

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING **Isaiah 9:2-4.6-7** *A child has been born for us; a son given to us.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shone. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM **96:1-2.3-4.11-12.13** *R. Luke 2:11 Today is born our Saviour, Christ our Saving Lord.*

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. **R.**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. **R.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. **R.**

Rejoice before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth. **R.**

### SECOND READING **Titus 2:11-14** *The grace of God has appeared to all.*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

### 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 2:1-16** *To you is born this day a Saviour, who is the Messiah.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON **Jn 1:14** The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



## Holy Family Catholic Parish Runaway Bay

### Christmas Night Year A 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016—Issue No. 196

#### The Hallmarks of a Genuine Witness Are Service and Holiness.

**On this Holy Night**, while we are celebrating the great mystery of the mercy of God who so loved us that he gave us his only-begotten Son, our hearts are full of gratitude to him. It is good to make room for gratitude to one another.

As your Parish Priest, I feel the need to offer sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you who have been cooperating with me in the last three years in the service of our Parish. Allow me to extend a special greeting to the PPC, PFC and the School Staff for the work they have done each day with immense dedication and self-sacrifice, hidden from the eyes of the people, and mainly for their effort to work together in the Parish and School in a spirit of mutual respect. This is something truly admirable.

**I have such high regard** for all those who have been working for the well-being of the entire Community. One of the finest experiences of those who live and work in the Parish is "to sense" the Parish in the spirit of service. When the attitude is no longer one of service, the structure of all groups turns into a ponderous, bureaucratic system, constantly inspecting and questioning, hindering the working of the Holy Spirit and the growth of God's people.

To this quality of service, I would also like to add a second one, which is holiness of life. We know very well that, in the hierarchy of values, this is the most important. Indeed, it is basic for the quality of your work, your service. Here I would like to say that in the Parish there have been, and still are, saints. I have said this publicly on more than one occasion, as a way of thanking the Lord. Holiness means a life immersed in the Spirit, a heart open to God, constant prayer, deep humility and fraternal charity in our relationships with our fellow workers. It also means discipleship, discreet and faithful pastoral service, zealously carried out in direct contact with God's people. For all kinds of volunteering works in the Parish, this is indispensable.

On this Holy Night, I would like to mention some of you by name, as a way of expressing my esteem and my gratitude, but we know that, in any list, the first names people notice are the ones that are missing! Besides, I would also risk overlooking someone and thus committing an injustice and a lack of charity. But I want to say that you all offer a very important witness in the Parish's journey.

**Let us feel close to one another** on this our journey to Bethlehem. You would do well to experience this Christmas in spiritual closeness to Saint Joseph. He was always silent yet necessary at the side of Our Lady. Think about him and his loving concern for his Spouse and for the Baby Jesus. This can tell you a lot about your own service to the Church! This will benefit all of us!

I thank you all most heartily for your work and especially for your prayers. Truly I feel borne aloft by your prayers and I ask you to continue to support me in this way. I too remember you before the Lord, asking him to bless you as I offer my best wishes for a Christmas filled with light and peace for each of you and for all your dear ones. Happy Christmas!

Fr. John Khoái

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Reconciliation at 4.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.

Baptism Preparation at  
7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of the month.