

Parish Press

Sunday December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sentence

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. Matthew 1.23

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,
you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:
so fill us with your grace,
that with her we may rejoice in your salvation,
and in all things embrace your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 7.10-16	Page (OT) 493
Psalms 80.1-7, 17-19	Page (OT) 420
Romans 1.1-7	Page 116
Matthew 1.18-25	Page 1

Today's services are

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Holy Communion Service followed by morning tea

“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:8-9

- A Christian Presence in Our Community since 1886 -

Mark's Reflection

As Advent draws to a close, we turn again to Mary — young, humble, and open-hearted — who receives the angel's astonishing message: "You will conceive and bear a son... and you shall call his name Jesus."

In this moment, all of salvation history hangs in the balance. God's plan of redemption waits upon the response of a young woman from Nazareth. And Mary's answer, quiet yet courageous, changes everything: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Her faith and obedience embody the very heart of Advent. While we have been preparing, watching, and waiting, Mary shows us what that readiness looks like — a willingness to say "yes" to God, even when the future is uncertain.

The fourth candle on the Advent wreath — often called the Candle of Love — reminds us that everything God does is rooted in love. The coming of Christ is not an idea or a ritual; it is the outpouring of divine love into human life. As Mary welcomed Christ into her womb, we are invited to welcome Him into our hearts and homes, that His love may take flesh in us.

Today as we find ourselves on the threshold of Christmas, may we, like Mary, make room for Christ with trust and quiet joy.

As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth, may your hearts be filled with peace, hope, and the deep assurance of God's love. May the light of Christ shine in your homes and in your lives, and may His coming bring renewal and joy to our parish family.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

God Bless

Mark

Christmas Services 2025 - A Celebration of Hope

Christmas Eve

- 5.30pm Family Christmas Service. "The Nativity" with Carols

Midnight Mass with Carols

- 11.30pm (Carol singing from 11pm)

Christmas Day

- 9.30am Christmas Communion and Carols

THANK YOU - Service of Lessons and Carols

Thank you to everyone who brought a plate for our supper last week, helped prepare for the service and attended.

Most importantly, a huge thank you to Richard and the Choir for all their hard work and dedication. Thank you for a great night!

CHURCH FLOWERS.

As Christmas approaches, the flower team is asking for donations to cover the increasing costs of fresh flowers for our special services in 2026 and to update our silk flower resources. Please place your donations in an envelope with Church Flowers on the front and give it to me or Maureen Ireland. With thanks Sally James.

Parish Prayer List

Helen Burston, Stephen Binns, William Stewart (Stu) Parry, Robyn Foscett, Thelma Fiddymment, Rachel Hayman, Bruce Knox, Helen Morris, John and Sally James, Edith Jenkins, Sue Hand, Ann Constable, Gwen Jackson, Verna Hubert, Hayden Daley, Joy Hayman, Mark, Paul Carver.

We remember

We give you thanks for your servants in every age. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your kingdom. Sylvia McQueen nee Taylor, James Scarrebrook, Kerry Albert, Dorothy Bower, Raymond Dickason, Jillian Sullivan, Jon Allen Baker, Edward "Ted" Amery Hall.

This Week at Holy Trinity

Tuesday

9.30-12.30pm Office Hours

Wednesday CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30pm Family Christmas Service. "The Nativity" with Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass with Carols (singing from 11pm)

Thursday CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Christmas Communion and Carols

Sunday

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Holy Communion Service followed by morning tea

Readings this week

Monday	Luke 1.46-56
Tuesday	Luke 1.57-66
Wednesday	Luke 2.1-14 (15-20)
Thursday	Luke 2.(1-7) 8-20
Friday	Matthew 10.17-22
Saturday	John 20.2-8

Sunday

Isaiah 63.9-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2.10-18

Matthew 2.13-23

Direct Giving to Holy Trinity

To give directly to the Parish, via the Anglican Development Fund,

BSB: 703-122.

Acct No: 0500 4680.

Holy Trinity Surrey Hills.

Scan to access our website
holytrinity.sh



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