

All Hallows' Five Dock



The Nativity of the Lord | Year B | Monday 25th December 2023

Parish Mission

We, the people of this place, live and celebrate a love of faith.

We share this faith in a spirit of service, that creates a sense of God's presence among us.

All Hallows' Parish

Parish Priest:

Fr Sebastian Savarimuthu

E: pp@allhallows.org.au

Assistant Priest:

Fr Richard Ddumba

E: ap@allhallows.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Elsa Waldie

E: admin@allhallows.org.au

Parish Bookkeeper:

Janelle Buckley

Parish Office:

Monday - Thursday
9am - 4pm

2 Halley Street,
Five Dock NSW 2046
Ph: 9713 7960

E: admin@allhallows.org.au

W: www.allhallows.org.au

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.



All Hallows Catholic Primary School:

School Principal:

Maria Femia

Ph: 9713 4469

F: 9712 5184

E: info@ahpsfivedock.catholic.edu.au

W: www.ahfivedock.catholic.edu.au

A Reflection by Fr Sebastian

Gospel Reading John 1:1-18 (or shorter form, John 1:1-5, 9-14)

John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

At Christmas we celebrate the great mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us. We call this mystery the Incarnation (the word means "to take on flesh"), and it changes everything. Today's Gospel reminds us that we can also look upon the Nativity from God's perspective to better appreciate the significance of the Incarnation. The mystery we proclaim at Christmas is that God, the very God who created all things from nothing and who is light itself, took on our humanity to transform us. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. At this awesome mystery, we adore.

Gather as a family around your Nativity set. Keep this image before you and talk about how familiar we are with this scene. Invite members of the family to recall the details of Jesus' birth that we hear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Observe that the Gospel of John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:1-14. John's Gospel reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation. What are some of the things that John's Gospel says happened for us because Jesus came to dwell among us? (Light overcame darkness; we see God's glory in Jesus; we became children of God.) Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

With best wishes -
Fr Sebastian



Sacramental Life

Holy Mass:

Saturday: 8am & 5.30pm Vigil

Sunday: 8.30am (1st Sunday of the month - Italian mass), 10am and 5pm

Monday - Friday: 8am

Wednesday: Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration - 12pm - 4pm

- Start: Exposition at 12 noon
- Divine Mercy prayers: 3:00pm
- Reconciliation: 3pm - 3:40pm
- Benediction: 3:45pm • Finish: 4:00pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday:
8:30am-9am / 4:45pm - 5:15pm
Or any time by appointment.

Sick Calls: Any time - day/night.

Baptisms:

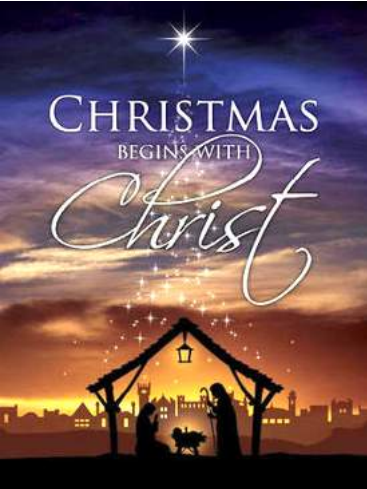

Every Sunday at 11am.

Weddings:

Contact the parish office.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. To read the Archdiocese Child Safeguarding policy, please visit the parish website (<https://www.allhallows.org.au/safeguarding>).

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Isaiah 52:7-10 A reading from the prophet Isaiah All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.</p> <p>How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.</p> 	<p>(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.) 2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.) 3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.) 4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.) 	<p>Hebrews 1:1-6 A reading from the letter to the Hebrews In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.</p> <p>At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.</p>
	<p>Next Week's Readings</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p>
	<p>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 1st Reading: Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3 2nd Reading: Heb 11:8; 11-12; 17-19 Gospel: Lk 2:22-40</p>	<p>Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel

John 1:1-5. 9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.



Historical Context – The Nativity scene

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.