

# ΚΑΝΟΝΑ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ - MODEL OF FAITH

## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA PARISH OF SAINT NICHOLAS MARRICKVILLE

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### Κυριακή 21 Δεκεμβρίου 2025 Κυριακή πρό τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως.

#### Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον Ἦχος γ'.

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

#### Προεόρτιον.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἡνοικταί πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ.  
Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν  
τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου.  
Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ,  
ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ  
φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδάμ  
τεθνηζόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν  
πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

#### Τῶν Πατέρων.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα!  
Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος  
ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες  
ἡγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφῆτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων  
ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν  
ἱκεσίαις Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς  
ἡμῶν.

#### Ἀπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Ἁγίου Νικολάου.

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

#### Ἀπολυτίκιον. Κοσμά και Δαμιανού

Ἅγιοι Ανάργυροι καὶ θαυματουργοί,  
επισκέψασθε τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, δωρεάν  
ελάβετε, δωρεάν δότε ἡμῖν.

### 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 up 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.

## Ἀπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Ἁγίου Παΐσιου

### Τόν συνάναρχον Λόγον

Αὐστραλίας προστάτην, φρουρόν τε ἄγρυπνον, καὶ τοῦ Ἄθωνος ὄρους σῦλον αἰείφωτον, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοί, θεῖον **Παῖσιον**, ἐξαιτούμενοι αὐτοῦ τὰς πρεσβείας πρὸς Θεόν, κραυγάζοντες ὁμοφρόνως· ρύου ὦ πατέρ παντοίων, τῶν τοξευμάτων τοῦ ἀλάστορος.

### Κοντάκιον.

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

## ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

### Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου

(Ια΄, 9-10, 32-40)

Ἀδελφοί, πιστεῖ παρώκησεν Ἀβραάμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γάρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἥς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψών καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυῖδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἳ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβησαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμpanίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρεῖττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι 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, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττον 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 Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου (α', 1-25)

Βίβλος γενέσεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ Δαυΐδ υἱοῦ 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 Ἑσρῶμ, Ἑσρῶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀράμ, Ἀράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμιναδάβ, Ἀμιναδάβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ναασσών, Ναασσών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλμών, Σαλμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Βοδὴ ἐκ τῆς Ῥαχάβ, Βοδὴ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὠβὴδ ἐκ τῆς Ῥούθ, Ὠβὴδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεσσαί, Ἰεσσαί 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 Ὀζιαν, Ὀζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωάθαμ, Ἰωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχαζ, Ἀχαζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐζεκιαν, Ἐζεκιᾶς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμὼν, Ἀμὼν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσίαν, Ἰωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος.

Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιήλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ, Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιακεῖμ, Ἐλιακεῖμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀζώρ, Ἀζώρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδώκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχειμ, Ἀχειμ 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 ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραάμ ἕως Δαυΐδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυΐδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως 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 ἢ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὐρέθη ἐν  
γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου. Ἰωσήφ δὲ  
ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὢν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν  
παραδειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρα ἀπολύσαι  
αὐτήν. ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ  
ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων·  
Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαυΐδ, μὴ φοβηθῇς παραλαβεῖν  
Μαριάμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου· τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ  
γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματος ἐστὶν Ἁγίου. τέξεται δὲ  
υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν·  
αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαόν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν  
ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα  
πληρωθῇ τὸ ρηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ  
προφήτου λέγοντος· ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ  
ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσι τὸ ὄνομα  
αὐτοῦ Ἑμμανουὴλ, ὃ ἐστὶ μεθερμηνεούμενον  
μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ  
τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ  
ἄγγελος Κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα  
αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτὴν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκε  
τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον, καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὸ  
ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

## 25 Δεκεμβρίου

### Ἡ Γεννήσις τοῦ Σωτηροῦ ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

Ὁ Θεός να σας ευλογεῖ με εἰρήνη,  
αγάπη καὶ χαρά. Να σας δώσει τη  
σοφία να δείτε το φῶς της ἀλήθειας.  
Καλὰ Χριστούγεννα.

*ο.π. Εἰρηναῖος, καὶ ἡ ἐνορία τοῦ  
Ἀγίου 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*