

Date:	24th Dec/25th Dec 2024		The Nativity of the Lord	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM				
Children's Mass	Marek Grus	Jacinta Ellis	Martyn Ellis	Andrew Wilson
	Carrying of Baby Jesus: Archie Brown			
12:00 AM				
Midnight Mass	Phill Saville & Richard Merchant	Matt Aldous	Virginia Fortunat	Parish Choir
8:00 AM	Ian Miles	Georgia Cook	Tanya Graham	Margaret Gresser
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Margaret Smith	Streeters

Date:	28th Dec/29th Dec 2024		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading & Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading & Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Felix Kobus	Anne Maureen Scarff	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	
9:30 AM	Phil Saville	Peta Sparkes	Domhnall MacCormac	No One

KID'S CORNER

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY

Luke 2:1-14
My name is

Today is born our Saviour



Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus lying in the manger.



God gives us all that we have. What are some of the gifts you have received from God?

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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Parish Email: email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org)
Parish Pastoral Council: Email suggestions to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am
First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month 7:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil Mass
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office



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We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.

Advent Candle 5: The Christ Candle



A few days ago a friend of mine asked me if I would consider seeing Christmas lights around her area. She mentioned the lights around Greystanes were quite impressive so, being in the festive mood, I joined her. I must admit I was a little disappointed. I was expecting decor similar to the Philippines: in my hometown most houses are decorated top to bottom; the flashing lights illuminate the streets to such a degree that one could confuse the evening with day. Whilst I certainly commend the efforts of those in Greystanes it didn't live up to my expectation. I then remembered a former parishioner of mine who lived in Northmead had a passion for decorating his house. Over the years he had increased his Christmas decor to the nth degree that he was generating media attention for his work. We proceeded to his house and, upon arrival, both our jaws dropped. Every inch of the property was covered; people flocked to see his house as it illumined Northmead and, at the centre of the yard was set the Infant Jesus (the reason for the season). It was an impressive display of faith, hope and love. The other houses on the street were also impressive but they didn't measure up to lights radiating from his place.

Christmas lights are beautiful: they illuminate the darkness and bring joy to those who see them. Imagine if we could see the spiritual significance of what occurred on this most joyful and glorious day? God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Seas and all they contain, the prophesied Messiah and Saviour of the World is, on this day born for us. Up to this point many holy men and women had walked the earth - they had completed their role in bringing many back to the Law of God but none could enjoy the delights of Heaven. Salvation, in essence, was unattainable... until this most glorious day. Jesus Christ is born for us today. He enters human history not riding a fiery chariot or accompanied by thunder and lighting. He enters in silence, in a cave surrounded by Our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the animals. God takes on our humanity. As mentioned in the Creed 'Begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father... for us men and for our salvation he came down from Heaven... and became man.' It's an incredible moment where the light of the world illuminates time and space. No more are we bound to Sheol post mortem, we are made for Eternal Life through the Incarnation of God. How blessed are we! The Light of the World is here!!

Dear friends, as we light the final candle on our Advent Wreath and in celebrating with family and friends the Nativity of the Lord may we recognised the true significance of this day: God became man so that man may be like God. His birth is a gift to the world as through him we are no longer bound to the grave: he is our hope that illuminates the darkness of the world. In him we are given a share in the Kingdom. We celebrate Christmas because the hope of the world is here. May we give thanks to God for his incarnation - Christ is born for us. Our Emmanuel (God-is-with-us) is here.

Wishing you a season full of joy, blessings, and good cheer!

Fr Chris



At the Vigil Mass

Entrance Antiphon Cf Exodus 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us,
and in the morning you will see his glory.

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R.

[see v.2](#)

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

- 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
- Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
- 'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.' (R.)

Second Reading Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf Isaiah 40:5

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.



Bishop Vincent's Christmas Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St John, the evangelist, in one simple sentence describes the deepest meaning of Christmas: **"God so loved the world that God gave his only Son."**

That catches the heart of the story. It is because God loves the world, and loves human beings, that God did this. If we think about that over and over, then we discover something about God, and a great deal about this world and about human beings. Imagine. Christmas expresses how much God loves the world!

It's not God loving us "from a distance." It's God loving us and becoming part of this whole cosmos, and because of that, everything is different.

Not only did God visit us. God became part of the human family, and God is still part of the human family, and God will be part of the human family forever.

At the birth of Christ, the manger was full – he was lying in a manger as a baby boy. At the resurrection of Christ, the tomb was empty. It's not as though human nature was a costume God wore, and when he was finished with it, he left it behind and went back to being God. Christ became one of us, and when he rose from the dead his human body was still with him. That's why the tomb was empty. He still stayed one of us and is still part of our family today. The child who was in that manger lives on as a human being, one of us, today. That's what we celebrate at Christmas.

Yet, very often in these tumultuous and violent times – with war and chaos breaking out everywhere - from the horrors and destruction in the Middle East and Ukraine to the floods and frightening climate change events – it can be tempting for us to become despondent.

But take heart from the words of the angel to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."

There is a movement within us all, within the human race, toward goodness, toward fulfillment. And it can't be taken away, for the Word became flesh and dwells among us. This is what we celebrate on this holy night.

God's greatest revelation is not through power, majesty, wealth and splendour. Rather, he made himself the poorest, the most vulnerable and despised of all. The birth of Jesus signals God's alignment with those who are at the edges of society. This Christmas, as we contemplate the Christ child in the manger, let us commit ourselves to pray and work for justice in all its manifestations so that God's reign will come in our world.

May the Christ child bless you and your families with a peaceful and holy Christmas!

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta





Recently Deceased: Jim Wallace

Sick: Colleen Baker, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, Margaret Munro, **and all Private Intentions. Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.**

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS: Please support our Parish and its projects.



- **Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- **Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:
Bank Account Name: Springwood; BSB: 067-950
Bank Account Number: 00000560
Reference: Your name in full.

FIRST COLLECTION: This goes to the Board of Management. The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION: This goes to our Parish of St Thomas Aquinas—directly funding operational costs, pastoral activities and various programs that enrich our community.

MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES are also available which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support. Thank you.



*May God bless you and your family on this joyous day!
- from Fr Chris and Parish Staff*

WAYS TO GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS:

BECOME A CATECHIST If you love teaching and sharing the Gospel message, register to become a Special Religious Education (SRE) Catechist in our local public schools across the Diocese. SRE Catechists play a pivotal role in fostering Catholic faith and nurturing the spiritual growth among children. Get in touch with Wilhelmina de Raadt, SRE Co-ordinator on 02 4751 3319 or Fr Chris on 02 4754 1052.

SHOW YOUR CREATIVE TALENTS Offering a helping hand to our parish by sharing your creative talents. We are always looking for singers, musicians, flower arrangers, gardeners, cleaners and more. Reach out to find out how you can share your creative talents and get involved.

MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN: is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Offices at St Patrick's Church, 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney. For job description and details, please email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au



PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE: STA Parish Office will be closed for the holidays from **Wednesday 25th December 2024** and will reopen on **Tuesday 14th January 2025**. Masses and Confessions will continue as normal during this period.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION: To be held on **Friday 3rd January 2025 at 5:30pm**. All are welcome!

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS / Acolytes, Readers, Musicians: on **Saturday 8 February 2025 from 10.15am**. EVERYONE who did their Safeguarding training two years ago is required to renew these modules. Please contact the parish office via email to confirm your attendance. If you do not attend this training you will NOT BE ABLE to volunteer in the parish as per the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding requirements.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2025: STA Parish will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2025 as they journey up the mountains from **2 - 9 January**. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. Please join the pilgrimage group for Adoration at **5.30pm** followed by a festive meal on **3 Jan** at St Thomas Aquinas, and Mass on **4 Jan at 6.30am**. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE 2025 MEAL: You can be a part of the celebration and help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at STA Parish on the **3rd-4th January**. Please contact Colleen Kime on 02 4754 4335 / 0407 125 427 or leave your details at the parish office.

2025 Confirmation Sacramental Program

Parent ONLY Sessions:

Wednesday, 30th April at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Wednesday 7th May at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 17th May at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 24th May at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church

(and practice)

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 28th May at 6.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2025 Reconciliation Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Tuesday 5th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Tuesday 12th August at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Children and Parent Information Sessions:

Saturday 23rd August at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday 30th August at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Church

(and practice)

Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 3rd September at 6.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

2025 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

Parent Information Sessions:

Tuesday 21st October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Tuesday 28th October at 7.00pm, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Children and Parent Sessions:

Saturday 8th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish
Saturday 15th November at 11.00am, St Thomas Aquinas Parish

(and practice)

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 5pm Vigil Mass, Saturday 22nd November 2025, St Thomas Aquinas Church

At the Mass during the Night

Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 2:7](#)

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

First Reading [Isaiah 9:1-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

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

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. 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.)
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Second Reading [Titus 2:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation [Luke 2:10-11](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 2:1-14](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

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

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon [John 1:14](#)

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



At the Mass at Dawn

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 9:1,5; Lk 1:33

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.

First Reading Isaiah 62:11-12

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your Saviour is born.

This the Lord proclaims
to the ends of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look,
your saviour comes,
the prize of his victory with him,
his trophies before him'.
They shall be called 'The Holy People',
'The Lord's Redeemed'.
And you shall be called 'The-sought-after',
'City-not-forsaken.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 96:1. 6. 11-12

(R.) A light will shine on us this day:
the Lord is born for us.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. **(R.)**
2. Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name. **(R.)**

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

His own compassion saved us.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion; lift up praise, Daughter
Jerusalem:
Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of
the world.

At the Mass during the Day

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power
of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

Second Reading (continuation)

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things
came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light
of men,
a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not
overpower.
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as
a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might
believe through him.
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.
The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world that had its being through him, and the
world did not know him.
He came to his own domain and his own people did not
accept him.
But to all who did accept him he gave power to become
children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of
human stock
or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw
his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of
grace and truth.
John appears as his witness, He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me
ranks before me because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was
given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest
to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.