



Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN Nativity of the Lord Year A 25 December 2022



"Created by God, Loved by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit ... We come together inspired by our patrons, St Mary the Virgin and St Joseph, her husband, to worship, study and serve." *Parish Vision Statement, 2004*



PRAYER INTENTIONS



Popes Intention Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

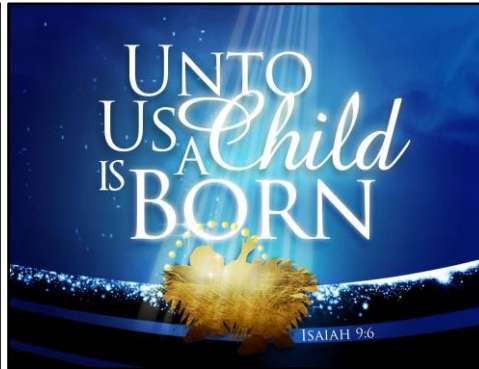
We pray for all our Community as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas.

We pray for all the travellers on our roads, that they may safely reach their destinations at this busy time of year.

We pray for all those injured and homeless in our violent world, as a result of war or terrorism.

We pray for our deceased relatives and parishioners. May our prayers accompany them to their heavenly reward.

We pray for the sick and for the terminally ill and for all those who care for them: Jim Parkes, Patricia Guthrie, Maddie Manning, Christine Cowell, Peter Hopkins, John Elliott, Betty Cowell, Jen Farrell, Joyce Cotterill, Heather Whitby, Larry Bedingfield, Margo Birmingham



Christmas Hymns

Bombala from the hymn books

- O Come all ye Faithful 1
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing 8
- Silent Night 7
- Away in a Manger 3
- Joy to the World 12

Delegate audio visual

PARISH BULLETIN

Please note that there will be no Parish Bulletin for 1 January 2023. Next bulletin on 8 January 2023. Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a wonderful 2023. Anna, Chris & Greg

PARISH CALENDAR

- Wed 28 December 2022**
Mass Bombala 9.30am
- Sat 31 December 2022** *New Years Eve*
LW & HC Delegate 6pm
- Sun 1 January 2023** *New Years Day*
Mass Bombala 5pm
Note that this is Fr Mick's final Mass here prior to his transfer to Canberra
- Sat 7 January 2023**
LW & HC Delegate 6pm
- Sun 8 January 2023**
LW & HC Bombala 9am



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Recently Deceased

Dale Sproates

December Anniversaries

Carol Badewitz, Vin Crotty
Del Duffell, Tori Finnane
Kitty Guthrie, Nola Hehir
Jareth Hillyer, Brian Murphy
Toby Mustard, Brian Nash
Kevin O'Mara, Dot Ogilvy
Helen Parkes, Mort Smith
Jim Twigg



**"We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death."**

As the Parish of Bombala-Delegate we acknowledge that we walk upon the traditional lands of First Nations peoples. We pay our respects to them and recognise the continuing gift of their culture to the life and spirit of Australia.



Year of Walking Together

Thought
for the week

We are like the shepherds, we are like the wise men; we are like Jesus. This is the lesson of Christmas: humility is the great condition for faith, for the spiritual life and for holiness.
Pope Francis



**Wherever this may find you, I, with all my heart,
wish you a very happy Christmas and a bright and happy New Year.**

Saint Mary MacKillop 7.12.1899

As we celebrate Christmas in 2022, the Sisters of Saint Joseph give thanks for the many gifts that have been shared during the year. We acknowledge the challenges of today and pray that the light of the Christmas star guides us all to that place where love, peace, joy and hope are most needed.

**ST MARY
OF THE CROSS
MACKILLOP**



Archbishop Prowse's 2022 Christmas Message: Walking Together...at Christmas



Despite COVID-19 still being present in the community, in comparison to recent years, we can enjoy this Christmas and New Year time in relative freedom from drastic restrictions. We can meet each other face to face and not simply on a computer screen. We can cultivate deeper friendships.

So let us focus anew on the Christmas story. Regardless of religion or the lack of it, people are generally happy to walk together at Christmas and reflect on their lives in the light of the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem. Walking together and reflecting on this "Silent Night, Holy Night", gives us an opportunity to deepen inner silence in our chaotic lives. We can permit ourselves to be still for a moment in our change of era. A response can be made in simplicity in contrast to life's confusion. I trust that such reflections can make us more graceful and peaceful. Hope is given. A star leads us. Humble shepherds help us to reflect on the lost, lonely and least around us. We are given the motivation to offer practical assistance.

By walking together at Christmas, we realise afresh that we are not alone. We dismiss the temptation from self-appointed ideological elites that life is merely about "my choice" and "my Rights". We start to talk also about "our responsibilities and duties" to family and society's poor and oppressed. Walking together means that this time is not simply "the festive season". We are not reduced merely to eating and shopping. It is also "the Christmas season". It is when "God-is-with-us" (Emmanuel) in Jesus. There is joy and laughter. There is song and hope. There is transcendence and radiance. Let us pray for peace in our world, especially in Ukraine. May we do all we can to make peace flourish as we walk locally under God's "Star of Wonder". May Jesus bless and protect you all this Christmas time!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) VIGIL

First Reading Is 62:1-5

The prophecy of Isaiah.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' **(R.)**

Second Reading Acts 13:16-17. 22-25

Paul speaks of Christ as the son of David.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Gospel of Matthew 1:18-25

The genealogy of Jesus.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate



The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass. Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope.

But this baby is unique. This Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. This baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. This baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant. And this baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. This baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us. Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by all peoples.'
mtate@bigpond.com