



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C, 22 December 2024



PARISH VISION STATEMENT 2004



“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.”

St Mary's Bombala
St Joseph's Delegate
St Peter's Corrowong



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION DECEMBER

For Pilgrims of Hope



We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

We pray for parish musicians and song leaders, that their ministry will enable the whole community to celebrate the Christmas mystery with joyful praise.

We pray for Catholic believers, that the opening of the Jubilee Year on Christmas Eve will call them to set out afresh as pilgrims of hope in our shadowed world.

We pray for rural dioceses and parishes struggling with limited resources, that they will find creative ways to build community and continue proclaiming the Gospel.



We pray for those who are sick in our community, may they be able to see Christ's presence in their most difficult moments:

John Caldwell, Glad Hurley, Joanne Jamieson, Amy Talbot, Sr Margaret Maloney, Marilyn Holdsworth, Noah Ingram, Joyce Reed, Terry Perkins, Kath Farrell, Val Perkins, Chris Cuttle, Barbara Brownlie, Jim Parkes, Patricia Guthrie, Jen Farrell, Harry & Mary Anne Dillon, Heather Whitby, John Elliott, Marlene Kennedy, Kim Peisley, Tom Kennedy, Peter Hopkins, Larry Bedingfield, Danielle Hurley.



PARISH CALENDAR

- MON Saint John of Kanty
- TUE Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Delegate 4.30pm
Reconciliation 4.15pm
Bombala 6.30pm
- WED The Nativity of the Lord
- THU Saint Stephen
- FRI Saint John
- SAT LW&HC Delegate 6pm
Holy Innocents
- SUN LW&HC Bombala 9am
Holy Family

PARISH CONTACTS

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Please assist the team by having items in by Wednesday pm.



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Recently Deceased

Helen Dracopoulos, David Nichol

December Anniversaries

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



“We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death.”



“The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem brought joy to the world and to every human heart. may His coming this Christmas bring to each one of us that peace and joy that He desires to give.”



A journey with SAINT MARY of the Cross MACKILLOP



Our courage should rise with difficulties and obstacles. (22.12.1890)
He knows our hearts and much that is hidden from his creatures is well known to Him. (23.12.1871)
Lying upon the straw of Bethlehem, Jesus does not only preach humility, but gives a perfect example of obedience and charity. (1897)
Mary MacKillop arrives in Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, 1874.

CANDLE LITURGY



ADVENT WEEK 4 - The fourth candle is purple and represents LOVE

READER: But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. *(4th candle is lit)*

ALL: God of light, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. In our daily preparations and busyness, help us to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day and prepare our hearts for your coming. Amen.

FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

Moments of peace

Through our days and weeks there are little scenes of peace - we just need to recognise them.

Daily Prayer Intention - We pray for the children who have been baptised, confirmed, made their First Holy Communion or celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation this year. May the sacraments they have received bear lasting fruit in their lives.

Weekly Prayer Intention - We pray for Pope Francis. May his missionary journeys to lands near and far proclaim God's gift of salvation for the whole human family.



Prayer of the Faithful

Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer



CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, Mary's gracious visit to her cousin Elizabeth was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Sharing their gladness and gratitude, let us pray for God's blessing on the world.

READER: For the leaders of the world's great faiths, that together they will proclaim a powerful message of grace and peace for all humankind. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For women of spirit like Mary and Elizabeth, that their bold belief in God's saving power will inspire young and old alike to lives of daring faith. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all expectant mothers, that their hopes for a safe confinement and the gift of new life will be happily fulfilled. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For emergency service personnel during this summer season. May they succeed in their task of keeping the community safe and may their safety be a priority in all operations. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For ourselves, our families and our friends, that these final days of preparation for Christmas will be peaceful and prayerful for all. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the sick of our parish and for all who have asked for our prayers. We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they be raised up to be with the Risen Lord. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people in war torn places. We pray **Hail Mary...**

CELEBRANT/LEADER: Faithful God, from the dawn of time you have watched over your people. Be with us always on our way through the seasons of our lives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

1. Come Lord Jesus

1. Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus,
Come Lord Jesus,
Come and be born in our hearts.

2. Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel,
Come Emmanuel,
Come and be born in our hearts.

3. Come O prince of peace, Come O prince of peace,
Come O prince of peace,
Come and be born in our hearts.

2. Hail Mary, Gentle Woman *Carey Landry*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death. Amen.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong
and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us
wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for
the Son. You were chosen from all women and for
woman, shining one.

3. Eucharist Song *Frank Andersen*

This is My Body, take now and share!
Deep in the memory of My own prayer.
This is My Blood, come drink and live!

In all completeness this power I give.
You are My People, My chosen friends,
Come share the Spirit My Father sends.
And hold within you, in constant hope,
My peaceful presence, gift of My heart!

4. O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come
ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him,
born the King of angels; **R**

**R: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore
him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!

Glory to God, in the highest: **R**



Shopping Early for Christmas

It was coming up to Christmas and the Judge was in a jolly frame of mind. "Now then, please tell me, what is the charge against you?"

"I was caught doing my Christmas shopping very early." replied the man in the dock. "That doesn't seem like an offence to me. What do you mean by 'very early'?" "Well, your Honour" said the defendant, "It was before the shop was even open."

Father Mark: Christmas Message 2024



“When Pope Julius I authorised December 25 to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus in A.D. 353, who would have ever thought that it would become what it is today. When Professor Charles Follen lit candles on the first Christmas tree in America in 1832, who would have ever thought that the decorations would become as elaborate as they are today. It is a long time since 1832, longer still from 353, longer still from that dark night brightened by a special star in which Jesus the king was born. Yet, as we approach December 25 again, it gives us yet another opportunity to pause, and in the midst of all the excitement and elaborate decorations and expensive commercialisation which surround Christmas today, to consider again the event of Christmas and the person whose birth we celebrate.” Brian L Harbour

Yes, Christmas is here again! One commercial on television sings about it being the happiest time of the year. Having a full knowledge of what the feast is about and the true reason for the season, it should be a time of celebration! It is time to put on our best face, our best behaviour and a time to make sure those on the fringes get a glimpse of what the Good News is about. We should respect too, it may not this year be the happiest time of the year for some. Many deal with hardship and with can only see darkness. In the lane of optimism, I hope you can be the face of Christ to someone in search of help and a touch of love. Living in a world where communications are so instant we can gather an insight to areas of the world who suffer greatly. Rather than be desensitised by such news and strong images, we should gain insights to the deeper meaning of our social conscience. Stretch our hearts a little to those areas which suffer great unrest including; Ukraine: The deadliest war in 2024, with 67,000 reported deaths, Palestinian territories: 35,000 deaths were reported in Gaza and the West Bank. How many survivors have lost loved ones or been forced to flee earning the title of unplaced people. As Jesus was a refugee from the time of his birth so are these innocent people. Throw in the areas of natural disasters including the latest in the not too far away area of Vanuatu which has been again rocked with an earthquake. Brought home to our own communities there are those in our own districts those young and old who are no longer with us. These are lonely hearts on many levels who cry silently to be heard. Enjoy the blessing of the seasons with open hearts to be inclusive of all!

Fn Mark

Archbishop Prowse: Christmas Message 2024

This year, within the space of a few days, we celebrate both Christmas Day (25th December) and the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope (29th December). Both unite together under one word: HOPE. Pope Francis reminds us of St Paul's reassuring statement regarding HOPE. "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5/5). Recently, we have all received this love of God poured out in our Archdiocesan Assembly. Our prayerful HOPE was realised in a refreshing way. This synodal gathering enabled us to encounter the Holy Spirit afresh. Our HOPE is that this will deepen in the times ahead. This "pouring out" of God's love in our hopes arrives again this Christmas. Hope takes form in love itself – the Christ child. Like the first Christmas and including all creation, there is a holy silence. There is peace. There is hope for an end to warfare and all violence in our world. There is gift-giving in our lives in response to Godly grace in Jesus. There is the Holy Family animating in hope all families. Days after the first Christmas, there is the synodal pilgrimage of exile into Egypt via present-day devastated Gaza. From these ruins, we become Pilgrims of Hope in a new world of peacemaking and justice. We start in our families and neighbourhoods. Pope Francis names the following groups for our special hope-filled attention in practical charity – prisoners, sick, young, migrants, elderly, (grandparents), poor. Let us start with our homes. May they be truly places of H.O.P.E. Homes of Prayer Experience. Start by gathering around your nativity sets and pray together in perfect silence, stillness and simplicity. Hope does not disappoint. Hope leads us to Bethlehem. Hope leads us to become synodal pilgrims. We walk behind Jesus, who leads us into 2025 with bountiful hope.



Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

22 December 2024

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall
be saved.**

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of
the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey
your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin,
and you took no pleasure in them; and then
he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey
your will. He is abolishing the first sort to
replace it with the second. And this will was
for us to be made holy by the offering of his
body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

***I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.***

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from
the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in
her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said,
'Of all women you are the most blessed,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why
should I be honoured with a visit from the
mother of my Lord? For the moment your
greeting reached my ears, the child in my
womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who
believed that the promise made her by the
Lord would be fulfilled.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This little gospel story tells us that 'the
baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and
not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'.
Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have
a wonderful effect on life in the womb.
Good vibrations. Here, the presence of
Jesus, being carried by Mary in her
pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on
the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good
vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of
Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out
to all human beings. The good news is
that you and I and every human life ever
conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord
Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit
as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth.
Every mother or father who has lost a
baby too early needs to know that the
same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's
presence was felt by your baby. That
Divine Presence conferred a powerful
Original Blessing on that little life within
the womb, and that same Presence
accompanied your baby into the
everlasting embrace of Divine Love in
Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using
the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with
thee.

*Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.*

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us
sinners

now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

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