



7th April 2024

**The Annunciation to the
Blessed Virgin Mary**



Hymns: 161 212 111 134

Sentence

Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.
(Luke 1:38)

The Collect

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 7, beginning at verse 10.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 40: v.6-13

R: I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation.

O Lord my God, great are the wonderful things which you have done, and your thoughts which are towards us: there is none to be compared with you; Were I to declare them and speak of them: they are more than I am able to express. **R...**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire: but my ears you have marked for obedience; Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required: then said, Lo, I come. **R...**

In the scroll of the book it is written of me, that I should do your will: O my God, I long to do it, your law delights my heart. I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation: I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, and that you know. **R...**

I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart: I have spoken of your faithfulness and of your salvation. I have not kept back your loving-kindness and your truth: from the great congregation. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 10, beginning at verse 4.

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, “Here I am – it is written about me in the scroll – I have come to do your will, my God.”’ First he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them’ – though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, ‘Here I am, I have come to do your will.’ He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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A reading from the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, by an angel you made yourself known to the Virgin Mary, assuring her that you are not absent from the difficulties of the world. Be present with us today, and hear our prayers for the needs of the world.

We pray for mothers and mother figures throughout the world; giving thanks for all that mothers do for their children, and praying for their safety and wellbeing. Particularly for single mothers, and those living through hardship, abuse and trauma. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for children and young people, particularly those in our local community. We pray for their education and the support of their families. May they be kept safe from the harmful doctrines of the world, and led gently to discover you for themselves. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in time; for rational discussion and understanding to permeate the cry for war, in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. We pray for those individuals who strive to be peacemakers, that their voice may be heard, and their example be inspirational to others. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your holy church throughout the world; particularly evangelists, bible study leaders and lay preachers. May they be vessels of the gospel truth, and remain dedicated to the healing, education and unification of Christians everywhere. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need of healing in body, mind or spirit, particularly those known to us: *Joan Grimwade, Gail Piechowiak, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.* Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for souls of the departed, that they might find rest in the eternal kingdom, and for comfort to those who grieve their loss. We pray especially for the souls of Geoff Kirby and Barry Watts, that they be released from all suffering, and find peace with their Saviour. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Marjorie Boulton, Jim Kirk, Valerie Jenkins, Alice Horwood, Alan Walker, Jack Hoysted, Eileen Beaumont, Lucy Cartwright, John Salmon, Ken Poulter, Kathleen Pelham, John Hedley, and Rosa Rogers.* Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Funeral

Geoff Kirby's funeral service will take place at St Matthew's Broadford on Monday 8th April at 12.30pm. There will be a burial at Broadford Cemetery after the service. Please keep Beryl and the family in your prayers.

Kilmore Art Expo

The Expo is on from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th April, at Kilmore Soldiers Memorial Hall (14 Sydney Street, Kilmore). Preview night is Friday 12th at 6.30pm, with the expo open from 10am to 4pm Saturday 13th, and 10am to 3.30pm Sunday 14th. Visit kilmoreartexpo.com.au for more information, and come along and support the work of local artists.

Clergy Conference

Fr. David will be away at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in Bright from Monday 15th April to Thursday 18th April. Any issues during this week, please refer to the Church Wardens.

Painting Workshop

Due to popular demand, another painting workshop with Fr. David is being planned. Depending on people's keenness and availability, this may be in March or April after Easter. If you would be interested in attending, please indicate to Fr. David when you'd be available, so that we can cater to as many people as we can.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

This Week in the Parish:

Monday 8th April: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

12.30pm Funeral, St Matthew's Broadford

Thursday 11th April: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

10am Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

Friday 12th April: 10.30am Blue Cross Aged Care Service

10am-4pm Op Shop Trading

Saturday 13th April: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

9am School Holiday Concert, Wangaratta Cathedral

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 3:12-20; Ps 4; 1 John 2:15-17, 3:1-6; Luke 24:36-48		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 8th April	Ps 85	Ps 89:1-4,19-38
<i>Annunciation</i>	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Genesis 3:8-15
	Hebrews 2:5-18	Romans 5:12-21
Tuesday 9th April	Ps 89:39-53	Ps 91
<i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer</i>	Leviticus 9:22-10:11	Exodus 15:19-27
	1 Peter 3:8-16	Matthew 28:11-20
Wednesday 10th April	Ps 92; 93	Ps 94
	Leviticus 16:1-19	Exodus 16:1-21
	1 Peter 3:17-4:2	Luke 24:1-12
Thursday 11th April	Ps 95; 96	Ps 97; 98
<i>George A. Selwyn</i>	Leviticus 16:20-34	Exodus 16:22-17:7
	1 Peter 4:3-11	Luke 24:13-27
Friday 12th April	Ps 99; 100	Ps 103
	Leviticus 19:1-18	Exodus 17:8-18:9
	1 Peter 4:12-19	Luke 24:28-35
Saturday 13th April	Ps 101; 102:1-11	Ps 102:12-28
	Leviticus 19:23-37	Exodus 18:10-27
	1 Peter 5	Luke 24:35-53

Parish Contacts

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Julie Wallis, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

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Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/> or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services Online on the website.

Thoughts for the Week

There is a public sphere, and there is a private sphere. A key issue with society today is the blurring and misconstrual of the two. Over the years, religion has been relegated further and further into the private sphere, when in fact Christianity by its very nature is evangelistic and apostolic; that is, we are sent by the gospel to proclaim the gospel. Ergo, the proper place for Christianity is in the public sphere. Not just in terms of gathering and preaching and praying, but in the practice of social justice, the literal feeding and advocacy of the poor. If we are helping each other, we must recognise that this is in the name and strength of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Morality is not something we just invented one day, it is a hallmark of God, which separates human beings from the base 'creeping things' upon the earth. It is a gift of God, to be embraced and praised and exercised as such. Love of the Lord (*agape*) is something for the public sphere. Love of another human individual (*eros, philia*) is meant for the private sphere. Not because there is anything wrong with the former two, but rather to retain the sanctity of these human relationships. It has become more and more of a problem with the advancement of social media. Relationships are lived in the public eye, and all sense of the sacred is removed. They become more about physicality, physical attraction, than the exercise of love. Furthermore, a relationship lived in the public eye is done so to elicit sensations like jealousy, pride and sympathy that are counterintuitive to the journey and purpose of the relationship itself. The point is not to shout to the world, 'look how good my life is', because we run the risk of inferring, 'my life is better than yours'. Such mantras seem innocent at first, but can morph over time into the likes of, 'I can get other people to do whatever I want'; a blatant misuse of the gift of love. A partner is someone you support in your own way, time and space, with reciprocity, in sanctity and privacy. The love of the Lord is public because, by contrast, you want to invite others into that relationship. It is an artifact which deepens with increased population; a phenomenon which renders the artifact of sacred human relationship superficial and empty, the more people who are 'in on it'. Know what is meant to be public, and what is meant to be private.