

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LUKE SALT RIVER



The new-born child was laid in a manger

CHRISTMAS 2005

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



My dear people

I know that many of us were disturbed by a news report some time ago that the government was considering abolishing Christmas Day as a public holiday. Naturally we would all deplore such a move, but at the same time we need to remember that for the first four centuries of the Church's life Christians not only had no public holidays on which to celebrate the major festivals of the Christian year, but worshipped in fear of arrest, imprisonment, torture and death.

Perhaps we should be more concerned with the commercialisation of Christmas and how easily we get sucked into it. There is nothing wrong with parties, decorations and presents, but we need to ensure that they convey the right message: our parties should be a celebration of the Love of God, revealed in His Son our Lord, our decorations should have as their centre the Christ child, Our Lady and St Joseph, while our giving of presents should be done in thanksgiving to God for the gift of everlasting love, not in order to show how extravagant we can be.

The theologian Fr Arthur Middleton wrote:

What do you see when you look into the crib? He who existed with God eternally before all worlds were made; He who in the beginning was the word and who was with God and who was God; at a certain time in history, for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man. He who shared the divine nature with His Father decided to unite that divine nature with our human nature in order to redeem this ..world. (New Directions, December 2005, page 14)

Let this great truth be the heart of our Christmas celebrations.

The Churchwardens, Parish Councillors and Sub-Deacons join me in wishing you all a joyful, peaceful and holy Christmas and God's richest blessings for 2006.

Your friend and Priest,

Fr *Demetri*

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS



SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER 2005
5-6pm

CELEBRATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

18 DECEMBER: ADVENT IV

16:00: Nativity Play by the Sunday School, followed by the
Festival of Nine Lessons and Christmas Carols



Behold this Child
is destined for the fall
and for the rise of
many in Israel, and for
a sign that shall
be contradicted

24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE

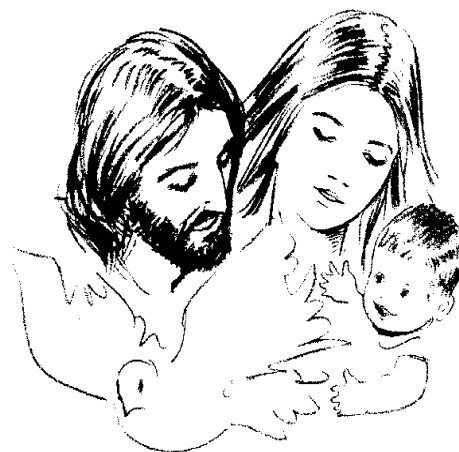
18:00: First Evensong of Christmas Day
11:00: Procession, Blessing of Crib and Solemn
Midnight Mass of Christmas

Come and worship
Christ the New-Born King



25 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY

07:30: Low Mass, with hymns
09:00: Procession & High Mass



MONDAY 26 DECEMBER: ST STEPHEN

09:00: Mass

TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER: ST JOHN

09:30: Mass

WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER: HOLY INNOCENTS

19:30: Mass

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY: THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

09:00: High Mass



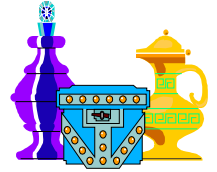
Tuesday 3 January 2005: Christmas Weekday

09:30: Mass, with laying on of hands and prayer for the sick

Wednesday 4 January 2005: Christmas Weekday

19:30: Mass

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2005: FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



09:00: Procession and High Mass with proclamation of the date of Easter

MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2005: FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

09:30: Sung Mass

