

KANONA ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ - MODEL OF FAITH



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA PARISH OF SAINT NICHOLAS MARRICKVILLE

Priest: Very Rev Eirinaios Tralonakis 0418 883 107 | 9558 4444

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Κυριακή 21 Δεκεμβρίου 2025

Κυριακή πρὸ τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως.

Άπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον Ἡχος γ'.

Εύφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτόκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Προεόρτιον.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἥνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εύτρεπίζου Ἔφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἔξινθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὐ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ ἄδαμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὸ πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Τῶν Πατέρων.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα!

Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἄγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἡγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Άπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Ἅγιου Νικολάου.

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξε σε τῇ ποιμνῃ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ ιεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Άπολυτίκιον. Κοσμά καὶ Δαμιανού

Ἄγιοι Ανάργυροι καὶ θαυματουργοί, επισκέψασθε τάς ασθενείας ημών, δωρεάν ελάβετε, δωρεάν δότε ημίν.

Sunday 21 December 2025

Sunday before the Nativity

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has done a mighty deed with his arm: by death he has trampled on death, the first-born of the dead he has become; from Hades' depths he has delivered us, and granted to the world his great mercy.

For the Forefeast.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

For the Fathers.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

St Nicholas Hymn

A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheep-fold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high, and riches through poverty, Nicholas, our father and priest of priests, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our soul.

Sts Cosmas & Damianos

Sainted Unmercenaries and Wonder Workers, regard our infirmities; freely you have received, freely share with us.

Άπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Αγίου Παΐσιου

Τόν συνάναρχον Λόγον

Αύστραλιας προστάτην, φρουρόν τε ἄγρυπνον, καί τοῦ Ἀθωνος ὄρους στύλον ἀείφωτον,
ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοί, θεῖον Παΐσιον, ἔξαιτούμενοι
αὐτοῦ τάς πρεσβείας πρός Θεόν, κραυγάζοντες
όμοιφρόνως ῥύου ὡς πάτερ παντοίων, τῶν
τοξευμάτων τοῦ ἀλάστορος.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν
Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ
οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἁγγέλων
καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι,
Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Πρὸς Ἐβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου
(Ια', 9-10, 32-40)

Ἄδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραὰμ εἰς τὴν γῆν
τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς
κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακὼβ τῶν
συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς.
ἔξεδέχετο γάρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν,
ῆς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω;
Ἐπιλείψει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ
Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψών καὶ Ἱεφθάέ, Δαυΐδ
τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως
κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο
δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραζαν
στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός,
ἔψυχον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ
ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ισχυροί ἐν πολέμῳ,
παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες
ἔξι ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ
ἐτυπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν
ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν.
ἔτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πεῖραν ἔλαβον,
ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν,
ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας
ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις
δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι,
κακουχούμενοι, ὃν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν
ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ
ταῖς ὀπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὕτοι πάντες
μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο
τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι
προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

St Paisios Hymn

The Word Eternal

O Protector of Australia, vigilant guardian and
resplendent pillar of Mount Athos, we the
faithful let us praise the holy **Paisios**, and
beseeching his intercessions before God, crying
out with one voice, deliver us, O father of all,
from the arrows of the vengeful one.

Kontakion

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to
give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an
ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the
inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with
Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed
that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-
eternal God.

EPISTLE

Paul's Letter to the Hebrews
(11:9-10, 32-40)

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the
land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in
tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the
same promise. For he looked forward to the city
which has foundation, whose builder and maker
is God. And what more shall I say? For time
would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson,
Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the
prophets - who through faith conquered
kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises,
stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging
fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won
strength out of weakness, became mighty in
war, put foreign armies to flight. Women
received their dead by resurrection. Some were
tortured, refusing to accept release, that they
might rise again to a better life. Others suffered
mocking and scourging, and even chains and
imprisonment. They were stoned, they were
sawn in two, they were tempted, they were
killed with the sword; they went about in skins
of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-
treated - of whom the world was not worthy -
wandering over deserts and mountains, and in
dens and caves of the earth. And all these,
though well attested by their faith, did not
receive what was promised, since God had
foreseen something better for us, that apart
from us they should not be made perfect.

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαίου ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου (α', 1-25)

Βίβλος γενέσεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ Δαυΐδ υιοῦ Ἀβραάμ. Ἀβραάμ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰσαάκ, Ἰσαάκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰούδαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ, Ἰούδας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Φαρές καὶ τὸν Ζαρὰ ἐκ τῆς Θάμαρ, Φαρές δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐσρόμ, Ἐσρόμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀράμ, Ἀράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμιναδάβ, Ἀμιναδάβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ναασών, Ναασών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλμών, Σαλμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Βοόζ ἐκ τῆς Ῥαχάβ, Βοόζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὁβήδ ἐκ τῆς Ῥούθ, Ὁβήδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεσσαὶ, Ἰεσσαὶ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Δαυΐδ τὸν βασιλέα. Δαυΐδ δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐγέννησε τὸν Σολομῶνα ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Οὐρίου, Σολομῶν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ῥοβοάμ, Ῥοβοάμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιά, Ἀβιά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀσά, Ἀσά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσαφάτ, Ἰωσαφάτ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωράμ, Ἰωράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὁζίαν, Ὁζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωάθαμ, Ἰωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχαζ, Ἀχαζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐζεκίαν, Ἐζεκίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασῆ, Μανασῆς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμών, Ἀμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσίαν, Ἰωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφούς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικείας Βαβυλῶνος.

Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικείαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθίηλ, Σαλαθίηλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ, Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιακείμ, Ἐλιακείμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀζώρ, Ἀζώρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδώκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχείμ, Ἀχείμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιούδ, Ἐλιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλεάζαρ, Ἐλεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθάν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἣς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραάμ ἔως Δαυΐδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυΐδ ἔως τῆς μετοικείας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικείας Βαβυλῶνος ἔως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες.

Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (1:1-25)

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γέννησις οὕτως ἦν. μνηστευθείσης γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῷ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἡ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὐρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτῆς, δικαιος ὃν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν παραδειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρᾳ ἀπολύσαι αὐτὴν. ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἵδού ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων· Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαυΐδ, μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαριάμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου· τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματός ἐστιν Ἁγίου. τέξεται δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν· αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥήθεν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἵδού ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσι τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουὴλ, ὃ ἐστι μεθερμηνευόμενον μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὑπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος Κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτὴν ἔως οὗ ἔτεκε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον, καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

25 Δεκεμβρίου Η Γεννήσις τοῦ Σωτηρος ημων Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ

Ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί με ειρήνη, αγάπη και χαρά. Να σας δώσει τη σοφία να δείτε το φως της αλήθειας.
Καλά Χριστούγεννα.

ο.π. Ειρηναῖος, και η ενορία του
Αγίου Νικολάου

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

25 December The Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

May the Lord bless you with peace, love and joy. May He give you the wisdom to see the light of truth.

Merry Christmas.

Fr Eirinaios and the
Parish of St Nicholas