

Reflections for Fourth Sunday of Advent.....

Who can build a dwelling place for God? David wanted to build God a nice house, God responded by saying something like this: *'I have never had a house. I have lived in a tent. I like tents because I can move quickly that way and be with people.'* God has been on the move, dwelling with the people who lived in tents as they journeyed through the desert from Egypt to Canaan. None of Israel's leaders were asked to build God a temple. Pope Francis continually reminds us about *'people on the move'* around the world. He presents us with a God who journeys with us and with all people especially those 'on the move'. God never stays put and cannot be boxed in. People in power think that they determine God's dimensions by making God in their own image and likeness: remote, comfortable, powerful, controlling, manipulative, straight, white, male and unwilling to upset the status quo. But the gospels preach the good news of liberation - from patriarchy, feudalism, and capitalism or any kind of society that uses people as tools, or discards them. Any attempts to limit the scope of God's presence in any way are rejected especially if they are laws and dogmas. God does not need David's wealth or protection and will not be domesticated to David's agenda. Jesus' birth reveals one who undermines all forms of imperial power, wealth and domination. The subversive and inclusive nature of God's Reign is proclaimed in the Song of Mary. God becoming flesh is not just about the birth of a child but the birth of a whole new order of love and justice. Buildings can be a way of controlling who is inside and who is outside. But we celebrate the God

of new beginnings and who comes to be in the smallest and darkest spaces of our lives as well as revealed by our beautiful cosmos. As in the case of Mary, and those Jesus sat with, God takes notice of the unnoticeable. The coming of the Spirit over Mary reminds us that she, as well as God's presence, is always associated with geographical places and nearly always comes to poor people, to women and children. That must say something about our God!! Mary seems to show up in some backwater country town or village and chats to poor people as we see in her apparitions. God takes residence in human flesh and walks in skin like ours. The less impressive by human standards is the most favoured to reveal God's presence as was the youngest son of Jesse, David, and the ordinary young woman in an insignificant town named Mary. We too are asked to make a dwelling place within ourselves and within our world for Christ.....In Jesus, holiness occurred in a new place. It came to live within the parameters of humanity. Humanity became a holy space. God's favourite dwelling place is in the human heart.....*Fr Claude Mostowik*

Christmas Mass Times

Please book into the Dec 24 and 25 masses.

Dec 24: 5pm (Kids Mass) and 7pm

Dec 25: 9am and 10.30am

Dec 26: 9am Feast of St Stephen
Vigil 6pm

Dec 27: 9am and 6pm Feast of the Holy Family

Dec 28 – 31: 9am

Jan 1: 9am New Year's Day

Mass Times

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9am and 6pm

Wed., Thurs. and Fri. 9.15am

Please pray for our sick, especially Arthur Haddad, Norman Hay, Wendy Bridges, Margaret Farrugia, Nick Hurst, Pat Little, Dorothy Reid, and Patrick Dallen

In Memoriam

Eric Henry, Jennifer Lynne McCann, Eric Uzarek, Leslie Clinen, Doris Morgan, Alessandra Firth, Michael Leo O'Brien, Joseph Carroll and Cosmo Reid.

There are Planned Giving flyers at the church entrance. Please feel free to fill one in.

Please fill in the 'Mass Attendance' sheet at the front. This is a state requirement so we can remain open and keep having our mass.

Eyes on Offshore Facebook Post 15th

December 2020 Finn McHugh

Border Force refuses to release Mantra Hotel inmates

A group of refugee men held in conditions likened to "torture" in Melbourne have received a blow after confirmation they won't be released. Australian Border Force has confirmed roughly 60 men locked up in Melbourne's Mantra Hotel for more than a year will be transferred to alternative detention but not granted visas. The group arrived in Australia last year under the medevac legislation, which allowed asylum seekers in offshore detention to be brought to the mainland for medical

treatment. But they have since been detained in Melbourne's Mantra Hotel after the legislation was repealed, and the government has pushed for them to leave the country.

The hotel in Preston, north of Melbourne's CBD, has become the centre of outrage after revelations over the treatment of detainees. The men are locked in their room for 23 hours a day and cannot leave the hotel for exercise. The situation was exacerbated in July when a hotel guard contracted COVID-19. Detainees were confined to their rooms as the building underwent a deep clean.

On Thursday, protesters marked World Human Rights day outside the hotel, demanding the men's release.

Refugee advocate and former Socceroo Craig Foster, told the rally that Australians could no longer be blind to the plight of refugees.

Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you to all those that donated goods and money over the last weeks. One more activity we would like your help with, please. **The hampers will be delivered on Dec 20 after 9am mass. All volunteers are welcome.**

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.