



St Edmund King & Martyr

TUESDAY, 25TH DECEMBER 2018

The Nativity of Our Lord

(Parish Mass Book page 102)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7- 10.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 97:1 - 6.

RESPONSE: *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1 - 6.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia.*

GOSPEL: John a:1 - 18.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *All the ends of the arth have been the salvation of our God.*

Christmas Reflection 2018

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. I know that it will be a busy time for many and perhaps you may be feeling the pressure to make everything 'perfect'. But without doing anything, which I know is not an option, everything is already 'perfect'. This is because the perfect gift has been given to us from God the Father, the gift of his Son Jesus. This is the starting point of all our celebrations, especially our times of prayer and worship together. We come to give thanks to God for the gift of his Son and we pray and reflect to be open to what His gift means to us both now and in the future. We do this together because Jesus is given to us all in our diversity, young and old, rich and poor and, dare I say it, leave and remain. This is something that God is doing and not something we can do or control but only receive. In many ways we cannot 'do' Christmas - through God's gift Christmas is something done to us – God's Grace is given as a gift and not achieved. This should strike a chord with parents, especially new ones, as they often say they experience the birth of their children as gifts. We have all been given the gift of this Divine child.

Jesus sheds his light on our lives and helps us on our journey through life. I hope that as the year draws to a close you will be able to reflect upon the last twelve months and know that Jesus has been with you in the good times as well as the bad. Christmas is the Feast where we proclaim and believe that God is with us. As I reflect on the year, I remember the Parishioners that we have commended to God as they have reached the end of their earthly pilgrimages. I also remember those parishioners whose loved ones have died and I will be keeping you all in my prayers over this Christmas and New Year season. Jesus was born to give his life to us, a life that overcomes death, so that we can all be reunited in his resurrected life in the new heaven and the new earth. Suffering can strike us at any time and no one escapes, including Jesus. One of the Kings presents the infant King with Myrrh – the sign that Jesus will share in our suffering. My prayers will be with those who are sick and housebound and all those suffering in different ways that the Lord will grant his healing graces to all in need.

A sincere thank you to all who work for the Parish and support me as Parish Priest and offer a service of love to parishioners, especially those in need. I value your work and so do many others. I hope and pray that our Parish renewal, through the Divine Renovation process and the Diocesan Pastoral Plan will go from strength to strength. We have more work to do and we have the big job of looking at our buildings and planning for the future. But the Lord is with us and so we can look to the future full of faith, hope and love.

With my best wishes and prayers,
Fr David