



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

21 DECEMBER 2025

## FIRST READING

Isa 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The virgin will conceive.*

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 Emmanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 23:1-6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10

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

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. R.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. R.

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.



## SECOND READING

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the  
Son of God.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

## GOSPEL

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

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.

## The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Mt 1:23

# Breaking Open the Word

## GOD WITH US

With Christmas only days away, today's Gospel announces Jesus' birth. Unlike the perhaps more familiar story from Luke's Gospel, with the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, Matthew's focus is on Joseph, a heroic character for the Gospel's Jewish audience, reminiscent of the Old Testament patriarch, Joseph. Matthew's story is different from Luke's. In Matthew's Jewish world marriage occurred in two stages. The first was engagement; the second, cohabitation. Mary and Joseph are married according to Jewish law, though not living together. We must remember, too, that the Gospel in general and this story in particular is a *theological* narrative. Matthew is not concerned with gynaecology, but *theology*. It is about God and the Holy Spirit. Mary's pregnancy is the fruit of God's action. As this becomes known to Joseph, he wants to step out of the scene and divorce her quietly without bringing her shame—an option open to him from Jewish law.

Through an angel in a dream—reminiscent again of the Old Testament patriarch, 'the dreamer'—Joseph comes to a profound theological truth. Mary's conception is the work of God's Spirit. This is God's act. Joseph is then instructed to name the child, an important Israelite convention that incorporates the one to be born into Joseph's kinship group. Matthew concludes the scene with a second naming, now provided by the prophet Isaiah. The child will be 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', a theme that will continue throughout Matthew even to the Gospel's concluding scene on Easter day. We celebrate and affirm God 'being-with-us' this Christmas. We want this God to 'be with us' for the year ahead.

**Fr Michael Trainor**



Above is a photo of Katelyn Bownes, (Deputy Principal of St Joseph's Primary School) and the year 6 2025 student leaders from St Joseph's Primary School presenting their donated baskets of groceries to Mary Anne Bowler for our Annual Christmas Hamper Appeal.

### SIMBANG GABI 2025

We would like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors who have contributed in so many ways to the Simbang Gabi celebrations so far this year. Please refer to the Parish Facebook page ([Mary Kalgoorlie](#)) to see the full list of sponsors and more photos.

Below is a photo of Jenny Gormon (the newly appointed Principal for St Mary's Primary School with her fellow staff members on Monday night's Simbang Gabi Mass at St Mary's Church, Kalgoorlie (which they sponsored that night).



### MORNING TEA LADIES

Today's will be the last morning tea at both All Hallows' Church, Boulder and St Mary's Kalgoorlie until **1<sup>st</sup> February next year**, due to the Christmas break and January holidays. Thank you to those parishioners who have contributed so readily during the year in our Parish.

### ROSTERS FOR MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH 2026

It is nearly that time when we prepare the rosters for the ministries of cleaning, reading and morning tea for our St Mary's and All Hallows' Churches for next year.

Please phone our office 90 212100 if you can spare some time and if you would like to be added to any of our rosters. Please also let us know if you have been on one of our rosters this year and are unable to assist next year so that we can make adjustments to the various rosters.

Many hands make light work! New rosters will be emailed out after Christmas.

We sincerely thank all of our readers, cleaners, Acolytes, Altar Servers, Sacristans, flower arrangers, morning tea hosts, social committee members, Choir members, projector operators and Christian Outreach volunteers who all assisted in these very Important Ministries in our Parish this year. We must also acknowledge and thank those parishioners who kindly decorated both All Hallows' Church Boulder and St Mary's Church Kalgoorlie for Christmas.

### PIETY STALL

Our Piety Stall is open every Sunday after the 10am Mass at St Mary's, Kalgoorlie for all your devotional and Christmas gift needs. Our stall can also be open By special request during the week or on Saturday. Please phone our Parish office – 90 21200 during the week to arrange this. If we don't have what you are looking for, please let us know and we can do a special order for you. An EFTPOS facility is also now available. All purchases from our Piety Stall support our Parish's outgoings.

### TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2025 SIMBANG GABI FINALE

A special Christmas Banquet will be held in the St Mary's Hall following the 7.00pm finale Mass. Donations of sweet and savoury food to share would be most appreciated, along with cash donations and/or Lechon (roasted piglet). BYO drinks. Everyone is most welcome to attend this special Christmas celebration.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE FOR 2025

St Mary's Coolgardie, Family Mass 6pm 24/12

St John Vianney Kambalda Mass 9am 25/12

St Joseph's Norseman, Mass 9am 25/12

All Hallows' Boulder, Family Mass 6pm 24/12

All Hallows' Boulder, Mass 8am 25/12

St Mary's Kalgoorlie, Midnight Mass 12pm 24/12

(Christmas Carols at 11.30am)

St Mary's Kalgoorlie, Mass 10.00am 25/12

We warmly welcome you too the

## Parish of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

(Boulder, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Kambalda, Norseman)  
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## SUNDAY Mass Times

Kalgoorlie (St Mary)	6:30pm (Sat), 10am (Sun)
Boulder (All Hallows)	8am (Sun), 5:30pm (Sun)
Coolgardie (St Mary)	4pm (Sat)
Kambalda (St John Vianney)	9am (Sun)
Norseman (St Joseph)	12:30pm (Sun)

## Notices

### PARISH FINANCE

**First Collection** - Fr. Thai Vu BSB: 086 136

Ac/N: 743 713 570 please reference your name.

**Second Collection**: Kalgoorlie Boulder Parish

BSB: 036 125 - Ac/N: 790 100 please reference your name.

### WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF KALGOORLIE-BOULDER

If you are new to the Goldfields or just visiting, we're so glad you're here! Please visit the Parish office (15 Porter St Kalgoorlie) during the week and introduce yourself.

### BIRTHDAYS

Neta Kaufuti 16/12 , Nicholas Jeewa 19/12 and Frank Andinach 20/12

### WEDDING

Congratulations to Marlon and Lorelei Manzano who got married in St Mary's Church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please keep them in your prayers.

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK/HOUSEBOUND/HOSPITALISED

Nina Andinach, Noel Hicks, Aimylie Potts(child), Lynette Hogan, Steve and Wendy D'Monte, Logan Hughes, David and Pam Lavender, Janet Bartle, Gerhardt and Eve Novak, Lyn Stewart, Gianne, Lolita, Teresa Quilanita Tores, Peter Allen, Desmond McColl and Mad Ted.

### RECENT DEATHS

Wayne Byron (RIP)

Justin O'Brien (RIP)

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Carlito Algabre RIP - December

Felixberto Abarquez RIP - December

Linda Hossie RIP - December

Thomas Matthew RIP

### OFFICE CLOSURE

Please take note that our Parish office will close for Christmas from **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** until **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*God's Love: Christmas celebrates God's ultimate gift of His Son, Jesus, demonstrating infinite Love for humanity.*

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### DECEMBER 2025

Mon 22	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent 9.30am SX Chapel
Tue 23	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent 5.30pm
Wed 24	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent 7.00am
Thu 25	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</b>
Fri 26	St Stephen Feast Day -7.00am
Sat 27	St John, Apostle, Feast Day 9.30am Mass & Reconciliation - 11.00am
Sun 28	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b>

### SAVE THE DATES

Mon 22 Dec Simbang Gabi Mass 7.00pm All Hallow's  
Tues 23 Dec Simbang Gabi Mass 7.00pm St Mary's

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL



Last Friday night a group of parish volunteers worked tirelessly to sort out the donations and compile 48 Christmas Hampers ready for collection and delivery last Saturday. Thank you to everyone who helped with this mammoth task and to Mary Anne Bowler for coordinating the Appeal.

### DIVINELY CALLED

*May you begin to see your disappointments as divine appointments. May your Spirit eyes open up to God's invitation to something better, something deeper, something profoundly fitted for you. May you lift your eyes and see how your whole story fits in the bigger story. God is writing for his namesake. God intends to solve some of the world's problems through you. Trust him and let him use you in ways that are beyond you! Look for those appointments and have a great day.*