

The Child

With only a few days left till Christmas, preparations have become urgent. This may be vividly true of getting ready for the festivities; perhaps it is also so in terms of our spiritual preparation.

It may come as a surprise that one of the greatest Catholic thinkers and writers of the 20th century, Hans Urs von Balthasar, made the child the centre of his monumental work. And not just any child, but the child Jesus. When von Balthasar died (aged 83) he left the manuscript of a new book on his desk. It was titled *Unless You Become Like This Child*. This was one way of putting Jesus, the Divine Child, at the centre of Christianity. It was a way of heeding the adult Jesus' words: "Anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it" (Mk 10:15).

Von Balthasar brings the theme of the child to the mystery of the Eucharist: "The hands of the Church hold the Eternal Child up toward the Eternal Father, in order that, at first, the Father may see only him, but so that then, in this one Child, he may see all the other children which the Child takes with him so as not to appear alone before the Father."

Some of the wonder, joy, and welcome that normally are associated with human birth can be detected in our Christmas traditions. Of course, it is the identity of the Child that most

fully captures our attention. St Alphonsus Liguori's poetic soul was enraptured by the Divine Child: "This precious Infant has stolen my heart", he wrote in a Christmas poem. To

this day the hymn of Alphonsus, *From the Starry Throne Descending - Tu scendi dalle Stelle*, with its refrain "O bambino, mio divino", is sung (with gusto) in Italy.

Carols are songs of joy, originally accompanied with dancing; now applied especially to popular songs of a religious nature. Such songs can celebrate any religious event but generally the term is used in the context of celebrating Christmas. Often Christmas carols are pleasing prayers in a sentimental mood. But often there is a back-story of the bigger picture of who this Child is and why is he here and what lies ahead. W.H. Auden in his

poem, *At the Manger Mary Sings*, asks, "In your first few hours of life here, O have you / Chosen already what death must be your own? / How soon will you start on the Sorrowful Way? / Dream while you can.

Even in our southern hemisphere we sing 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter', happy to respond to the way God has come to us in the Child:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a Wise Man I would do my part.

Yet what I can I give Him? Give my heart.

(Christina Rossetti)



Image by alexandramontanaro from Pixabay



SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 80.

RESPONSE:

O God, bring us back; let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth. rouse up your might and come to save us. **R**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R**
3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have confirmed as your own. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia.

GOSEL: Luke 1:39-45.

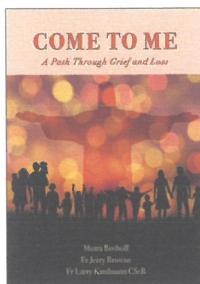
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

The title of this book is well chosen: Come To Me. Taken from Jesus' words, "Come to me all who labour and are burdened...", this book echoes the intimate and encouraging invitation of Jesus to go him with our burdens.

Moira Boshoff, from her years of experience in care ministry, helps us to name our pains, and Father Jerry Browne's reflections bring us closer to the Jesus who stretches out his hand of invitation. The book also involves readers in the process of reflection by bringing their own experience to bear on the various issues presented.



R80
plus delivery

Order from our website www.rpp.org.za or email orders@rpp.org.za. Office: Tue-Fri 08.30-13.00

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 23 Dec (St John of Kanty, Pr)

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6; Psalm 25; Luke 1:57-66

"Going hand-in-hand with that true brand of humility one saw in him a great childlike humility. There was nothing deceitful or ambiguous in his actions and words." – Pope Clement X, 1767, on St John of Kanty

Tue 24 Dec Liturgy of the Day

2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16; Psalm 89; Luke 1:67-79

"It is ... at the first Christmas, that the most profound unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. God became man; Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation." – J.I. Packer

Wed 25 Dec NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; John 1:1-18

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." – Pope Francis

Thu 26 Dec ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31; Matthew 10:17-22

St Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips.

Fri 27 Dec ST JOHN, AE

1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97; John 20:2-8

It is a long way from being eager to sit on a throne of power to write, "The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16)

Sat 28 Dec HOLY INNOCENTS, Ms

1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124; Matthew 2:13-18

The Holy Innocents of Jesus's time can be compared to the genocide of abortion of our day. Pray daily for all mothers facing an unexpected pregnancy, and for the protection of unborn children.

Sun 29 Dec HOLY FAMILY

1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28; Psalm 84; Luke 2:41-52

"It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start." – St Teresa of Calcutta

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Pr=Priest; A=Apostle; E=Evangelist; Ms=Martyrs

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

1154 Woodlands Drive, Queenswood, PRETORIA, 0186
www.christking.org.za
Queenswood@christking.org.za
 Tel: 012 333 4738

(For banking details please contact the Parish Office)

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 2024

21	Sat	18h00	RIP Roko Sinovich RIP Jelka Sinovich RIP Rokela Sinovich RIP Mate Sinovich RIP Thora Perez
22	Sun	08h00	For all the faithful departed
		10h00	RIP Clementina de Nobrega
		18h30	In thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has done for my family this year Josephine and the Sallh family
23	Mon	18h00	COMMUNION SERVICE
24	Tues	19h00	Bells Mass
		23h00	Carols by Candlelight
		00h00	Midnight Mass
25	Wed	09h00	RIP Leandro Moreira Farouk Hoosen birthday wish and healing from Cancer
26	Thu	09h00	
27	Fri	09h00	

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Veronica Wheeler, Wendy Elliott, Genevieve van der Merwe, Gideon Wathen, Venancio Ruguwa, Okopantse Matshane, Moira Lottering, Pieter Du Pokoy, Cecilia Forbes, Innita Davies, Miriam Marais and Lyne Bogle.

We would appreciate an update every 2nd month as to whether they stay on the list or if they are well enough to be removed.

Should you wish to add a loved one to our sick list please send their details to

secretary@christking.org.za

PARISH NOTICES

MASS TIMES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON: Please take note of the Mass times for the festive season. The Mass times can be found on the Parish webpage, on the notice board, and on the window of the guard-house.

CHRISTMAS TREE TAGS: If all presents could be returned by the 22nd of December for distribution by the 23rd of December it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for participating in this amazing project.

CATECHISM REGISTRATION 2025: Catechism registrations have opened. Please download the applicable grade form from the parish website complete the form make the payment as indicated on the form and send the completed form with the proof of payment to secretary@christking.org.za

FR DANIEL'S HOME VISIT: Fr Daniel will be away from 12 December to 21 February for a well-deserved break with his family. Fr landed safely in Nairobi.

OFFICE CLOSURE: The parish office is closed and reopens on the 06 January 2025.

JOIN US IN CARING FOR OUR CHURCH! Volunteers are needed to clean the church on 24th and 31st December from 09h00. Your help makes a huge difference!

SECOND COLLECTION ADVENT APPEAL: There is a second collection for the Archbishops Advent Appeal ending the weekend of the 22 December 2024. Please give generously.

BISCUIT SALES:

Cookie sales will be taking a break between 15 December 2024 to 12 January 2025. Cookie sales will resume on Sunday 19 January 2025.

REPOSITORY NEW HOURS: The repository will be open every Saturday evening from 5-6pm and Sunday between 7.15am and 9.45am. There is new stock great for Christmas gifts. Our Bible diaries have arrived. Grab yours before they are sold out.

NEW OPERATING SECURITY / CHURCH HOURS

The security is on a new rotational roster which means the church will open for **Adoration** during the following hours 10h00 till 22h00 Monday to Saturday and from 07h30 to 19h30 on Sunday.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK



21 Dec: Ms Kathleen Gerbach, Ms Lethabo Mathigela

22 Dec: Mr Thomas Varghese

23 Dec: Mr Bendoric Chilzeremu, Mr Silva Rossi, Mrs Marie-Louise Samuels, Ms Elizabeth Gaymans

24 Dec: Mr Emmanuel Ajayi-Smart, Mr Justin Viera, Ms Pia Thomas

25 Dec: Dr Annah Ndeketya, Mr Alan

Joel, Mr Noel Padipurakkal

27 Dec: Mr Carlos Tavares, Mr Ifiok Edewo

28 Dec: Mrs Jocelyn Evans, Ms Mary Van Kets

PARISH FINANCES

TITHING: There are Tithe application sheets in the front of the church please fill one in and either drop it in the slot or email to

finance@christking.org.za We encourage you to tithe to support the parish and its many projects that are underway.

Thank you to everyone who currently supports the works of the church.

Please continue to support our Parish via the banking details or the attached

Snapscan code

Banking details:

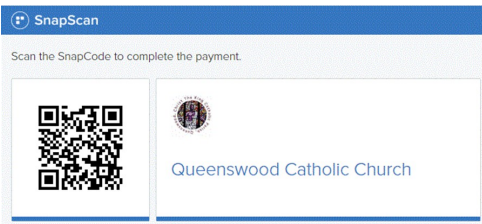
Christ the King Catholic Church

Standard Bank Branch 051001

Main Account No. 011564733

Tithing Account No. 011181230

Snapscan



PARISH OFFICE

Parish Priest:

Fr. Daniel Kivuw'a IMC

Tel: 012 333 4738 / 071 306 3769

Email: dankbwa@yahoo.fr

Parish Office Administrator:

Angela Solomons

secretary@christking.org.za

Office Hours:

Mon to Fri **08h00 - 16h00**

Tel: 012 3334738

For any appointments with Fr. Daniel, please contact Angela, she manages Fr. Daniel's calendar.

University Chaplain:

Fr Manuel Graca: m.c.graca16@gmail.com

Tel: 073 254 4185

HUMANITAS

OUTREACH: We would like to ask the generous community to continue their support of this worthy cause. This is one of the outlets we use to service the needy in our community.

Should you wish to donate to this worthy cause our banking details are:

Christ the King Catholic Church Queenswood; Standard bank, cheque account, Account number 01182709, Branch code 000145. All donations are gratefully accepted.



JUBILEE 2025

GENERAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



Photo: Vatican Media

JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons



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DEDICATION / TITHE

After prayerful consideration, I would like to be included as a Dedication / Tithe Contributor.

Once completed, please email to Finance@christking.org.za or leave at the **Parish Office** during office hours.

SURNAME: _____

NAME: _____

CELLPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Your dedication number will be emailed, sms'd or phoned through to you.

I have decided that I can dedicate R_____

- Monthly to the works of the Church
- Annually to the works of the Church
- I will do this by EFT into the Parish Tithe Account
- I would like to give cash in an envelope
- Please contact me to make a Bequest to the church in my Last Will and Testament

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your kind contribution.