

Happy Christmas

Welcome

We come together to celebrate the gift of Jesus in our midst—our Emmanuel God. May each of us gathered here today be blessed by our loving God in ways that are just right for each of us.

Message from Archbishop Prose

The Christmas Season gives us a great opportunity to reflect more deeply on the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ in the humble manger in Bethlehem. Like all newly born babies, Jesus is totally defenceless. By defenceless I mean that he is totally dependent on his parents. Mary and Joseph look after him in every way as any loving and caring parents would for their new born babe. At the end of the life of Jesus we find Him again being totally defenceless on the Calvary Cross. Now as an adult, taking the sins of the world on Himself, he goes from the wooden manger to the wooden cross and is totally dependent on God, our Heavenly Father, to raise him up at the Resurrection. Also, during the life of Jesus, from birth to death, he is often heard expressing his total dependence on his Heavenly Father, who He calls “Abba.” Let us unite with the defencelessness of Jesus at this Christmas time. Let us therefore become totally dependent, like the new born babe Jesus, on the Lord while facing the challenges of our daily life. We become defenceless when we listen really carefully to others rather than talking. As we gather with our family and friends over Christmas time, let us be conscious of listening and building bridges by becoming vulnerable and defenceless in the face of everyday family challenges. At the same time, many of those on the periphery of life find they are totally defenceless regarding their need of the basic necessities of life, things you and I take for granted at Christmas time. Let us be extra sensitive to their needs. Happy Christmas to you all and may God bless you and your families.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, December 2019

Collection

Only one collection today—the **Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal**.
Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Dear Parishioners,

I wish you all a Blessed and Holy Christmas. The birth of Christ is a sign of the Mercy of the Father and a promise of joy to us all. His message shines upon our wounded world, to console the afflicted, the oppressed, and to bring about conversion to hearts, especially those full of anger and hatred. May Christ our True God, Who was born in a manger for the salvation of the entire human race, grant to you and your families his abundant mercy.

Fr Sijo Jose

Dear Parishioners,

As you gather with family and friends to celebrate Christmas, I imagine that stories will be shared, gifts exchanged, laughter and joy will scatter sparkles to the gathering. And what is at the heart of our gift giving and sharing? Of course it is the gift of God to us in Jesus—who came into our midst as a helpless, dependent baby.

Gifts grace our life each and every day but do we notice them? Are we enchanted or even aware of God’s graciousness to us? As we reflect this Christmas may we look back and see how our Emmanuel God has been with us throughout the year. As we gaze upon the crib can we ask Mary, Joseph and Jesus to encourage us in our journey of faith? As we hear the angels sing may we become ambassadors of peace to those in our midst? Let us appreciate the gifts of one another, the gifts given and received and pray that we may be a gift to one another.

Thank you for the many ways you have gifted and enriched our parish during the year. May our Emmanuel God assure you ever more deeply of companionship, love and care as you move into 2020.

With my prayers and best wishes for a Christmas of joy and peace for you and our world.

Sr Maureen



*May the blessing of joy abide within you;
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;
May the blessing of love flow out through you;
May all the blessings of God be yours at Christmas
and in the new year.*

— Author Unknown