



Welcome to

Noarlunga/Seaford Catholic Parish

St Luke's, Noarlunga and SCC, Seaford

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

Vol 11 : No 04

NOARLUNGA/SEAFORD CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE

Cnr Goldsmith Drive and Honeypot Rd, (PO Box 406) NOARLUNGA, SA 5168 Phone: 8382 1717

(Please leave a message outside office hours and we will get back to you as soon as we can)

Email: nswcp@tpg.com.au

Web: www.noarlunga-seafordparish.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
10.00am - 3.00pm

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

• PARISH PRIEST

Fr Josy Sebastian - (8382 1717; in an emergency 0452 524 169; jponnambal@gmail.com)

• ASSISTANT PRIEST

Fr Dominick Okwadha (8382 1717; okwadha@yahoo.com)

• PARISH MANAGER NEWSLETTER

Mrs Toni Fishlock - 0417 801 241; fishlock11@tpg.com.au

(Please submit newsletter items to the Parish Office by 11.30am each Wednesday)

• SEAFORD

Sr Bernie Sontrop SGS – SCC
(Catholic Community Coordinator - 0400 035 462)

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159

REGULAR WEEKEND MASSES

• SATURDAY EVENING

6.00pm - St Luke's, Noarlunga

• SUNDAYS

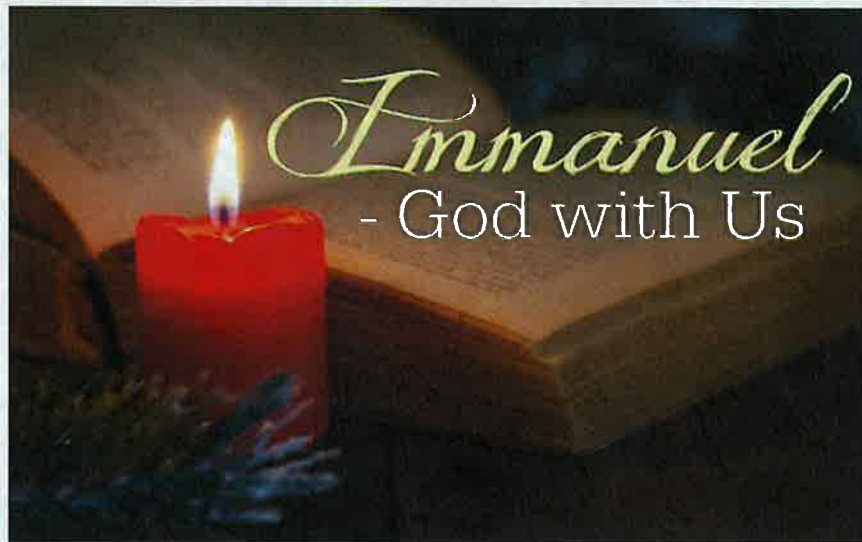
9.00am - St Luke's, Noarlunga

10.45am - SCC, Seaford

11.00am - 1st Sun - St Luke's: Spanish

2.00pm - 2nd Sun - St Luke's: Filipino

5.30pm - St Luke's: Youth Mass



FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23:1-6

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

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it

is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel"
God-is-with-us. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

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,

(Continued page 4)

Baptism of Infants: 8382 1717

Children's Faith Formation

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Each Saturday 9.00am - 9.30am and
Half an hour before all weekend masses

Pastoral Coordinator:

Gabrielle Byrne 0422 804 579

Child Safe Contact Person:

Nicoline Henderson

0404 297 930

Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council:

Dr Paul Rijken

Chairperson Liturgy Group:

Margaret Burns

Parish Schools and Colleges:

St John the Apostle 8382 2064

Principal - Ms Lee-Anne Johansen

All Saints 83270020

Principal - Mrs Liz Keogh

Cardijn College 8392 9500

Acting Principal - Mr Patrick Harmer

Heads of Campus:

Cardijn College—Mr Wade Champion

Galilee—Mr Nick Wright 8557 9000

Marcellin—Mr Gianni Petrucci

Church Cleaning

8 Jan:

Cleaning: Lyn Finkers

Vacuuming:

Finances 10/11 Dec :

1st Collection \$3620

Support for Archdiocesan Priests

2nd Collection \$426 (28envelopes)

Open Plate \$2636

Thank you for your ongoing support and
commitment to the community.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

10.00am—3.00pm

Tuesday—Friday 23 Dec

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will close at 1.00pm on
Friday 23 December and reopen at
10.00am on Tuesday 24 January. There
will be no newsletter during this time.
Newsletters will resume on the weekend
of 28/29 January.

For any emergencies please contact
Fr Josy 0452 524 169 or
Toni Fishlock 0417 801 241.

Noticeboard:

**CHANGES TO COVID RULES ARE LISTED ON THE BACK OF
THIS NEWSLETTER.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION

This week we are asked to look beyond what seems 'reasonable' and step into the realm of faith: Is it possible that this child could be the Son of God? Can someone who has been crucified be raised from the dead? Can someone who has been a fierce persecutor of Christians become an apostle? Under normal circumstances, the answer to each of these questions would be 'No'. However, as we read the words of Isaiah and Paul and Matthew, we notice something very interesting: in each case it is God who offers to us what seems impossible in human terms. What we would not dare to ask for is given without reserve, because God always acts from love. What God asks for in return is faith and trust. As Mary and Joseph, St Paul and so many Christians throughout history have discovered: God's love combined with our faith opens up so many possibilities!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

**2023 Calendars \$8 Christmas Cards \$5
available after all Masses.**

**Anyone requiring a food hamper for Christmas please contact St Vinnies
1300 729 202 and leave your details.**

**ST LUKE'S MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM—
CAROL NIGHT THANKS**

A huge thank you to all the parishioners, family and friends who came along to the Carols By Candlelight held on Sunday 4 December. It was a wonderful event, made truly special by everyone who sang along, generously donated time and money, braved the cold weather and got into the Christmas Spirit.

We raised \$650 towards the new sound system—what a great achievement!

Thank you all!

Merry Christmas from all the St Luke's Ministry Team.



We welcome into our faith community

Atlas Viray

Astrid Mangubat

Elijah Matthew Harris

Charisma Harding

Archie Bennett

who were baptised during the month of December.

We wish them and their families God's richest blessings.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
ST LUKE'S CHURCH - NOARLUNGA
CANCELLED 22 DECEMBER—
WILL RECOMMENCE 29 DECEMBER**

Pray for the healing of: Angela Young, Catherine Kelley, Alex MacDonald, William Tanti, Gentile Monardo, Gerry Rice, Suzanne Pearce, Joan Lavender, John Stanley, Gene Field, Pauline Gilbert, Pat & Jack Vaughan, Astrid Houareau, David Healey, Noorline Zerah, Damian Mihalovic, Cate Lavelle, Alison Pyne,



Deceased: Silvestar Rokov

Anniversaries:

We keep in mind and our prayers those who have died and those who grieve.

(Names will remain on the Prayer for Healing list for one month).

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

If you are available to be a Reader or Welcomer from Christmas weekend till 29 January please write your name on the sheets on the information desk. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS TIMES

Christmas Eve—Saturday 24 December

St Luke's	6.00pm	SCC	7.30pm
Carols	11.20pm		
	MIDNIGHT		

Christmas Day—Sunday 25 December

St Luke's 9.00am

**2nd FORM OF THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION
FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER at ST LUKE'S—7.00PM**

**MIDNIGHT MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT
ST LUKE'S FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY**



Cleaners are urgently needed at St Luke's for Church cleaning. If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office on 8382 1717.

POLISH SPEAKING PERSON

A Volunteer is needed to visit a lady in a nursing home. If you are able to help please contact Gabrielle in the Parish Office.

CRAFT CHRISTMAS RAFFLE RESULTS

1st	Jane Van Vliet	2nd	Yvonne Bennett
3rd	Marg Burns	4th	Maria Nolan
5th	Jenni Leggett	6th	Jill Mahoney
7th	Breda Robinson		

Thank you to all who supported the raffle, we raised \$417.50.

WHAT'S ON

Mon	19 Dec	Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's
Tues	20 Dec	Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's
Wed	21 Dec	Mass at 9.15am—SCC Mass at 7.30pm—St Luke's
Thurs	22 Dec	Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's Rosary at 6.45pm—St Luke's
Fri	23 Dec	Rosary at 9.30am—St Luke's Mass 10.00am—St Luke's Reconciliation at 7.00pm—St Luke's
Sat	24 Dec	Mass at 6.00pm—St Luke's Mass at 7.30pm—SCC Carols at 11.20pm—St Luke's
Sun	25 Dec	The Nativity of the Lord Midnight Mass—St Luke's Mass at 9.00am—St Luke's

CHRISTMAS DAY APPEAL FOR ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY

The Otherway Centre is the home of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) and the cultural hub of Centacare. Money raised from the Christmas Day Appeal helps fund activities that bring the community together and provide vital healing and yarning opportunities to strengthen cultural and spiritual connections. Located at Stepany, the Centre has been supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community for more than 30 years.

SEAFORD CHRISTIAN CHURCHES NEWS

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the SCC Christmas appeal. With the generous contributions of All Saints school and the SCC Community we have been able to bring some Christmas joy to 60 families in the local community in Seaford and beyond. We pray for God's blessing on all as you celebrate the birth of Jesus with family and friends.

SCC ECUMENICAL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DAY

School age children are invited to participate in a variety of Christmas activities including reflection on the Christmas Story, Christmas craft, and games on

Tuesday 20 December 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

To assist with preparation and catering, please complete the registration form available at the back of the worship space asap. Registration closes Friday 16 December.

If any adults would like to assist, please let Sr Bernie know.

SCC ECUMENICAL ADVENT RECONCILIATION TAIZE SERVICE

All are invited to the Reconciliation Taize Prayer Service in preparation for Christmas, **11.00 am Wednesday 21 December** in the Large Worship Space.

COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS

(Current from 15/12/22)



- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 please follow the instructions as per SA Health in terms of contact tracing and isolating yourself as per government health protocols. Please stay home and do not attend church services until you have fully recovered.
- Wearing of face-masks in Church is strongly recommended.
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are requested to stay home and not attend services.
- Hand sanitiser is available at church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands. Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches.
- Procession of gifts has resumed.
- Collection plates are to be passed around with minimum contact

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is the main protagonist in the infancy narrative, while Luke's story of the birth of Jesus centres on Mary and her response.
- There are significant differences between the two accounts, which can be understood as reflecting the particular theological perspective of each author and the way each seeks to point to the identity of Jesus and address the concerns of his own community.
- Did you notice that there is no stable or manger in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth? Jesus is born at the home of Joseph and Mary, who live in Bethlehem.

FOURTH CANDLE

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of HOPE, PEACE and JOY.

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE.

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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.

GOD IS WITH US

All four candles on the Advent wreath are brightly shining. The anticipation for Christmas is growing more intense. As the shopping centres get busier, the parties become more frequent, and the carols are sung louder and louder, how do we stay grounded in the quiet waiting of this season?

One way to stay centred in the spirit of Advent is to reflect on a single word: Emmanuel, which literally means "God with us". In one night, in one small child, in a humble stable, God came among all people in the most intimate way possible – as one of us. God, right here in our midst!

Emmanuel in our joy.
Emmanuel in our suffering.
Emmanuel in our celebration.
Emmanuel in our loneliness.
Emmanuel in our song.
Emmanuel in our silence.
Emmanuel in our work and school.
Emmanuel in our home.

God is with us in everything and through everything!

In these final days of Advent, it can be very difficult to keep a sense of quiet and prayer with so much seasonal activity going on. Think about all the ways God is truly with you this week. Think about the ways you can make God's presence known to those around you. Think about the ways you can keep the spirit of Advent alive even as everything around you speaks of Christmas.

What puts me at arm's length from

God? What keeps me from seeing and touching the goodness of God each day? What final preparations do I need to make within myself for the coming of Christmas? What can I do this week to let others know that God is with them?

GPBS eNews

SHARING THE TRADITION

- One of the common ways for God to communicate with human beings, as related in the Hebrew Scriptures, is through dreams— Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Hannah are famous examples. In this text, God communicates the importance of this child and the integrity of his mother to Joseph using this favoured method. Being intuitive to the voice of God is an important aspect of faith.
- In the two stories that have come down to us of the birth of Jesus, one of the common aspects is the faith response of the two protagonists. Both Mary and Joseph face risking their personal security in the world of their time by choosing to cooperate in God's plan. The price, especially for Mary, is high. If she is found to have committed adultery, the penalty, under Jewish law, is death (see John 8:1-11).

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(19 - 25 December)

- **Monday, 19:** Mon 4th week, Advent (Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25)
- **Tuesday, 20:** Tue 4th week, Advent (Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38)
- **Wednesday, 21:** Wed 4th week, Advent (Song 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45)
- **Thursday, 22:** Thu 4th week, Advent (1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56)
- **Friday, 23:** Fri 4th week, Advent (Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66)
- **Saturday, 24:** The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas Eve - Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25); (Midnight - Isaiah 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14)
- **Sunday 25:** The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas Day - Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8382 1717; or in an emergency 0452 524 169.