

**Sunday 24 December 2022**  
**Nativity of the Lord, Vigil Mass**

*Liturgical Colour: White. Year: A(I).*

**Readings at Mass**

*Readings for the Vigil Mass, celebrated during the afternoon or evening before Christmas Day:*

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**Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ex 16: 6-7**

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us,  
and in the morning you will see his glory.

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**Collect**

O God, who gladden us year by year  
as we wait in hope for our redemption,  
grant that, just as we joyfully welcome  
your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer,  
we may also merit to face him confidently  
when he comes again as our Judge.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

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**First reading**

**Isaiah 62:1-5**

**The bridegroom rejoices in his bride**

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;  
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded';

for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

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## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 88(89):4-5,16-17,27,29**

*I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.’

*I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss.

*I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

‘He will say to me: “You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.”  
I will keep my love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall endure.’

*I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

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## Second reading

**Acts 13:16-17,22-25**

### **Paul's witness to Christ, the son of David**

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

‘Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

‘Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, “I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose.” To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David’s descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, “I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal.”’

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### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world  
and the saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

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### **Gospel**

**Matthew 1:1-25**

#### **The ancestry and birth of Jesus Christ, the son of David**

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,

Perez was the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram was the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,

Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,

Obed was the father of Jesse;

and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,

Joram the father of Azariah,

Azariah was the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah;

and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:

Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,

Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor was the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Achim,  
Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob;  
and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary;  
of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

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### **Prayer over the Offerings**

As we look forward, O Lord,  
to the coming festivities,  
may we serve you all the more eagerly  
for knowing that in them  
you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

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### **Communion Antiphon**

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

**Cf. Is 40: 5**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that we may draw new vigour  
from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,  
by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.