

# ST BONIFACE CATHOLIC PARISH, TOOTING



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Priests: Fr Shaju Varkey & Canon John O'Toole

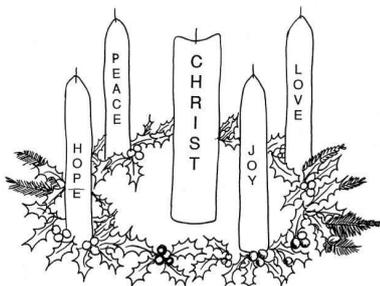
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

**SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2018**

*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?  
(Luke 1: 43)*



Christmas is upon us: yet are we ready? Christmas we are told is a time for fun, a time for peace, and time for rejoicing. Yet for many of us it is a time of stress and extra work to get done every-thing that needs to be done. A time when we are fearful that the children won't be disappointed or that there won't be tension in relationships or there won't be a breakdown in the ceasefire with the in-laws. And on top of all this there is a feeling of guilt for feeling like this when we should be rejoicing. So we can look on our meal this morning as time-out from all this stress. Jesus comes to us because he loves us, not because we have worked to bring him here or are ready for him. He comes among us now and offers us rest and forgiveness and peace. He invites us to share his table, the table he has prepared for us, and to rejoice and relax at that table, for it is the table of his love. Elizabeth was able to recognise Mary's child as her Lord. Soon that joyous greeting to Mary will be ours too as we hail the new-born Christ child. We are called to bring Christ into our world this Christmas by the way we treat our family, friends and neighbours, so that through us others may come to believe that God's promise will be fulfilled



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## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

*A reading from the Prophet Micah 5:1-4*

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

*The word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

## SECOND READING

### *A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.*

*You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,*

*just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,*

*'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

*The word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. *Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:39-44**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

*The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; Through him all things were made.✠For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit (all bow) *was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.**

*May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

*ry*

### **SANCTUS:**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

### **THE MYSTERY OF FAITH.**

*Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.*

### **COMMUNION RITE**

**Deliver us, Lord, we pray...**

*For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever*

### **Behold the Lamb of God...**

*Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

## PARISH INFORMATION, FAITH NEWS & MISSION

### FIRST CHRISTMAS MASS 2018 & NATIVITY PLAY:

The first Christmas Mass this year will be at **4pm** on Monday **24th DECEMBER** ideally for children, who will act out the gospel of the day. Children are most welcome to dress as shepherds, angels or kings.



**CAROLS THIS YEAR:** Please join the parish for carols at 11.15pm on 24th December followed by midnight Mass. You all are invited to the parish hall after the midnight Mass for a glass of champagne to celebrate Christmas.



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE:** Your Christmas Offering is your personal Christmas gift to the priests and seminarian who serve you and not a parish collection. If you have a Gift Aid number, please use the Christmas Offering envelope and write your number on it. If you are not in the Gift Aid scheme and you pay tax, please write your name and address, so that in addition to what you give, the Parish can claim 25% from the taxman as gift aid. Last year we received almost £750 in Gift Aid on Christmas Offerings and this paid for two months of the electricity bill for our Church. The Christmas offering envelopes are available from the Church porch. Many thanks.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS:** The Children's Choir have been rehearsing to sing at the **Parish Christmas Carol Service and Children's Mass on Christmas Eve**. The last rehearsal will take place in the church from **4pm - 5pm** on **SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER**.

**BLESSING OF PARISH HALLS:** A Big Thank you for your support and presence for the blessing last Sunday.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** The Raffle draw will be on this Sunday 23rd December after the 12pm Mass. Please return the counterfoils with the money by 12:00 THIS SUNDAY.

**NEW YEAR THANKSGIVING SERVICE & MASS:** We, as a Parish will come together and spend time in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings each one of us and our families have received in 2018. The Thanksgiving Service will begin at 11pm on Monday 31st December and we begin the New Year with the Lord in the Mass at midnight followed by New Year's celebration in the hall.



### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME



First Mass of Christmas: Mon 24th at 4pm

Christmas Vigil Mass: Mon 24th at 6pm

Carols & Midnight Mass: Carols at 11.15pm followed by Mass at midnight.

Christmas Day: Tue 25th 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon.



**LAST WEEKDAY MASS IN 2018:** The last weekday Mass in 2018 at 6.30pm on Monday 31st December will be a special Mass for all the dearly departed in 2018 in our family and amongst our friends. During the Mass the names of your loved ones who died this year will be read out. If you wish to their name(s) to be included please write on the labelled sheet in the Church porch.

**PRESBYTERY AND PARISH HALL RENOVATION FUND:** *Last weekend we received £1,078 and so far we have raised £24,098.37.*

**SIMBANG GABI:** (Filipino for "Night Mass") is a devotional nine-day series of Masses practised by Roman Catholics in the Philippines in anticipation of Christmas. There will be Simbang Gabi Masses in our church from the 16th-24th DEC at 6.30pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

**PARISH OPEN HOUSE:** Due to Fr Shaju being on his own, until further notice the Parish Open House on Fridays will be from 4.30pm-6pm. The next Open House is **Friday 28th December. No appointment needed.**

**9am SUNDAY CHOIR:** Anyone wishing to join this choir will be most welcome and no audition required!

**COFFEE IN THE GARDEN:** please come and join the Parish for a cup of tea/coffee after Sunday morning masses in the marquee in the garden. It is a time to introduce ourselves to other members of the parish family. Tea/Coffee is free.

**CHILDRENS' LITURGY:** at the beginning of 10.30am Mass on Sunday, all children, 5-10 years are requested to come forward towards the Sanctuary to join for the liturgy procession to join for the Children's Liturgy.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Thank you very much to those people who have volunteered to clean the Church on Mondays. Please do not forget about your duty according to the Rota. This Monday is week 4(Team 4) at 10am.

Monday 31st December – New Year's Eve the Church cleaning will take place at 10am and not 7pm

**NEED TO SEE A PRIEST:** If you need to see a priest to sign a school supplementary form, discuss about baptism or a wedding or a private matter, please come to the **Parish Open House.**

*For all those who are celebrating their birthday this week the Parish wishes you a Happy Birthday and we join you to give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of life to you & you a special gift to us. The Parish also wishes every blessing to all the couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversary this week.*

**Wish you all a Blessed Week!**



**TO BAPTISE A BABY:** before filling a baptismal application form, please first discuss with a priest at the Parish Open House held on Fridays from 6pm – 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE:** Next course will be on Monday 31st December at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** For any person admitted in St George's Hospital and who would like to see a priest, please contact Fr Mark Higgins, the hospital chaplain on 020 8725 3069. In an emergency, please ask the ward staff to contact the Catholic priest on call.

### PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers all those on our parish prayer list.

**The Sick:** Marie D'Silva, Nilojan Mariyathas, Jill Hart, Betty Joyce, Tony Hardy, Esther Daley, Clifford Tetteh, Norman Mendonca, Irene Mendonca, Julianna Hayfron, Nino Abel, Albert Folvi, Terence Rodrigues, Marciana Tangcay, Geoff Blwyddin Helena O'Connor, Cecil Adams, Pat Nolan, Pauline Kearney, Tony & Lenna McCormick, Victoria & Kwesi Yankson, Christina Wood, James & Norah Bolger, Anne Scanlon, Fortunata D'Souza, Nigel Searle, Raj Antonpillai.

**Recently Deceased:** Nora DOHERTY, Mary PROSPERE, Sandra MOORE, Raymond D'SOUZA, Gloria GUILLEN and Marlo LUNA.

**Anniversaries:** Thomas Crowley, Agnes Grace, William Chambers, Anni Egan, John Blackburne, James Ryan, Kathleen Boland, Baby Evie Rose-Cook, Patrick Doherty, Mary Guilfoyle, Mary Garratty, Lydia Garratty, Henrietta George, Alain Munyangabe, John Dempsey, Solomon Joseph, Patricia Christmas, Joseph Peters, Florence Prendergast, Mary Walsh, Rose Blackburne, Catherine McGurk, Margaret Henry, Hillary Prospere, Wanita Crowl. **May they rest in peace – Amen.**

	22nd & 23rd December	29th & 30th December
	<b>LITURGICAL READERS (please collect a copy of the rota)</b>	
Sat18.30	Ethna Power, Matchel Bibat	Merciél Austria, Nancy Biney
09.00	Luiza Lobo, Pat Willis	Barrie Ellis-Daley, Rexon Rebidelmo
10.30	Ada Ikpoh, Rose Adroa	Lola Lawrence, Anita Bennett
12.00	Mathewson Matthews, Callum Fernandez	Tess Vallo, Ann Mary Kuriakose
18.30	Susan Daniel, Ivon Kandiah	Michael Lobo, Emie Roberts
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS (please collect a copy of the rota)</b>	
Sat18.30	Lucinda & Matthew D'Souza, Ethna Power	Juliana De Souza, Ethna Power, Michael Soupraya
09.00	Mary Donoghue, Pat Willis, Monique Sinfailam	Kuriakose Antony, Pat Connors, Angus Xavier
10.30	Carina Jualo, Isabella Mitchell, Kasia Zuzewicz	Ann Lusena, Skirkanth Lusena, Therese Onyebalu
12.00	Neves D'Souza, Tharma Kandiah, Nellie De Los Santos	Angelo Aningalan, David Lobo, Rosemary Kanagaratnam
18.30	Barrie Ellis-Daley, Agnes Babu, Juliana De Souza	Reya Mathai, Isabella Mitchell, Daisy Jhugroo
Church Cleaning:	Wk4: Mon 24th Dec @ 10am	Wk5: Mon 31st Dec @ 10am
Coffee Morning:	Marquee in the Garden	Marquee in the Garden

## **OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Collection last weekend was **£2,247.44** [Loose plate 47%; Gift Aid 53%]

Thank you for your generosity



Sunday 23rd December <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)</b>	09.00 10.30 12.00 18.30	Michael Horan RIP A Manuel Magno Soriano Mr & Mrs Zerafa RIP Mr & Mrs Birch RIP
Monday 24th December <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  <b>Feria</b>	09.30 16.00 18.00 23.15 00.00	Mr & Mrs Cronin RIP <b>First Mass of Christmas (for children)</b> <b>Christmas Vigil Mass</b> <b>Carol Service</b> <b>Midnight Mass: The Rantac Family</b>
Tuesday 25th December <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	09.00 10.30 12.00	Antonio, Caetano & Teresa D'Souza Bernard Gomes RIP Peter O'Donovan RIP
Wednesday 26th December <b>St Stephen</b>	09.30 18:30	Thanksgiving The Bennet Family Bryner & Bria Intentions
Thursday 27th December <b>St John</b>	09.30 18.30	People of the Parish Peter Fitzpatrick Intentions
Friday 28th December <b>The Holy Innocents</b>	09.30 12.00 18.30	Jean Halford RIP <b>Funeral: NORA DOHERTY</b> Patrick & Eileen Moriarty RIP
Saturday 29th December <b>St Thomas of Canterbury</b>	09.30 18.30	Hillary Prosper RIP Beena Patel
Sunday 30th December <b>THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH (Year C)</b>	09.00 10.30 12.00 18.30	Siva Subramanyan / W Ladyslaw RIP Rui Rodrigues Birthday Intentions Kate Neville RIP Patrick & Ellen Creedon RIP

<p><b><u>Monday 24th December</u></b> Padre Pio Group (Closed until 14 Jan 19)</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday 25th December</u></b> Charismatic Prayer Group (Closed until 8 Jan19)</p> <p><b><u>Wednesday 26th December</u></b> Rosary Prayer Group (Closed until the 9 Jan 19)</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday 27th December</u></b> <b>Knit &amp; Natter Group</b> (3pm Parish Meeting Room) <b>Legion of Mary</b> (7.15pm Parish Meeting Room) <b>Tamil Mass</b> (7.30pm Church)</p> <p><b><u>Friday 28th December</u></b> 50+ Club (Closed )</p> <p><b><u>Parish Open House</u></b> (4.30pm – 6.00pm in the Presbytery until further notice)</p>
<p><b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> Sat: 11.30am – 12.30pm</p>	

<p><b>Adoration &amp; Morning Prayer</b> Monday - Saturday: 8.45am <b>Holy Hour on First Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Novena to St Anthony</b> Tuesday: 10am <b>Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> Friday: 10am</p>	<p><b>Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</b> Saturday: 10am</p>
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