QR Code]  
[bit.ly/mamidonate](http://bit.ly/mamidonate)

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate  
(03) 9805 8888  
[mami@oblates.com.au](mailto:mami@oblates.com.au)

See Ronda or Norma for Free Tickets!



**DAVID**

ONLY IN CINEMAS

Beyond the giant's shadow, the shepherd boy embarks on a journey to show his people that true power lies not in kingship, but in faith and freedom. In Cinemas on 15th January 2025.

ANGEL  
[angel.com/david](http://angel.com/david)