

Readings for the Christmas Mass at 2pm and at 4pm

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Mass of Christmas Night 6pm

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

Responsorial Psalm

**℟ Today a saviour has been born to us:
he is Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. ℟.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. ℟

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.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. ℟.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

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.

December 25th, Mass of Christmas Day 10am

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

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

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. ℟.

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. ℟

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy. ℟

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. ℟

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light
has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: and 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.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.