



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede

Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am – 12pm
During school holidays: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
from 10am – 1pm.

Phone: 9401 6355
in case of emergency 9401 6368

E-mail: balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au

Website: parishofstanneandstbede.org.au

For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1st Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account
Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347 Account no.**

666017079

2nd Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734**

Please click on the link below from 5pm on Saturday, 19 December, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests: <https://youtu.be/F29kDp0CV0U>

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 88:2-5, 27, 29

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

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
Through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

'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 the ages.' **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 – Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us lift up our prayers of petition to our God who brings comfort to all people.

We pray for Pope Francis and the Bishops of our Church. May they always be for us models of Christian hope.

Lord hear us.

We pray for the leaders of nations and political parties who proclaim a Christian message. May their voices be heard above those who strive to take Christ out of this season of hope.

Lord hear us.

We pray for those awaiting the birth of a child. May they, like Mary, be filled with wonder at God's gift of life.

Lord hear us.

We pray for our faith community. May we take time out from the frantic pace this Christmas Season to quietly meditate on the significance of Advent. Let us make sure there is truly room in our lives for the coming of our Saviour.

Lord hear us.

We pray for the sick of our parish and for those who have asked for our prayers especially **Mary Kay Jendrusina**. May they feel the loving embrace of Jesus in their lives.

Lord hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently especially **Margaret Lauritz** and **Patty Brettal** and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Elisabeth Sach Thi Le, Denise Meehn, Nat and Claudia Italiano, John Howard, Susan Green** and **Dorothy Smith**. May the Lord rejoice to lead them home.

Lord hear us.

Celebrant: O God of mercy, hear your people as we open our hearts to your words of hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself
entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

St Anne's

5pm, 7:30pm, 10pm

St Bede's

5pm, 7:30pm, 10pm

St Bridget's

5pm, 7pm, 9pm

Christmas Day

St Anne's

10:30am

St Bede's

9am, 11am

St Bridget's

10am

St Joachim's

8:30am

Booking for Christmas Masses

In order to accommodate as much people as possible this Christmas, we kindly ask that you book your place for Christmas Mass in advance. TryBooking links were sent out on Friday, 18 December for Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses and have also been posted on our website. Bookings will open at 12pm Sunday 20 December. For those who need assistance with booking, please contact the parish office.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is available each week at St Bede's after the 9am Saturday Mass and at St Anne's at 4:30pm before the Saturday evening Mass. In preparation for Christmas, Reconciliation will also be offered at St Bede's on Tuesday, 22 December from 7pm-8pm.

Masses on the weekend after Christmas 26/27 December

The following timetable will apply to Masses on the weekend after Christmas 27-28 December.

Saturday 26 December

St Bede's 5pm

Sunday 27 December

St Joachim's 8:30am

St Bede's 9am, 11am

St Bridget's 10am

St Anne's 10:30am

Volunteers for Christmas Masses Needed

Christmas is moving swiftly towards us. We are so fortunate to be able to celebrate a covid normal Christmas and summer. At last we can go to Mass. However we are still restricted by government guidelines. Over the next few weeks and in particular on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, we will need doorkeepers to check people in for Mass as well as altar servers, special ministers and lectors. Can you help? If you are available, please let us know via email or by calling the parish office. It is going to be a very different Christmas this year but it is wonderful that we can celebrate Jesus' birth together. We can still make it memorable.

Change in St Anne's Weekday Mass Times

During the school holidays, the weekday Mass times at St Anne's on Wednesdays and Fridays will now be at 8:30am.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from 24 December 2020 to 4 January 2021. During the school holidays the Parish will be open from 10am to 1pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Christmas Online Mass

Christmas Mass will be recorded for those who cannot attend our Parish Christmas Masses. This will be our last online Mass and it will be sent out for viewing on Thursday, 24th December 2020. We thank all the volunteers who helped us throughout the year in the preparation and recording of these Masses.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.