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Administrator
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Rev. Paul Rummery

Assistant Priest
Fr. Dominic Byrne
Parish Secretary
Mrs. Rachel Glover

PARISH SCHOOLS
St Mary's Primary School "In All Things May God Be Glorified"
Principal: Mr. Mick Lowe. 44742817
Carroll College – Regional Co-educational "Learning For Life"
Principal: Mr. Steve Bath. 4471 5600



**Catholic Archdiocese of
Canberra & Goulburn**

Christmas Message 2017

-"NO ROOM IN THE INN" - EXPRESSING HOSPITALITY IN PRACTICAL CHARITY

Surely one of the saddest lines in the Gospel is when Jesus came to be born in Bethlehem and Joseph and Mary had to find emergency accommodation at a stable as there was "no room in the inn." (Luke 2/7)

Already Jesus is found to be on life's periphery. He seems homeless. There is a lack of hospitality in Bethlehem.

We can easily sentimentalise these moments but, in fact, they hide a harsh reality that still ought to trouble us even today.

The social services agencies of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn advise me that homelessness is increasing at an alarming rate in our area. This real poverty has an increasingly younger face and involves many more single mothers with young children.

Like Jesus, there seems to be "no room in the inn."

Let us give priority this Christmas and New Year season to practical charity. We could focus on our families, neighbourhoods and the wider communities. For a start, we could give generously to Christmas appeals for monies or Christmas gifts to the marginalised, especially the homeless.

Then this Christmas will begin to reverse the inhospitality of the first Christmas over two thousand years ago.

May you and your families and loved ones be blessed in these fragile and troubled times.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Nothing says Christmas like the Christian image of the family (Joseph Mary and Jesus)a true community of life and of love. The mother and father of every family have a likeness to God by virtue of their mutual love for each other and their nature as man and women. God's life is what we see in the Christ child our infant King ...something we now share in...and how are we supposed to understand how much God loves us other than by considering the birth and death of Jesus...his death brought life his birth brought life.... His birth pulls into sharp relief all of humanity....no one would have expected God to actually appear as a human person...like one of us...he was instead thought to be so utterly a part from humanity that this was unthinkable...beyond anything that anybody could conceive. Keep in mind that people of Jesus' day thought that those who saw the face of God would die...we though see the face of God and live.... His mother Mary gave Jesus flesh who used her very body as a canvas that allowed us to see the face of God and live.

Fr Dominic.

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2017 is conducted at all Masses on Christmas Day throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

Our support will continue for **the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal** and its work in Australia and beyond.

Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan** projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese as well as the Wilcannia Hub project supporting young indigenous families, and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria and Tagbilaran, Cebu, Philippines for their Diocesan Seminary.

Other endeavours will include support towards:

Providing a school bus to transport young children to school from poor surrounding villages within the La Salette Matha Province in India and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

This will be a leaving collection; please look out for the people with the yellow buckets.

Thank you for your generosity.

We wish our Visitors and Parishioners a happy and holy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

We thank you all for your help and support throughout the year.



*O come
let us
adore Him
Christ the Lord*

**COMBINED CHURCHES COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
CHRISTMAS DAY 1 1.30AM FOR 12 NOON
RED DOOR HALL NEXT TO ST JOHN'S
CHURCH
CORNER OF PAGE & CAMPBELL ST,
MORUYA
LUNCH IS FREE. ALL WELCOME.
SMALL GIFTS FOR ALL.
BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL 4474 0300
OR COME ON THE DAY**