



**The Catholic church of St Mary
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday 17 – Sunday 18 December, 2022**

An introduction to the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Every year on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Church celebrates the Incarnation of the Lord. The Incarnation is that belief that Christ became man. As Catholics we believe that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. When we profess our faith in the words of the Creed, we state this belief when we say, “consubstantial with the Father.”

Each of the three years in the cycle of Bible readings at Mass give us a different view of the Incarnation as experienced by different New Testament figures. This year we celebrate the Incarnation and the experience of St Joseph as God sends an

angel to him.

The character of the Advent Season changes again between 17 – 24 December. The Gospel reading at daily Mass is taken from the first chapter of either Matthew’s Gospel or Luke’s Gospel and so helps the whole Church to make their own immediate spiritual preparations for Christmas.

Penitential act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

Priest Lord, have mercy.

Priest Christ, have mercy.

Priest Lord, have mercy.

People Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

People Lord, have mercy.

First reading Isaiah 7:10-14 The maiden is with child

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 my 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 Psalm 23(24):1-6

Our response to the Psalm is Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

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.

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

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.

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

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.

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Second reading Romans 1:1-7 Our apostolic mission is to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations

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

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24 How Jesus Christ came to be born

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.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.