



OUR LADY OF REPARATION RC CHURCH (ST MARY'S)

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Fr Patrick Feyisetan (Parish Priest)

Fr Michael Etuka (Assistant Priest)

Fr Sylvester Oyeka, CSSp (Assistant Priest)

Revd. Vincent Morrison (Deacon)

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: 7:00pm (Saturday); 8am, 9:15am; 10:45am; 12:15pm, 3:00pm & 6:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES: 10am; 12:10pm & 6.45pm Saturday: 10am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Wednesday 12:45pm – 6:30pm; Sat.10:45am – 12noon; Sun. 4pm-5.30pm

CONFESSION: Saturday from 10:30-11:30am; 6pm and at call. **ROSARY:** 11.30am (Monday—Friday)

PARISH SURGERY: Every Tuesday and Friday: 9:00am to 12:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:30pm



ENTRANCE: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he; for mighty dread
had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour who is Christ the Lord
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace,
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease"

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.

Collect

O God, who gladden us year by year
as we wait in hope for our redemption,
grant that, just as we joyfully welcome
your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer,
we may also merit to face him confidently
when he comes again as our Judge.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

First reading**Isaiah 62:1-5**

About Zion I will not be silent,
 about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
 until her integrity shines out like the dawn
 and her salvation flames like a torch.
 The nations then will see your integrity,
 all the kings your glory,
 and you will be called by a new name,
 one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
 You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
 a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
 no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
 nor your land 'Abandoned',
 but you shall be called 'My Delight'
 and your land 'The Wedded';
 for the Lord takes delight in you
 and your land will have its wedding.
 Like a young man marrying a virgin,
 so will the one who built you wed you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
 so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.**Responsorial Psalm Ps. 88(89):4-5,16-17,27,29****R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn to David my servant:
 I will establish your dynasty for ever
 and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
 who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
 who find their joy every day in your name,
 who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R.**

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
 my God, the rock who saves me."
 I will keep my love for him always;
 with him my covenant shall endure.' **R.**

Second reading**Acts 13:16-17, 22-25**

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal.'"

The word of the Lord.**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Tomorrow there will be an end
 to the sin of the world
 and the saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!**Gospel****Matthew 1:1-25**

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David,
 son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
 Isaac the father of Jacob,
 Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,
 Tamar being their mother,
 Perez was the father of Hezron,
 Hezron the father of Ram,
 Ram was the father of Amminadab,
 Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
 Nahshon the father of Salmon,
 Salmon was the father of Boaz,
 Rahab being his mother,
 Boaz was the father of Obed,
 Ruth being his mother,
 Obed was the father of Jesse;
 and Jesse was the father of King David.
 David was the father of Solomon,
 whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,
 Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
 Abijah the father of Asa,
 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,
 Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
 Joram the father of Azariah,
 Azariah was the father of Jotham,
 Jotham the father of Ahaz,
 Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,
 Manasseh the father of Amon,
 Amon the father of Josiah;
 and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah
 and his brothers.

Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:

Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,
 Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
 Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,
 Abiud the father of Eliakim,
 Eliakim the father of Azor,
 Azor was the father of Zadok,
 Zadok the father of Achim,
 Achim the father of Eliud,
 Eliud was the father of Eleazar,
 Eleazar the father of Matthan,
 Matthan the father of Jacob;
 and Jacob was the father of Joseph
 the husband of Mary;

of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

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 and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

Homily

The 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.

(let us kneel)

*For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary
and became man.*

(let us stand)

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.

OFFERTORY: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
come, greet the infant Lord,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
the Virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

COMMUNION: AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in Heavenly peace!
sleep in Heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, Love's pure light
radiant, beams from Thy Holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

RECESSIONAL: O LITTLE TOWN

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,

and peace to men on earth,
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels
keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night waits, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
descend to us, we pray
cast out our sin and enter in
be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
our Lord Emmanuel

PARISH PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Beloved people of God, here we are again celebrating Christmas, that wonderful season of grace when everyone aligns with the festive mood the season brings to share joy and gifts as we make merriment, eat and drink in the blistering winter weather. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, the Son of the eternal Father who was born in time for us, sharing in our humanity through the mystery of his incarnation, to enable us to participate fully in the life of God.

The coming of Jesus the anointed of God was foretold by the prophets. Every year the season of Advent enables us to listen again and ponder on the various oracles proclaiming the coming in distant future of the Star of Jacob whose entry into our world would usher an era of peace, justice, and love, leading to the joy of redemption. The baby born at Bethlehem reconciles God and sinful humanity, restoring what was lost at Eden through his self-giving sacrificial death and his glorious resurrection. He sets us free still through the ministering of healing graces to us in the Sacraments of the Church. What shall we give to him who has done so much for us as we recall his first coming into our world and as we prepare for his eventual return?

Our celebration of Jesus' birthday calls for sober reflection amidst the noises, difficulties, disappointments, insufficiencies, strife, and sufferings experienced daily. This year has been particularly difficult for many families. Austerity is biting hard. More people lose their jobs and livelihood daily. The lyrics of Sr Miriam Therese Winter's (b 1938) Christ, Come Quickly comes to mind: 'the sick go unattended, death deals a heavy hand, the dreams of men are empty, their cup of sorrow full.' These daily realities that are a global phenomenon are created and fuelled by our selfishness and lack of sensitivity towards the needs of peoples. Migrants still die at sea; the blows of the pandemic remain unhealed; nations are in turmoil; Ukraine is in darkness caused by war; my beloved Africa and many nations under the siege of heartless individuals who steal the commonwealth and leave nothing for the commoners; politicians are creating ideologies devoid of compassion and lacking human façade, and hopelessness becomes the air that is breathe by all. Yet we must not become despondent for our pondering on the mysteries of Christmas should make us recourse to Jesus to restore the light of hope that this hardship of the present time shall not go on forever.

This is what Christmas does! It restores hope and recreates in us the beauty and joy of knowing, loving, and serving Jesus. This message must not fly past us. It must sink into us as we make a pledge to make the world a better place and create in us the consciousness to make recourse to God in thanksgiving for the gift of his beloved Son to us as we pledge to be as selfless as Jesus the heaven-born Prince of Peace and the son of righteousness who brings light and life to all. That is the essence of Christmas, and Christmas is the reason why we are Christians. May our celebration this year and indeed our daily living of the Gospel of Jesus make us light and make us shine enough to dispel all that challenges peace, justice, harmony, hope and love in our world.

Have a blessed Christmas and a New Year ahead filled with God's refreshing graces.

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**Our parish office has closed for
Christmas to re-open on Wednesday
4th of January 2023.**