



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



BLESSING OF THE CRIB: COME TO THE MANGER

*Come, come, come to the manger
children come to the children's King
Sing, sing chorus of Angels
stars of morning o' ver Bethlehem sing*

He lies 'mid the beasts of the stall
who is Maker and Lord of us all;
the wintry wind blows cold and dreary,
see, he weeps, the world is weary;
Lord, have pity and mercy on me!

He leaves all his glory behind
to be born and to die for mankind.
With grateful beasts his cradle chooses,
thankless man his love refuses;
Lord, have pity and mercy on me!

To the manger of Bethlehem come,
to the Saviour Emmanuel's home;
the heav'nly hosts above are singing
set the Christmas bells a-ringing;
Lord, have pity and mercy on me!

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.

First reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy
when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt,
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 95(96):1-3,11-13

**R. Today a saviour has been born to us:
he is Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,

let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

Second reading

Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us,
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed.
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ that little child.

He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all.
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour Holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
When, like stars, His children crowned
All in white, shall wait around.

COMMUNION:

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

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: 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.