



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



MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRANCE: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;

Jesu, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!

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 wonderfully created the dignity
of human nature and still more wonderfully restored
it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity
of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our
Humanity.

First reading **Isaiah 52:7-10**
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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 95(98):1-6

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

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

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. **R.**

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

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. **R.**

Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6

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 every-
thing 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 com-
mand; 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 an-
gels as the title which he has inherited is higher than
their own name.

God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, to-
day 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.

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

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 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.

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.

Prayer of the Faithful

OFFERTORY: 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

COMMUNION: 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.

INFANT LOWLY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new,
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.

Christ the babe was born for you.
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.

RECESSIONAL: HARK THE HERALD

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

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.**