

THE VITAL ROLE OF WOMEN

Fresh from her encounter with the angel Gabriel, “*Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country*” to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant in her old age. This meeting of two Spirit-filled pregnant women, seeking to understand what God is doing in their lives, is remarkable in the way it captures their very human interaction and their prophetic voices.

In Scriptural terms, all this occurs with the highly unusual absence of male voices in the conversation. Although the meeting occurs in Zechariah’s house, he had been struck dumb. Joseph is presumably back in Nazareth. For the most part, we can only imagine the conversations between Elizabeth and Mary as they share their joy and confusion in the unforeseen events.

Elizabeth no doubt had long resigned herself to being childless, but now has to deal with her unexpected blessing. Mary has to come to terms with a blessing that seems to cause more problems than it solves. How will she explain her pregnancy to Joseph?

In Luke’s account, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary is presented in the form of two scriptural hymns or songs of blessing. Today we hear the first of these, which is Elizabeth’s song prophetically proclaiming Mary to be the “*mother of my Lord*”. Even though filled with joy in her own blessing of pregnancy, Elizabeth exudes humility, compassion and living faith by focussing on the blessing that Mary’s presence is for her – and that Mary’s child will be for the world.

Mary’s response to Elizabeth is the second song – the ‘Magnificat’ – which proclaims God’s redeeming love for the oppressed and downtrodden people of our world. Together then, Elizabeth and Mary are presented to us as two Spirit-filled, peasant women prophets supporting each other in adversity by singing of God’s justice and mercy.

In doing so, they stand in the long Jewish tradition of female voices – Miriam with her tambourine, Deborah, Hannah and Judith – who likewise sing provocative songs of God’s coming salvation for the poor and oppressed.

Although the Visitation has been used to depict such lofty themes as the Church’s march throughout history crossing mountains to proclaim Christ to the world (St Ambrose 4th century), we also do well to recognise how the story highlights the role of women throughout Luke’s Gospel. They are not only major figures associated with Jesus’ birth, but they are clearly friends and disciples of Jesus during his ministry, are present at the crucifixion, and are the first to encounter the risen Lord.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us ask for the gift of being open to the surprise of grace in our own lives in the ways of Mary and Elizabeth. May we, like them, sing of God’s transforming power coming to life in the birth of the Messiah. Perhaps too we are invited to highlight the importance of women’s ministry in ‘giving birth’ to a less clerical church!



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Gerard Hall SM

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Gosnells Catholic Parish

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church
Archdiocese of Perth
Western Australia



Parish Priest: Fr Brennan Sia
brennan.sia@perthcatholic.org.au

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Telephone: 9398 2331
Email: gosnells@perthcatholic.org.au
Website: www.gosnellsparish.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am - 1.30pm

Entry by: 1 Isdell Place, Gosnells

Parish Secretary:

Naomi Newman: 9398 2331
Email: secretary@gosnellsparish.org.au

Catechist Coordinator

Gen De Souza: 0408 717 809

Safeguarding Officers

Email: safeguarding@gosnellsparish.org.au
0432 398 973

SVDP Local Contact

Loretta Watson: 0451 794 790

Gosnells Youth

Veronica Ayeni: 0424 812 632
Email: gosnellsyouth@gmail.com

22nd December, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

Year C

Violet

Today’s Readings

Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

29th December, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Year C

White

Today’s Readings

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

St Munchin’s Catholic Primary School



Principal: Mr Kevin Duffy
1 Isdell Place, Gosnells
PO Box 172, Gosnells WA 6990
9234 7555
admin@stmunchins.wa.edu.au

Follow Truth

Sunday Bulletin

| Parish Liturgies | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Weekend Mass | Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass, Sunday 7.30am, Sunday 9.30am |
| Weekday Mass | Monday 8.00am Communion Service (Mass on Solemnity only) Tuesday 6.00pm Mass - (1st Tuesday Mass of Anointing) Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 8.00am Mass Friday 9.00am Mass |
| Reconciliation | Saturday 5.00pm - 5.45pm or by appointment |
| Buckley Caring Centre | 10.00am Mass - Second Thursday of the Month |
| Juniper Aged Care | 11.00am Mass - Third Wednesday of the Month |
| Rosary | After weekday Masses |
| Exposition | Tuesday 5.00pm - 6.00pm with Benediction, Sunday 6.00pm - 7.00pm |
| Charismatic Prayer | Thursday 7.15pm - 9.00pm. |
| Baptism | Sunday at 11.00am, or by arrangement |
| Marriage | By appointment - Minimum SIX MONTHS notice for preparation etc |

Want to support your Parish?

You can now deposit your contribution directly into parish accounts.

First Collection

Supports our Parish Priest, Priests in smaller Parishes or remote Parishes that require assistance.

A/c name: Gosnells Parish - 1st Collection Account, **BSB:** 086-006, **A/c:** 705883907,

Reference: 1st Collection (your name optional)

Second Collection

Ongoing administration costs, funds for future growth and improvements of the Parish.

A/c name: Gosnells Parish, **BSB:** 086-006, **A/c:** 773984777,

Reference: 2nd Collection (your name optional)

Praying For You



Recently Deceased

Dr Elijah Nathan

Death Anniversary

Germano D'Alonzo, Mr & Mrs Louis Nathan,
Mr & Mrs B.A. Nathan

Our Sick

Alfredo Barbuzza,
Ann Ralston, Kathleen Mansfield,
Maria Siciliano, Susanne Carroll,
Fran Vallis, Pat Simm,
Ammuni Jose, John Breag,
Conrad Briggs, Joel Celine,
Dennis Ford, Letecia Niembra,
Dolly, Elvira Panici-Allen,
Annabelle McNess, Erika Magness,
Abby Magness, Richard Bisnath,
Wendy Price, Fran Wiffen

Feast Days this Week

| | | |
|--------|-----|--------------------------|
| Dec 23 | Mon | St John of Kanty |
| 25 | Wed | The Nativity of the Lord |
| 26 | Thu | St Stephen |
| 27 | Fri | St John |
| 28 | Sat | The Holy Innocents |

Parish Meetings

Parish Pastoral Council

In recess till February 4th 2025.

Vinnies

In recess till January 22nd 2025.

Rosters for 21/22 December, 2024

| Mass | Greeters | Reader | Commentator | Acolyte | Extraordinary Ministers | Altar Servers |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 6.00pm | Faye Mitchell Jemima Pinto | Ayden Ratnasekera | Natasha Pinto | Martin Loh | Bridget Soh Ludette Van Der Spil | Jacob Raymond, Clinton Matthews Aydriel Ratnasekera, Kyle Marquis |
| Sunday 7.30am | Shania Tido Eric Almen | Jack Roach | Sr Savarie | Geoff Mills | Sue Frawley Vincent Frawley | Scott Tido, Caleb Watkins Callie Abogado, Jake Antu |
| Sunday 9.30am | Silvana & Andy Sciorilli | Jomy Jose | Helen Magness | Dan Hewitt | Alex Liyanage Helen Magness | Angel Garavillas, John Gilmore Gabino Htoo, Austin Jacob James Jacob, Liam James |
| Tellers this week: Sue & Vincent Frawley, Faye Rodriguez | | | | Tellers next week: Sidney D'Souza, Geoff & Jenny Mills | | |

Rosters for 28/29 December, 2024

| Mass | Greeters | Reader | Commentator | Acolyte | Extraordinary Ministers | Altar Servers |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 6.00pm | Mercy Burton Rosa Ford | Richard Serrano | Angel Donina | Martin Loh | Mark van Ingen Miriam Villan | Carl Agus, Lacey Beacher Melanie Beacher, Joshua Manda |
| Sunday 7.30am | Wendie Almen Jennifer Barnes | Bionney Bangayan | Diobett Bangayan | Gerard Peters | Russell Lally Rod McAtee | Tom Antu, Bionney Bangayan Diobett Bangayan, Ethan Nguyen |
| Sunday 9.30am | Karen Suarez Robert Szelezak | Bec Malagui-Hicks | Ciara Malagui-Hicks | Phillip Magness | Bec Malagui-Hicks Lorna Mitchell | Kripa Jojo, Thejus Jojo Olivia Justin, Aung Kintha Gei Long Ya Kintha, Alisha Liyanage |

WE CARE

SVDP Emergency Relief Phone 1300 794 054

Marycare Maureen L 0414 937 440 Anne 0420 323 492 Maureen B 0411 691 959





Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Our Christmas Celebrations

Tuesday, 24th December

Please join the Choir for Carol singing from 5.15pm followed by 6.00pm Family Vigil Mass.

Children are invited to come dressed as shepherds, angels or kings.



Please join with the Choir for Carol singing from 11.15pm followed by Midnight Mass.

Wednesday, 25th December

8.30am Christmas Morning Mass



Let's invite our family, friends and neighbours to our Christmas celebration and share our joy with them.

The overflow carpark for Christmas Masses will be on the St Munchin's School oval, accessed via the Corfield Street carpark.

Please note: There will be NO 8.00am Mass on Wednesday morning.

Christmas Rosters

There are still places for Altar Servers, Eucharist Ministers and Acolytes for our Christmas Masses as many of those who regularly serve may be away for the Christmas Service. If you can help serve at our Christmas Masses please put your name down on the list in the foyer.

Morning Tea Helpers are Needed

The new roster for Morning Tea will be drawn up soon for 2025.

New volunteers are especially invited to join this ministry and add their names to the list in the foyer. Those on the current roster, are asked to recommit by adding your name to the list.

St Vincent de Paul

Looking for a practical Christmas present? Your SVDP Columban 2025 Calendars are still on sale at only \$10 each. Please place your money in the yellow envelopes provided and leave them in the Poor Box. Thank you for your generosity and God Bless !



Change Of Mass Time

New Year's day Mass on Wednesday 1st January 2025 for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God will be celebrated at 9.00am.

Greeters are needed

New rosters are being drawn up soon. New volunteers are especially invited to join this ministry and add their names to the list in the foyer. All those on the current roster are asked to recommit by also adding their name to the list.

Welcome

Please extend a warm welcome and thank you to Fr Patrick Lim who will be celebrating Mass while Fr Brennan is away. Fr Brennan will return 2nd January 2025.

Flowers For Christmas

We thank all those who have contributed towards the cost of our flowers for Christmas. May God continue to bless and keep you and your family safe as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.



Parish Safeguarding Officers

The Perth Catholic Archdiocese is committed to the safety and security of all children and young people. If you have any safety concerns about a person in the parish or about a child protection or child safety issue, you can discuss it with the Parish Safeguarding Officers. Phone 0432 398 973 or email safeguarding@gosnellparish.org.au



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Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed from 24th December to 13th January 2025.

A heart felt thank-you to all our parishioners who donate their time by volunteering for our Parish ministries, out-reach programs through Marycare and St Vincent de Paul, our Parish Committees and to all that have contributed to our Parish in any way. May your Christmas be filled with the love and light of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May the new year be filled with many blessings.

Sincerely, Naomi, Parish Secretary



St Vincent de Paul - Our Vinnies

The Vinnies would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who provided presents under the Christmas Tree and contributed to our poor box.

We also gratefully acknowledge the gold coin drive, generous food and sundries donated by staff and students of St Munchin's. These have now been distributed within our community. We wish all parishioners a very Joyous Christmas and thank you for your wonderful support throughout 2024.



Isdell Place Car Park Closure 2025

Due to unforeseen circumstances with the St Munchin's School renovations, there will be no access to the Church via Isdell Place from Tuesday 7th to Monday 27th January 2025. The only access to the Church and the Parish Office during this time will be via the Corfield Street entrance. The school basketball courts will be open for weekend Masses for extra parking. Thank you for your understanding through this brief time of inconvenience.

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating our Christmas trees to the events leading to the birth of Jesus. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.



Jubilee Year 2025 Place Of Grace And Pilgrimage Schoenstatt Shrine

All Catholics are encouraged during the Jubilee Year 2025 to undertake a Pilgrimage. In the Archdiocese of Perth, the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mt Richon has been designated as a place of Grace and Pilgrimage. Schoenstatt means a beautiful place. The Schoenstatt shrine is nestled among an expanse of grounds and natural bushland, providing an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. The mission of the Schoenstatt Marian Movement is to bring the presence of Christ to all we meet, discovering God's love in every person, in all creation and in every event of our lives. To arrange a parish or individual pilgrimage during 2025 please contact Sr Lisette on 0400 234 910. To start the Jubilee Year why not come to our New Year's Eve Midnight Mass on the 31st December at the Schoenstatt Shrine, 9 Talus Drive, Mt Richon. Adoration & Reflection will commence at 10.30pm, followed by Holy Mass and fellowship.



Weekend For Men

What are you doing on the 15th-16th March 2025? Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003, thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. The weekends programme will be conducted by an experienced menALIVE Team, right here in our own Parish. For further information and enquiries, please contact: Vincent Watson – 0406 831 972 or Daniel Tomlinson – 0403 988 181.

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