



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 52

24 – 25 December 2010

CHRISTMAS: YEAR A

Reflection:



'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light, on those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.'

How can we describe this 'darkness' today? Is it the growing gap between rich and poor? Is it the large percentage of humankind who live in abject poverty? Is it the international system of economics that excludes a huge number of people from even the most basic means of survival? Is it the rape of the environment with little regard to long-term consequences? Is it the injustice of the basic disregard for human dignity in so many countries?

"It is Christmas. Light the candles.

They have more right to exist than all the darkness.

It is Christmas, Christmas that lasts forever." - Karl Rahner *'The Eternal Year'*

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THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour is born to the world. True peace has descended from heaven.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

V. 1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

V. 2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory & his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

V. 3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise,

Let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

V. 4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: We pray: **Christ, be our light**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **The Word of God became man; we have seen his glory.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all who are in need of prayer at this time. We pray for those who are ill in spirit, mind or body, and for those who love and care for them.

We remember Kerry Carroll who died recently and Dorothy Hancock who died during the year. We also remember Luigi Danza, Chiara and Antonio Lombardi whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Leaving Collection: There will be a **Leaving Collection** at each Christmas Mass to support the work of the Olympic Village Exodus Community in Heidelberg. We thank all for their contributions and generosity.

MASS TIMES

Sunday 26th December: 9.00am Mary Immaculate 9.00am St Bernadette's
10.30am Mother of God 11.00am St Bernadette's - Korean

NEW YEAR 2011

New Year's Eve **Friday 31st December:** 9.15am Mother of God
New Year's Day **Saturday 1st January:** 11.00am St Bernadette's – Korean Community
6.30pm St Bernadette's

Mass times for Weekends in January:

Saturday: 6.30pm St Bernadette's **Sunday:** 9am Mary Immaculate **Sunday:** 10.30am Mother of God

5.00pm Masses at Mary Immaculate

There will be no 5.00pm Masses at Mary Immaculate Church until further notice

Other Possibilities:

5.00pm	St. Gregory's	Manningham Rd, Doncaster
5.00pm	St John's	Queen's Parade, Clifton Hill
6.00pm	St. John's	Cape St, Heidelberg
6.00pm	Ss. Peter and Paul	Leeds St. East Doncaster

Thank you: We sincerely thank Fr Len Thomas for celebrating Masses in this Christmas season, and all priests – Fr Burns Huggan, Fr Peter Carrucan, Fr Rom Murphy and Fr Jim Scannell who have celebrated Masses in the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe over this past year. We are grateful for their support and assistance, as well as their generosity of time and spirit. – **Fr John**

Parish Office: The Office will be attended at different intervals from 27 - 31 December as I will be on leave. **Phone messages, urgent or otherwise,** may be left at **9499 5440** or **9499 1515**. Notices such as deaths, anniversaries and prayers for the sick will be noted and where possible included as part of Prayers of the Faithful within Mass. They can be included in the newsletter weekend of 8 - 9 Jan 2011 if wished. - Ruth

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION



Welcome to all who have come to celebrate Christmas in the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.

We wish all parishioners, friends and visitors a very happy and a holy Christmas, as well as a safe and peaceful New Year.

Best wishes - Fr John, Leadership Teams & Parish Office Staff

From Father John:

As we celebrate the Birth of Christ on Christmas Day – and the Advent of Fr Thang Vu and my retirement, I can't help but reflect upon our Parish – where we have come from and where we might be journeying.

I think of my demise, and above all I think of Thang Vu, our new Parish Priest.

I had the privilege of spending some time with him last Friday and while we spent only a couple of hours with each other I was impressed by him. I believe that the people of Ivanhoe are very blessed.

I think at this time of our Parish values enshrined in our newsletter each week:

- **Inclusiveness** Welcoming all who come to our doors seeking a home.
- **Hospitality** Those who seek refuge – and a place to call home!
- **Service** Those need recognition or acceptance
- **Mission** Those who recognise and look beyond horizons to seek those who have lost their way!
– Fr John

A New Parish Priest:

With thanks to Parish website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com

Fr John Cunningham will retire mid-January 2011 after fifty years as a Priest and ten years in the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. He will retire as Parish Priest much loved here, and beyond, by people of all ages.

We warmly welcome Fr Thang as Fr John's replacement and are fortunate to have him as our Parish Priest. While Fr Thang will officially take over upon Fr John's retirement in mid January, he will initially be on leave and actually commence parish duties in Ivanhoe Parish later in January 2011.

Fr Thang was born in Vietnam in 1973, the second of eight children. After three years in a refugee camp in Thailand he came to Australia where he was educated at Braybrook Secondary College and Monash University.

He commenced formation for the priesthood in 2002. Being a member of a Eucharistic Youth Movement had a positive influence on his sense of vocation to the priesthood and nourished him during the time of discernment. He is grateful for the love, support, and prayers of family, friends, brother-seminarians and priests. Following his Ordination to the Priesthood, Fr Thang offered his Mass of Thanksgiving at St Peter Chanel's, Deer Park on 7 September 2008, prior to his appointment as Assistant Priest at Hoppers Crossing.

In February 2009 Archbishop Hart announced the appointment of a Bushfire Recovery Chaplain, Fr Greg Bourke, Parish Priest of St Peter Apostle Mission, Hoppers Crossing. Fr Greg relocated to a temporary residence at Yarra Glen and Fr Thang attended to parish pastoral responsibilities at Hoppers Crossing and was supported by Fr Donald Lorenz.

As has been light-heartedly commented already, this particular Parish is fortunate in having a new Parish Priest who apart from his priestly background and focus is also qualified in accountancy!

From Amanda: Wishing everyone a very joyful and peaceful Christmas as we celebrate that most amazing gift of Jesus, come as a human to help us understand the beauty and wonder of the world and to share God's message of love, of welcome and kindness to all. - **Amanda Smith, Pastoral Associate**

ADVANCE NOTICE:



CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE PARISH DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY 23rd JULY 2011

Put this date in your 2011 diary now! And ask your friends to do the same!

The Streeton Room, Heidelberg Town Hall, Ivanhoe

For information: Paul McEvey 0438 509 995 or paul.mcevey@gmail.com

2010 Report from Chris Dixon, Chair, Pastoral Leadership Team

2010 has certainly been a big year in the life of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.

As well as continuing with the “ordinary” activities of the Parish we have had a number of extra-ordinary events this year, including:

- 2010 marked the 70th anniversary of the creation of the first Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.
- The retirement mid-year of Fr. Len Thomas after over 11 years with the Ivanhoe Cluster and amalgamated Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.
- The final year of Fr. John Cunningham’s 10 years as the Parish Priest.
- Major building projects completed or well underway at each of our 3 Parish Primary Schools.
- Publication of the long-awaited History of the Parish.
- Commencement of serious planning for the Retirement Accommodation at the Ford St. site of the Tennis Club, which ceased after over 50 years of sterling service to the Community.

The so-called ordinary Parish activities were undertaken through the co-operation, hard work and skills of all staff and volunteers in the Church and school communities.

In conclusion, we need to acknowledge with gratitude the magnificent and unique efforts and talents of the 2 priests finishing up with 10 years plus service each to our community.

Fr. Len has kept us challenged, entertained and focussed on a wider role for us in our community, while providing support to so many people.

Fr. John has led and supported us through a hectic decade of enormous change, not without its share of challenges.

Fr. John will be remembered for much including his sometimes contrary outlook, but in particular, his pastoral care to the children of our schools visiting 20 classrooms nearly every school week, and his pastoral care with the terminally ill. Without doubt the one-to-one relationships he developed with people in their sickness have been of enormous comfort to them and their families.

We thank both John and Len for their presence and journeying with us, and wish them good health and contentment in their well-earned retirement.

On behalf of the Pastoral Leadership Team, I wish you a joyful and holy Christmas as we move into an exciting, challenging and hopefully fulfilling 2011.

2011 Parish Leadership Team – Nomination Form

The Parish Leadership Team takes this opportunity to wish parishioners a Happy New Year and looks forward to working with the Parish in 2011. There is no doubt that this will be another challenging year, but also one full of hope for the future of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.

1. The PLT will meet for the first time in 2011 on **MONDAY 7 February** at the **Parish Office** at **8pm**.
2. **CALL** for new members for the Parish Leadership Team for 2011.
The practice for the past few years has been to call for new members for the PLT to begin the New Year. We have a very exciting year ahead – your contribution would be very valuable. The nomination form is printed below, or phone Chris Dixon 9499 6191. Nominations close 5pm **Friday 4 February 2011**.

PLT NOMINATION FORM 2011 - CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

Full name:

Address:.....

Phone: Mobile no:

Email address:.....

I wish to nominate for a General Parishioner Position on the Parish Leadership Team

*Please forward this nomination form to Parish Office 9am – 5pm before **Friday 4 February 2011***

Any questions or queries please ring Chris Dixon: 9499 6191