

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Please give generously to this year's appeal. The 3rd collection will be towards this appeal. Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601. Coupons to fill out are in the Church foyer.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Christmas Offering envelopes are also available in the Church foyer.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week

What is your Christmas gift for Jesus? "When Jesus called that Christmas week I wasn't at my best; And the house was much too cluttered to entertain a guest. He seemed to notice everything; the cards still unaddressed, the gifts piled high awaiting wraps, the baking and the rest. His eyes fell on the evergreen and the present 'neath the tree. 'It's my Birthday that you celebrate—what are you giving me?' 'What am I giving him?' I thought: ashamed, no words I found. So many costly things I'd bought, he looked at me and frowned. I prayed he'd let the question pass but when he did persist, I blurted out the truth at last, 'You were not on my list'". - Louise Teisberg

Is Jesus on our list this Christmas? What special gift are we giving to Jesus this Christmas? We all know the pleasure of finding the right present for our husband or wife, for our children, a good friend, a parent. What special gift are we giving to Jesus this year to honour his birth and what do we expect from God? God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to give us human beings what we really needed most in life: hearts filled with love. That is the gift which Jesus expects and that is what you and I need from God this Christmas—a heart filled with love. God wants to give each of us a heart filled with love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness on this Christmas and every day of our lives. May we share the same gifts with the rest of humanity.

May Jesus be born in your heart and life during Christmas 2023 and everyday of the New Year. May he radiate his presence from within you by sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service with a compassionate heart and overflowing generosity. I wish you all the happiness that Christmas brings to you and your families. May the deepest meaning of the celebration of the birth of Jesus in all its richness—inspire, strengthen, encourage and sustain each of us, our families and our Parish community now and throughout 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God Bless - Fr George Azhakath



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au
Web: <http://cg.org/au/Moruya>
Priest: Fr George Azhakath
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am Bodalla: 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass
1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Christmas Vigil & Christmas Day - YEAR B - 24 & 25 December 2023



Welcome to all our Parishioners and visitors as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

It is Christmas; we celebrate this amazing mystery of God telling the story of His love towards us in the form of a vulnerable infant completely subject to pain, suffering and death. Is there any better way God can convince us that He really loves us, if not becoming one of us? That is why only we Christians dare to say "God is Love" and He is Emmanuel, ie God is with us; sharing our joys, sharing our fears and death.

Behold, I bring you news of great joy for the people. Today a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This was the message the angels brought to the shepherds. Today through the voice of the Church, this marvellous message is announced to us too. Let us open our minds and hearts to receive "the great joy". Christmas introduces us to the mystery of the incarnation that is the mystery of God's own Son taking flesh and coming to live amongst us. We should remember Christmas is a family feast where the members of the family share the joy of accepting Christ with great joy. Share with your children the special traditions of our faith: the Nativity, the Angel or star on the Christmas tree, singing carols, the giving of gifts (following the example of the Magi) which will help the children to understand and experience the spirit of Christmas.



Christmas is a profound time of thankfulness and joy. Thank God for the blessing of your own children and help them to see what a precious gift He has given to us in Jesus. All other gifts are placed in the proper context when children know that Jesus is the greatest gift they have been given. Remember the less fortunate at Christmas and let us pray for them at Christmas time. Don't let Christmas preparations or family troubles and tension make you stressed to the point where our children suffer. Slow down, love them tenderly, and help them to experience, by your own attitude and example, the joy and happiness this Christmas.

Liturgy of the Word—Christmas Eve

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present

world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Liturgy of the Word—Christmas Day

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the

right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:8-20

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the Glory of God shone round them. They were terrified but the angel said "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And there is a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger". And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and signing: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us". So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ