

KANONA ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ - MODEL OF FAITH

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA PARISH OF SAINT NICHOLAS MARRICKVILLE

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Κυριακή 28 Δεκεμβρίου 2025

Κυριακή μετά τὴν Χριστοῦ Γεννήσιν

**Μνήμην Ἐπιτελοῦμεν τῶν Ἅγιων καὶ Δικαίων,
Ἴωσήφ τοῦ Μνήστορος, Δαυΐδ τοῦ Βασιλέως,
καὶ Ἰακώβου τοῦ Ἀδελφοθέου.**

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον Ἡχος δ'

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριαι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἡγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἔορτῆς.

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γάρ οἱ τοῖς ἀστροῖς λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἡλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σέγινώσκειν ἐξ ὑψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Τῶν Θεοπατάρων.

Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυΐδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι· Παρθένονεῖδες κυοφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας, δι' Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθείς. Ἰκέτευε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Ἅγιου Νικολάου.

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

Ἀπολυτίκιον. Κοσμά καὶ Δαμιανού

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

Sunday 28 December 2025

Sunday after Nativity

We commemorate the holy and righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James (Iakovos) the Brother of the Lord.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The joyful message of the resurrection the women Disciples learnt from the Angel, and casting off the ancestral sentence, to the Apostles they announced in exultation: Death has been despoiled and Christ our God has risen, granting to the world his great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Feast

Your birth, Christ our God, dawned upon the world as the light of knowledge; for then those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to reverence you the Sun of righteousness, and to know you are the dawn from on high. Lord, glory to you.

For the Ancestors of God.

Announce the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to 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 Ἅγιου Παΐσιου

Τόν συνάναρχον Λόγον

Αύστραλίας προστάτην, φρουρόν τε
ἄγρυπνον, καί τοῦ Ἀθωνος ὄρους στύλον
άειφωτον, ἀνύμνησωμεν πιστοί, θεῖον
Παΐσιον, ἔξαιτούμενοι αὐτοῦ τάς πρεσβείας
πρός Θεόν, κραυγάζοντες ὁμοφρόνως· ύρου
ῶ 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 Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου (α', 11-19)

Ἄδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ύμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ
εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι
οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἀνθρώπον. Οὐδὲ γάρ ἐγὼ
παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε
ἔδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ. Ἡκούσατε γάρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν
ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν
ἔδιωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ
ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ
Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικώτας ἐν τῷ
γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτὴς ὑπάρχων
τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. "Οτε δὲ
εύδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας
μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος
αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ
ἴνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν,
εὐθέως οὐ προσανθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἷματι·
οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ^{τούς}
ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς
Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν.
"Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς
Ἱεροσόλυμα ἴστορῆσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα
πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. "Ἐτερον δὲ
τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν
ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

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 Galatians (1: 11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the
gospel which was preached by me is not
man's gospel. For I did not receive it from
man, nor was I taught it, but it came
through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For
you have heard of my former life in
Judaism, how I persecuted the church of
God violently and tried to destroy it; and I
advanced in Judaism beyond many of my
own age among my people, so extremely
zealous was I for the traditions of my
fathers. But when he who had set me apart
before I was born, and had called me
through his grace, was pleased to reveal
his Son to me, in order that I might preach
him among the Gentiles, I did not confer
with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to
Jerusalem to those who were apostles
before me, but I went away into Arabia;
and again I returned to Damascus. Then
after three years I went up to Jerusalem to
visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen
days. But I saw none of the other apostles
except James the Lord's brother.

**Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου
(β', 13-23)**

Αναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσὴφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἵσθι ἐκεῖ ἔως ἂν εἴπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἔως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ὅντα πληρωθῆ τὸ ρήθεν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἔξι Αἴγυπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν οὐρανὸν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνεῦλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεέμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὄροις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἡκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ρήθεν ὑπὸ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾷ ἡκούσθη, θρῆνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁδυρμὸς πολύς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἥθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσὴφ ἐν Αἴγυπτῳ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραήλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἥλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραήλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεύει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλαλαίας, καὶ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῆ τὸ ρήθεν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

**Holy Gospel according to St Matthew
(2:13-23)**

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ευαγγελικό μήνυμα

Αγαπητοί αδελφοί,

Την Κυριακή αυτή μετά τη Γέννηση του Κυρίου μας, η Εκκλησία συνεχίζει τον εορτασμό, τιμώντας τρία άγια πρόσωπα που συνδέονται στενά με Αυτόν κατά σάρκα: τον βασιλέα Δαβίδ, τον δίκαιο Ιωσήφ και τον Ιάκωβο, τον αδελφό του Κυρίου. Ο βασιλέας Δαβίδ, ο μέγας προφήτης και συγγραφέας των Ψαλμών, προσφέρει στον Χριστό τη βασιλική Του καταγωγή, γι' αυτό και ο Ιησούς ονομάζεται Βασιλεύς των Ιουδαίων. Όμως πέρα από αυτόν τον επίγειο τίτλο, ο Χριστός είναι ο αιώνιος Υιός του Θεού, ο Βασιλεύς των βασιλέων και Κύριος πάσης της κτίσεως.

Τιμούμε επίσης τον δίκαιο Ιωσήφ, τον ηλικιωμένο τέκνονα της Ναζαρέτ, στον οποίο ο Θεός εμπιστεύθηκε την προστασία της Παρθένου Μαρίας και του Θείου Βρέφους. Υπακούοντας στο θέλημα του Θεού, ο Ιωσήφ αποδέχθηκε τον ρόλο του ως μνηστήρας της Μαρίας, προφυλάσσοντάς την από την ατιμία και διαφυλάσσοντάς με πίστη το μυστήριο της Γεννήσεως του Χριστού. Αν και δοκιμάσθηκε από λογισμούς αμφιβολίας, όπως απεικονίζεται στην εικόνα της Γεννήσεως, εμπιστεύθηκε την αγγελική αποκάλυψη και παρέμεινε ακλόνητος. Όταν άγγελος Κυρίου τον διέταξε να φύγει στην Αίγυπτο, υπάκουος χωρίς δισταγμό, εμπιστεύμενος τον Θεό και οδηγώντας την Αγία Οικογένεια μέσα από μια επικίνδυνη πορεία προς την ασφάλεια.

Η Εκκλησία μνημονεύει επίσης τον Ιάκωβο, υιό του Ιωσήφ και γνωστό ως αδελφό του Κυρίου, ο οποίος συνέδεσε την Αγία Οικογένεια στην Αίγυπτο και αργότερα έγινε Απόστολος και πρώτος Επίσκοπος Ιερουσαλήμων. Το Ευαγγέλιο μας δηγείται τον φόβο του Ηρώδη μήπως χάσει την εξουσία, γεγονός που τον οδήγησε στη σφαγή των οθώνων νηπίων, πράξη που θυμίζει τη σκληρότητα του Φαραώ στην Αίγυπτο. Αυτό εγείρει το οδυνηρό ερώτημα γιατί ο Θεός επιτρέπει τέτοιο κακό. Ο Θεός επιτρέπει την ανθρώπινη ελευθερία, χαρίζοντάς μας το αυτεξούσιο να επιλέγουμε μεταξύ καλού και κακού χωρίς αυτήν την ελευθερία δεν θα ήμασταν αληθινά άνθρωποι. Όμως μαζί με το αυτεξούσιο έρχεται και η ευθύνη. Παρότι πέφτουμε στην αμαρτία, ο Θεός δεν μας εγκαταλείπει ποτέ, αλλά μας καλεί σε μετάνοια και μας προσφέρει τη συγχώρηση. Καθώς λοιπόν διακηρύγγουμε με χαρά: «Χριστός γεννάται δοξάστε!», ας επιλέξουμε να Τον ακολουθήσουμε, ώστε να ανοιχθούν για εμάς οι πύλες της αιωνίου ζωής. Αμήν.

Gospel message

Dear Brother and sisters in Christ.

On this Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord, the Church continues the celebration by honouring three holy figures closely connected to Him according to the flesh: King David, the righteous Joseph, and James, the brother of the Lord. King David, the great prophet and author of the Psalms, provides Christ with His royal lineage, for Jesus is called the King of the Jews. Yet beyond this earthly title, Christ is the eternal Son of God—the King of Kings and Lord of all creation.

We also honour the righteous Joseph, the elderly carpenter of Nazareth, whom God entrusted with the protection of the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. In obedience to God's will, Joseph accepted his role as Mary's betrothed, shielding her from shame and faithfully safeguarding the mystery of Christ's birth. Though tempted by doubt, as shown in the Nativity icon, Joseph trusted the angelic revelation and remained steadfast. When commanded by an angel to flee into Egypt, Joseph obeyed without hesitation, trusting God and leading the Holy Family through a dangerous journey to safety.

The Church also commemorates James, the son of Joseph and known as the brother of the Lord, accompanied the Holy Family into Egypt and later became an Apostle and the first Bishop of Jerusalem. The Gospel recounts how Joseph obeyed the angel's command to flee into Egypt to escape Herod's murderous intent. Without hesitation, he led Mary and the Child on a long and perilous journey, trusting fully in God. The Gospel recounts Herod's fear of losing power, which led him to order the massacre of innocent children—an act that echoes Pharaoh's cruelty in Egypt. This raises the painful question of why God allows such evil. God permits us freedom, granting us free will to choose between good and evil. Without this freedom, we would not truly be human. But with free will comes responsibility. Though we fall into sin, God never abandons us and calls us to repentance and offers forgiveness. As we proclaim, "Christ is born! Glorify Him!" let us choose to follow Him, so that the doors of eternal life may be opened to us. Amen.