



Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass

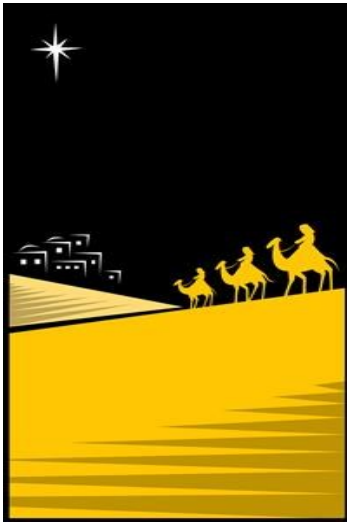


Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN: NATIVITY OF THE LORD, 25 DECEMBER 2024

Father Mark's 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!

HYMNS - ONE LICENSE 3642645A

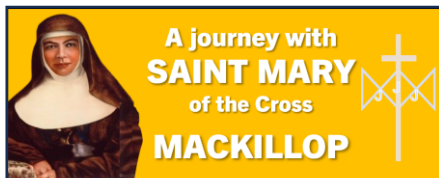
Christmas Hymns

Bombala: From the hymn books:

1. O Come All Ye Faithful 1
2. Hark the Herald Angels 8
3. Silent Night 7
4. Joy to the World 12

Delegate: Audio visual

**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**



PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

- WED** **The Nativity of the Lord**
Please note no Mass at Delegate MPS this December
- THU** **Saint Stephen**
- FRI** **Saint John**
- SAT** **LW&HC Delegate 6pm**
Holy Innocents
- SUN** **LW&HC Bombala 9am**
Holy Family
- WED** **Mass Bombala 9.30am**
Mary, Mother of God
New Years Day 2025

Christmas and New Year Blessings

Sr Teresa & Sr Betty wish to pass on their Christmas Blessings and love to all in Bombala & Delegate. They particularly ask for a more peaceful world in 2025.

READINGS

FIRST READING: PROPHET ISAIAH

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 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.'
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 OF THE APOSTLES

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, who's coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

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: SHORT VERSION

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

A HEARTFELT REFLECTION AS 2024 DRAWS TO A CLOSE

As we approach the end of 2024, it is a fitting time to reflect on and give thanks for all those who have played an essential role in keeping our parish and churches vibrant and welcoming throughout the year.

To Father Mark and Father Kose, our dedicated priests, we extend our deepest gratitude. You have not only celebrated Mass and the Sacraments throughout the year but also guided us as true shepherds, caring for your flock with wisdom and compassion. Spiritually, we are enriched because of your tireless devotion.

To our liturgical leaders and readers, thank you for bringing the Word of the Lord to life during our gatherings. Your dedication ensures that the essence of our faith is shared with clarity and reverence.

To our musicians and singers, your talents uplift our spirits and add a special touch to every Mass and Liturgy. Your contributions transform our worship into a truly joyous and enriching experience.

To those who care for God's house, ensuring our churches remain clean, tidy and welcoming year-round, your work does not go unnoticed. You honour the sanctity of these spaces through your steadfast efforts.

To the gardeners and groundskeepers, who keep our lawns and gardens looking beautiful, your hard work brings a sense of peace and reflection as we come together in God's presence.

To the team behind our parish bulletin, thank you for your hard work in compiling and distributing this valuable resource each week. Your efforts keep our community informed and connected.

To those who bring the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, elderly or homebound, your service is a profound act of love. You remind those unable to attend Mass or Liturgy in person that God's presence is always with them.

And to our parishioners, though fewer in number these days, your unwavering presence and support are the lifeblood of our parish. Through your faith and commitment, you ensure that the doors of our churches remain open to all.

As **Saint Mary MacKillop** so beautifully said, "**Never see a need without doing something about it.**" Let us carry this message in our hearts and think about how we can each contribute, whether spiritually, practically or in other ways, to our parish and churches. There's no single way to help, but countless ways to make a difference. And remember, God's house is here for us all, all year long.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year. May God bless each and every one of you.

Christ^{THE}
SAVIOR
IS BORN