



**CHRIST CHURCH
BRUNSWICK**
25 December 2009
CHRISTMAS DAY



MISSION and EVANGELISM by EXAMPLE and ENCOURAGEMENT

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am LOW MASS Celebrant: Fr Robert Preacher: Fr Robert

9:30 am HIGH MASS Celebrant: Fr Robert Preacher: Fr Robert

*The order for Mass begins on page 5 of the blue Service Book.
The music version is available at the back of the church*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Of the Father's heart begotten* **33**

INTROIT

Unto us a Child is born; un-to us a *Son* is giv-en **and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be callèd, Angel of migh-ty Coun-cil.** O sing unto the *LORD* a new song: **for he hath done mar-vel-lous things.**
Glo- ry be...

KYRIE & GLORIA

Merbecke

COLLECT

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good tidings,
who publishes peace,
who brings good tidings of good,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

For to what angel did God say,

‘Thou art my son, today have I begotten thee’?

Or again,

‘I will be to him a father,

and he shall be to me a son’?

And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says,

‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN *Unto us a boy is born*

39

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A hallowed day hath dawned upon the earth; come ye nations, and worship *the* LORD: **for on this day a great light hath descended up-*on* the earth. Alleluia.** The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; thou hast laid the foundations of the round world, *and* all that there-in is; **righteousness and equity are the habi-*ta*-tion of thy seat.**

✠ **GOSPEL**

John 1:1–18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his

name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was born before me.' ") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to thee, O Christ

CREED		Merbecke
SERMON		Fr Robert
OFFERTORY HYMN	<i>O Little town of Bethlehem</i>	32
SANCTUS, BENEDICTUS & AGNUS DEI		Merbecke

***If you are a communicant member
of another Church,
you are welcome to receive communion.
Anyone is welcome to receive a blessing
at the altar rail.***

MOTET *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* **D Willcocks**

COMMUNION

ALL the ends of the world: **have seen the salvation of our God.**

HYMN *Hark! the herald angels sing* **26**

***Please join us for refreshments
in the Bardin Centre after the 9:30 am service.***

Dear Parishioners,

For some who may make the Christmas service their one church visit for the year, perhaps just to be back with family and old friends, the story is still familiar, a mixture of vision and faith, an opportunity to engage that latent spirituality which has not found the church ringing their bells. The Christmas story remains a sacred site for very many people inside and outside our churches. Today is the day to encourage people to enjoy it, to touch its sacredness and let it touch them.

Some who may claim the Christmas story is fantasy and ready to be dismissed underestimate the great truths embedded in the Nativity. Part of our role is to help people make the reality connections in the story. This is not the space for untangling what appears to be Luke's confusion in dating Jesus' birth to a census which took place in 6 AD, rather than back in the last years of Herod 6-4 BC. But the politics are not irrelevant. Caesar Augustus was hailed as son of God, as bringer of peace, as saviour, as a good news person. Rome made much of these claims to legitimate its regime of suppression and exploitation, law and order, through the empire. So the Christmas story is a cheeky response. It parodies these claims: the Son of God is a baby whose family can't find accommodation; the good news of peace comes to ordinary shepherd folks of the hills; the peace is about real peace, real inclusiveness. It is people's peace, people's power, people's salvation and liberation.

Without its subversive theme the story degenerates into a myth of origins: the reason why we all have a good time, a kind of aetiology of the west. At the same time it is more than a reactive story. It sets the meaning of Jesus' ministry in the portrait of his nativity. In Jesus we celebrate God's reaching out to all humanity, no one written off, no one despised, and no one too strange, too bad, and too inhuman. In Jesus we celebrate the meeting of earth and sky: the divine human encounter which gives sense and purpose to existence, the possibility of participating in the life of God and the peace of God in the world of reality.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas,

Fr Robert

Year's Mind

John McKay
Thomas Gabriel Robinson

Flowers

... have been given in loving memory of
Ellen, Robert Francis, Robert and Adrian Stafford

Pastoral

The Vicar will be on leave from tomorrow and Fr Drew Hanlon will be the Locum. Please contact Fr Drew on 9354 6510 if you have pastoral concerns; other matters should be referred to the church-wardens.

DIRECTORY

Vicar: The Revd Robert Newton
Phone & Fax: 9380 1064

Associate The Rt Revd James Grant
Clergy: The Revd Philip Burgess
The Revd Dr Drew Hanlon
The Revd Robert Holland

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A date for your diary

Sunday 7 February 2010

7:00 pm Evensong

Commemoration of
Charles I, King & Martyr

The Philip Harris Memorial Address:

The Revd Dr Drew Hanlon
Martyrdom: chosen and dangerous?
or imposed and life-giving?

Supper will be served