



Hectorville  
Catholic  
Community

Annunciation Church

Love in all things

# Parish Bulletin

Annunciation Church

20 Montacute Road, Hectorville SA 5073

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

*“Moved by God’s love, we the people of Hectorville Catholic Community work for fullness of life and joy for all by living out together our love for God, each other and all God’s creation.”*

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**FIRST READING:**                    **2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**SECOND READING:**                **Romans 16:25-27**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:**                    **Luke 1:26-38**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



**REFLECTION:** In the gospel for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Gabriel the Archangel appears to the Blessed Virgin Mary and brings her the news that she has been chosen to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gabriel’s announcement of Jesus’ birth to Mary introduces the central Christian theme of the Incarnation. This event signifies God becoming human in Jesus Christ, a foundational truth of Christian belief. Mary is described as “highly favored” by the Lord, highlighting the theme of divine selection and grace. This emphasizes that God chooses individuals for specific purposes according to His divine plan. Mary’s response, “Let it be to me according to your word,” exemplifies faith and obedience to God’s will. This theme underscores the virtue of trusting and submitting to God’s plan, even when it is unexpected or challenging. The angel’s explanation that the Holy Spirit will come upon Mary and the power of the Most High will overshadow her highlights the Holy Spirit’s role in the Incarnation. This theme reflects the work of the Holy Spirit in the mystery of Christ’s conception and in believers’ lives. The concept of Mary conceiving as a virgin is a significant theme, representing a miraculous event in Christian theology. It signifies God’s power and the beginning of a new creation in Christ.

Fr Jeevan Gabriel SMM  
Parish Priest  
Fr Anthony Beltrame  
Assistant Priest  
Ms Liz Thomas  
School Principal  
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Parish Secretaries  
Mr Aldo Perilli OAM  
Parish Pastoral Chair  
Mr Angelo Piantadosi  
Parish Finance Chair  
Mr Rob Holling  
Planned Giving Chair  
Sagaya Arokiasamy  
Work, Health & Safety Officer  
Deirdre Richardson  
Sacramental Coordinator

### Mass & Confession Times

#### Sunday:

Mass                    8.00 am  
Italian Mass        9.30 am  
Family Mass        11.00am

Tues - Friday        7.00 am

#### Saturday:

Novena                8.30 am  
Mass                    9.00 am  
Vigil                    6.00 pm

**Public Holiday 7.00am**  
**(Not on Mondays)**

#### Confessions

Saturday            9.30 – 10.30 am

**Office Hours 9am – 3pm**

**Monday to Friday**

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Love in all things

## Christmas Prayer



Lord, on this day before Christmas, we pause to prepare our hearts for a most beautiful celebration: Your birth and coming to earth as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Clear our minds so

we can focus on You and the joy You bring to us through Your gift of salvation. May the same thrill and anticipation that filled Mary, the chosen mother of Jesus, consume us and draw us close to You. Help us remember and reflect on the awesome prophecies foretelling Your birth since the beginning of time. Give us eyes of faith to see on this side of the Cross what prophets chose to believe through promises and visions. Immanuel, God with Us, Prince of Peace, the Son of God, Messiah—may all that You are saturate our senses and fill our hearts with both gratitude and worship as we bow this evening before You and offer our prayer to You.

### Hectorville Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed from Monday 25th December 2023 and re-open on Monday 8th January 2024. For any emergencies or sick calls please call the following number for any assistance: 0419866890 or 83369988 to leave a message.

### San Pellegrino Mass and Festival

Wednesday 10th January 2024 7.30pm:  
The Mass S. Pellegrino

Thursday 11th January 2024 7.30pm:  
The Eucharist and S. Pellegrino

\*Friday 12th January 2024 7.30pm:  
S. Pellegrino, the Eucharist and Suffering

Sunday 14th January 2024 11.30am:  
Procession from Annunciation Church

Sunday 14th January 2024 12.30pm:  
Solemn Mass Celebrated by Fr Anthony Beltrame

Sunday 2pm – Closure at 10pm: Local bands,  
entertainment & traditional food

*\*Friday evening is especially dedicated to families and young people with Mass celebrated in English. Pizza will be served in the school hall after mass.*



### ~The Curate's Corner~

**Return.** In our final column of this series, we're going to address the theological obstacles holding our children back from the Church.

**There is no evidence for God.**

**Response: "There is plenty of evidence for God, you just need to know where to look."**

If we've been practicing Catholics all our life, it probably means we've sensed God's presence in prayer or at Mass. Maybe we've witnessed a miracle or just always had a sense that God exists. These are good reasons for us to believe, but they won't mean much to our child. They want proofs which can be tested not reasons unique to us. So, our response should be, "what sort of evidence do you want?" If they mean physical evidence, it's

impossible and illogical. God is not physical and is outside of creation. He can't be examined under a microscope or tested in an experiment. But we can find indirect evidence for God. For example, everything that exists has been caused by another to exist. We know the universe exists, so it must have first been caused to exist by something that is not part of it, and that we call God. There are many good reasons to believe in God, but no single argument will compel our child to believe. Rather let's help them see that belief in God is not as unreasonable as they might have thought.

**Faith and science are at odds. I choose science.**

**Response: "Faith and science are not in competition; they support each other."**

Many former Catholics think evolution and the big bang theory are knock out blows to faith. But no past or future scientific discovery could ever disprove God's existence. Like we said before, science looks at what exists here on earth, but God is not like another person, and he's not sitting up in the clouds either. So, we might push back gently and say, "how specifically are faith and science at odds?" Evolution isn't troubling to Catholics, we're free to either accept or reject the theory, and newer science seems to say that we all come from a common ancestor like the Bible suggests. And the big bang shows that once the universe didn't exist but now it does, so someone must have caused that. Science and faith are not in competition, the same God who created and sustains the universe is the one who reveals himself to us through the scriptures and Jesus Christ.

**How could God have let this evil thing happen to me?**

**Response: "Suffering is difficult to understand, but God doesn't abandon us."**

This is a hard question to answer: One, it's not entirely clear why evil things happen, and two, when they do happen, they affect us emotionally and spiritually, not just intellectually. The mother who's suffered a miscarriage or the man who's prayed endlessly for a relationship that doesn't get better, are not looking for theoretical answers, they just want the pain to stop. In their mind two thoughts often arise. Either God doesn't care, or he just doesn't exist at all. Our response to this should be humble. Our faith tells us that God permits terrible things to happen so that one day a greater good can come about, but we don't know the specifics of when and how. Still God is a good Father, and the best response to this is the cross. On the cross God doesn't offer a quick and easy answer to evil, instead he experiences all of it himself, so that when we go through it, we can know he's right there with us.

**Something to think about:** I hope you've enjoyed this series, but maybe there's been a little voice in your head this whole time saying, "this will never work for my child." And it's true, this might be the greatest undertaking of your life, and it's going to be tough and tiring. But we've got all the tips, tools and strategies we need, now it's time to take action! So, pray, offer small sacrifices, plant seeds of faith and when the time is right, start the conversation and keep it moving. God loves your child, and he wants the same thing as you do: to help him return.

~Fr Anthony Beltrame