



*Embracing
Villa Maria Centre
and
St Patrick's
Fortitude Valley*



**Most Reverend
Mark Coleridge**
Archbishop of Brisbane

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*Joseph got up, took the child
and his mother by night,
and went to Egypt,
and remained there until the
death of Herod. When Herod
died, an angel of the Lord
suddenly appeared
in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
and said,
"Get up, take the child and his
mother to Israel."*

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Year A – 29th December, 2019

*The community of the Cathedral of St. Stephen acknowledges the traditional custodians
of the land on which our parish stands.*

Dear friends,

Happy Christmas! Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. He signed the Letter during his recent visit to the Italian town of Greccio. Greccio is the mountain village where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first crib scene in 1223 to commemorate the birth of Jesus. Pope Francis returned to the town on Sunday to deliver his Apostolic Letter entitled, *Admirabile Signum*. Here is some of what Pope Francis writes in the letter:

An enchanting image

The Latin title of the Letter refers to the "enchanting image" of the Christmas crèche, one that "never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God."

A living Gospel

"The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture", continues Pope Francis. Contemplating the Christmas story is like setting out on a spiritual journey, "drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman." So great is His love for us, writes the Pope,

"that He became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with Him."

A family tradition

The Pope hopes this Letter will encourage the family tradition of preparing the nativity scene, "but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares." Praising the imagination and creativity that goes into these small masterpieces, Pope Francis says he hopes this custom will never be lost "and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived."

A sign of God's tender love

Pope Francis explains that the crib moves us so deeply because it shows God's tender love. From the time of its Franciscan origins, "the nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's Son took upon Himself in the Incarnation. It asks us to meet Him and serve Him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need."

May these reflections help us to see Christ's nativity in a new and radiant light.

Fr. Anthony



**Cathedral of
St. Stephen**
249 Elizabeth St
Brisbane



St. Patrick's
58 Morgan St
Fortitude Valley



Villa Maria Chapel
171 St Pauls Tce
Spring Hill

Cathedral Parish Mass Times this week

Monday & Tuesday: 12.30pm Cathedral
Wednesday: 10.00am Cathedral (New Years Day)
Thursday & Friday: 8.00am Chapel; 12.30pm Cathedral
Saturday: 9.30am Villa Maria; 11.30am Cathedral

Sunday

Cathedral of St Stephen

Saturday: 6.00pm (Mass in anticipation of Sunday)
Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am (Solemn Mass); 12 noon; 7.30pm

St Patrick's 9.00am; 12 noon
Villa Maria 9.30am

Reconciliation: **Monday & Tuesday; Thursday & Friday** – 1.00-1.30pm;
Saturday 10.00-11.00am; 4.30-5.30pm

PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.*

Amen

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*



CATHEDRAL GUIDES & WELCOMERS

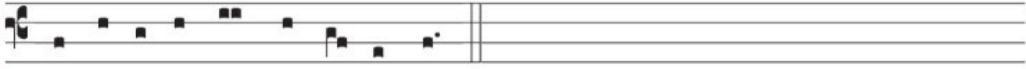
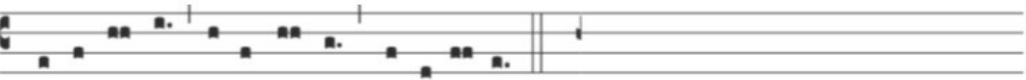
Cathedral Guides & Welcomers invite you to an information session on **Thursday 7 February 2020 at 10.30am** to discover the delights of volunteering with the Cathedral Guides & Welcomers. The meeting will be held in the Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre.

If you enjoy meeting people; love your Cathedral and revel in good art and juicy history, the rewards of becoming a volunteer with the Cathedral Guides and Welcomers is beyond measure. A comprehensive training program is offered.

If this ministry appeals to you, please contact the Cathedral email cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au, or phone 3324 3030 by Friday 25 January 2020.

The music is drawn from the Catholic Worship Book II for all Masses, available from our Welcomers at the entrances or on the pew seats. All Masses will be led by a Cantor.

The Cathedral Choirs are in recess.

	6:00pm (Sat) (Sun) 8:00am, 10:00am 12:00pm 7.30pm
Processional Hymn	CWB 269
Kyrie	CWB 22a
Gloria	CWB 22b
First Reading	<i>Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Ps 127:1-5</i>
 <p>R: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.</p>	
Second Reading	<i>Colossians 3:12-21</i>
Gospel Acclamation	
 <p>R: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.</p>	
Offertory Hymn (7.30 pm)	CWB 256
Gospel	<i>Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23</i>
Sanctus	CWB 22c
Agnus Dei	CWB 22h
Communion Hymn	CWB 273
Recessional Hymn	CWB 255