



# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

*St Bernadette's Church, 89 Bond St, Ivanhoe West  
Mary Immaculate Church, 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe  
Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East*

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Thang Vu 63 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East 9499 5440 (after hours)  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Ruth Villani  
**Parish Office:** 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079 **Phone:** 9499 1515 **Fax:** 9499 9959  
**Parish Website:** www.ivanhoecatholics.com **Email:** catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com

## Masses:

**Weekend: Saturday:** 6.30pm St Bernadette's **Sunday:** 9am Mary Immaculate; 10.30am Mother of God  
**Weekday:** 9.15am **Tuesday:** Mother of God **Wednesday:** Mary Immaculate **Friday:** St Bernadette's

**No. 52a**

**25 December 2014**

## CHRISTMAS: YEAR B

### 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 **Response: 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 and 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 **Response: 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 **Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:** Lord of justice and peace: **Hear our prayer**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

### **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:**

We remember Maria Colavizza, Mike McGuire, Sarah O'Shaughnessy, Margaret O'Brien, Katharina Dimitscheff, Tran thi Kim Chi, Sung Bui, Amy Nguyen, John Coonan and Gino Villani who are in need of prayer at this time. We remember those who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember those who have died recently. We also remember Patrick Jordan and Maria Trang Ha whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



### 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.

- Fr Thang, Leadership Teams & Parish Office Staff

### Thank you from Fr Thang:

I would like to thank parishioners for their best wishes, cards and gifts received recently. Sincere thanks to all parishioners, families and schools in the parish community for their assistance and support during the year.



Paul Kelly's *How To Make Gravy* is an authentic Australian folk carol. Of course, this song is in the spirit of the early white settlement, made up largely of convicts and criminals! In his 2010 memoir, also called *How To Make Gravy*, Kelly tells that it was inspired by the often-forgotten spoken prologue Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. It ends: "There's never been such day in old LA, but it's December 24<sup>th</sup> and I am longing to be up north." Irving intensified the feeling of "Christmas by writing about not being there."

Kelly's *How To Make Gravy* is written in form of a letter. Joe, the narrator, is a prisoner who writes to his brother, Dan. It is Christmas week and Joe who usually makes the gravy at the family gathering, is separated from his family, friends and is feeling so lonely: "Won't you kiss my kids on Christmas Eve" and "I'm even gonna miss Roger 'cause there's sure as hell no one in here I want to fight." The image of Joe asking his brother to look after his family, but not to dance too close with Rita as "she's the one to save me" reveals a man who feels helpless to stop possible changes in his relationship with her.

Isaiah, who lived in the 8<sup>th</sup> century before the Birth of Christ wrote consolingly and prophetically: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them." The Prophet proclaimed the coming Wonder-Counsellor and Prince of Peace and of the light and life he would bring.

Christmas arrives again here in our land with all the promises of memories and celebration. We celebrate the Birth of Jesus because the light did dawn. The Nativity of our Lord in a small humble, and poor town of Bethlehem was not only the fulfilment of God's promise, but also the dawn of a new age.

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all people of goodwill."*

In 1996 when Paul Kelly rang Lindsay Fields who was organising a Christmas charity record about his new song *How To Make Gravy*, he said: "I have a Christmas song... but it doesn't have a chorus and it's set in prison."

*How To Make Gravy* does not have a chorus and it is set in prison which can describe the life of many people on many levels. Christmas is a time that we are called to connect, reconnect, build bridges among family members, neighbours, members of our three parish communities, singing the heavenly chorus: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all people of goodwill." During the year, I have listened to sad stories about people's inability to connect because of resentment, hurt, alienation... which all, unfortunately occur in families.

At Christmas we celebrate the marriage between heaven and earth: Jesus Christ comes into our broken world to share our human nature and so enable us to connect better with God and each other. May we reconnect all aspects of our lives: the joys and hopes, anguish and anxiety and praise God in the heavenly chorus: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all people of goodwill."

**Sources:** Paul Kelly, *How To Make Gravy*, (Penguin Books, 2010)  
ec-web.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au

**Graphics:** © en.wikipedia.org



### **Outreach Wishes Everyone a Joyful, Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year:**

We sincerely thank parishioners and friends for their support and attendance at our various activities held during the past year. Further information and dates will be available in the New Year. - Sue, Helen and Eileen



**Newsletter notices, items, prayers and anniversaries:** **Needed: Wednesday 31 Dec.** Newsletters for the month of January will be prepared in advance and notices will need to be given to the Parish Office no later than **Wednesday 31 December**. Contact details for Parish Office: Phone 9499 1515, Fax 9499 9959; or email: catholicparisfofivanhoe@bigpond.com

### **MASSES for the NEW YEAR 2015**

**New Year's Day** **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015:**  
10.00am Mother of God  
11.00am St Bernadette's – Korean Catholic Community

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION