

FIRST READING *Micah 5:1-4*

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

Signore, fa splendere il tuo volto e noi saremo salvi.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 10:5-10*

I am coming to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

CANTO AL VANGELO

Alleluia, alleluia!

Ecco, la serva del Signore: avvenga per me secondo la tua parola. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL *Luke 1:39-44*

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1 st Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$1101.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$269.00
2 nd Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$397.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 20/12/09

6.00pm (SAT) – R Sawi
 9.00am (SUN) – R Pino & C Agostinelli
 10.30am (SUN) – L Conte & E Bartlett

SPECIAL MINISTERS

E Saliba
 P Sparano, S LoBartolo & A Keighley
 J & J Kearney, J Vincitorio

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 27/12/09

6.00pm (SAT) – E Saliba
 9.00am (SUN) – L Catena & C Monforte
 10.30am (SUN) - J Akinido & T Fitzsimmons

SPECIAL MINISTERS

E Krygger
 D Biasibetti, R De Zan & G Barbaro
 L Greco, U Strangis & M Serinia

CHURCH CLEANERS

26/12/09 L Catena, A Sirianni, F Agugiars & R Nyour

MONEY COUNTERS

21/12/09 A Sinopoli, F Narodzza, L Cavedon & R Comito
 28/12/09 E Claridge, F Carabott & G Canavan

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

Max O'KEEFE, Sr Ann HALPIN PBVM, Noel JUBB,

ANNIVERSARIES Giuseppe TARANTO, Mark SPITERI, (son of Carmen & Maurice Spiteri), Lorenzo & Rachele PACELLA, Pasquale & Amelia PACELLA, Giovanni PACELLA, Pasquale & Laura MARIANI, Slavica MANDIC, Stojka MANDIC, Maria-Rosa LAMBRAIA, Bambina GULIELMI, Family Farrugia POLLY, Family Emmanuel POLLY, Family John POLLY, Family Anthony POLLY, Stephan BORG, Carmel BORG & Lucy BORG, Alfred MIZZI, Stephen HAMILTON, Francesco COSTANZO, Vincenza-Angelina MALETTA, Paola PRECARNIA, Salvatore D'AGOSTINO, Caterina CURRA, Maria-Francesca VIRGONA, Pietro D'ALESSANDRO, Silvana BAGGIO, Fernando & Giulia MANCINI, Frank SPARANO, Angela ISKRA, Betty PELUSO, Maria-Grazia MURDICA, Pasquale TIMPANO, Francesco SANTOPIETRO, Eugenio & Ercole SERGIO Emilia & Eugenio CANNATARO, Maria-Rosa LAMBRAIA, Bambina GUGLIELMI Rocco FERRARO, Francesco FERRARO,

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

NORTH RESERVOIR

79 Wilson Boulevard, North Reservoir 3073
 Parish House/Office Tel: 9460 3013 Fax: 9460 8832 Mb: 0431 643 674
 E-mail: stjtw@westnet.com.au
 www.stjosephtheworker.org.au
 School Tel: 9460 7506 Fax: 9462 2949

SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Sat 6.00pm - English
 Sun. 9.00am - Italian
 Sun. 10.30am - English

Fr Emmanuel Bonello–Parish Priest

Sr Doreen Bentley-Pastoral Associate
 Mr Peter Chowne -School Principal
 Mrs Liz Pistoni – Parish Secretary

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon. 9.10am Comm. Service
 Tue. 10.00am Italian
 Wed. 9.10am - English
 Thur. 9.10am - English
 Fri. 9.10am - English
 Sat. 8.30am - English

Maltese Mass

1st Saturday of the Month 6.00pm

Baptisms – Sunday 12.00pm

Marriages - By Appointment



Reconciliation: Sat. 10.30am

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

20 December, 2009

What matters

Christmas is upon us. The shops are buzzing. Most of us are busy, with cooking, cleaning, shopping, and buying presents. In the midst of all the frenetic activity in preparation for the day, the Church presents us with the story of the Visitation, when Mary herself newly pregnant, visits her older cousin Elizabeth who is six months into her pregnancy. She is awaiting the birth of her son. He will be called John the Baptist, for Jesus will come to him to be baptised. Mary reminds us of the things that really matter. How often we get things wrong. We put the wrong values on things. A wise woman once explained that it is as if life was a little like a big supermarket with many things on offer to us. But, she stressed, the price tags are all mixed up in our society. Things which are actually of little value have high price tags. While things that are of great value often have low price tags assigned to them. No wonder, she explained, that our young people are confused in their values. We too are often confused. We tend to place high value on possessions, on what we own, and on what jobs we have. But the most precious things in our lives are not those things at all. It only takes a tragedy or a disaster to bring that truth home to us. Think of those times when we would give all that we owned if only to have a young person relieved of depression, or a friend cured of cancer, or an elderly parent freed of dementia. In the end, the gift of greatest value that we have to give is not any present that we can buy, but our time, our care and concern, our companionship, and our love. The Gospel tells us that Mary goes to visit Elizabeth. There is no mention of the presents she brings. It was the gift of herself and her love that counts most of all. At the sight of Mary, the babe in Elizabeth's womb jumps for joy, and Elizabeth instantly recognizes Mary's holiness. Notice too that Mary's holiness does not lie in the fact that she is to bear the Son of God. Rather, as Elizabeth exclaims, Mary is blessed among women because of her faith: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Here too Mary's example reminds us of the things that really matter. We too, all of us, are called to have faith and to become holy by doing God's will for us, in our work, our families, our neighbourhoods, our whole lives. Indeed, the very last words spoken by Mary which the Gospels record are those which she spoke to the servants at the wedding in Cana and they reiterate the same message: "Do whatever he tells you." Let us resolve this New Year to listen ever more deeply and prayerfully, with open minds and open hearts, to God's will for us. Happy Christmas to you all. May the joy of his coming linger always in our hearts.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2009 - CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00pm Christmas Carols' singing

7.30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass

(Children invited to dress up as one of the Christmas Characters)

11.30pm Carols singing followed by the Midnight Mass

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2009 - CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am Mass in Italian

10.30am Mass in English (Children invited to dress as Christmas Characters)

SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2009 - BOXING DAY

There will NOT be any Mass in the morning.

Saturday Evening: 6.00pm Mass (Vigil Holy Family)

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2009 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Mass times as normal weekend: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.00am (Italian), 10.30am (English)

FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2010 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Mass times - 10.00am in Italian, 11.00am in English

Special times for individual Confessions during the week before Christmas

Orario speciale per le Confessioni individuali durante la settimana prima del Natale

Tuesday (Martedì)	22/12/09	9.30am
Wednesday (Mercoledì)	23/12/09	9.30am
Thursday (Giovedì)	24/12/09	9.30am & 6.30pm

WELCOME TO GRACE BONELLO

We welcome in our parish, Fr Manny's sister, Grace Bonello, who traveled from Malta for a visit to Australia, catching up with family and friends.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

There are Christmas offering envelopes in the seats. Please be generous to the parish during this Christmas season.

FEAST

Saturday 26 December - St John of the Cross

SCHOLARSHIPS

Xavier College is offering a range of scholarships for students entering Years 7, 9 and 11 in 2011. The closing date for applications is 5 February 2010. For registration and information see Xavier's website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships or contact The Registrar, Mrs Di Odgers at Xavier on 9854 5307.



ADVENT /CHRISTMAS

On this fourth Sunday of Advent our reflection can focus on "believing in God's promises". The gospel presents the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, where Elizabeth praised Mary with the words: "blessed is she who believed that the promise of the Lord would be fulfilled". Our Advent theme this year is "Preparing for Christ in our Ordinary Lives". Mary the mother of Jesus is a special figure because she accepted her role in God's plan for salvation. Throughout the Scriptures God often chooses those who are small and apparently powerless to assist in God's plan for salvation. Mary's simplicity and faith is a model for all believers.

As we approach Christmas let us be grateful for all our parishioners and friends who through their faith are doing their best to see goodness in our community. Thanks to the Presbytery and Parish Office people (Secretary and Pastoral Associate) for their great work of coordination in the Parish. Thanks to the School Principal and Teachers, the School Board, the School Fund raising. Thanks to all the groups of people for their good work in the parish: the Parish Leadership Team, Liturgy Team, Finance Committee, Maintenance Committee, the Working Bee Helpers, the Italian Ladies and Men's Committees, the Italian Prayer Group, the ministers of communion at Mass and to the sick, the Readers, those who Welcome people, the Music people and the Singers at Mass, those at the Overhead Projector, the Money Collectors, the Counters, the Altar Servers, and those who prepare for Mass. Thanks to those who use the Hall regularly: the Italian Pensioners Club, the Acquaro Club, and the Maltese Stella Maris Club.

Thanks also to anyone else who has been involved in the parish ministry and activities during the year. Thank you all for your dedication and your great help in our Parish living our motto:

"Let us work together"

To everyone, Parishioner and Friends

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year

Buon Natale e Buon Anno Nuovo

II-Milied it-Tajjeb u s.Sena t-Tajba

Manny Bonello

THE GIVING TREE

The Christmas Giving Tree has been organized by the Liturgy Team and everyone is invited to pick up one of the available paper stars with a written item gift to buy for those in need. Please bring the gift at the Giving Tree by Sunday 20 December 2009.

If you know anyone who might need assistance with food at Christmas please contact Fr Manny, Sr Doreen or Mr Sam Miano.