



# Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass



## Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



### PARISH BULLETIN Nativity of the Lord - Year B - 25 December 2023



#### 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**

**Sharing with you the Glory, the Wonder and the Miracle of this Holy Season. Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year**



**We thank Fr Bernie & Sr Genny for joining us once again to celebrate our Christmas Mass. May God shower His Blessings upon both of you.**



#### PARISH CALENDAR

**Tue:** Saint Stephen  
**Wed:** Saint John  
No Mass Bombala  
**Thu:** Holy Innocents  
**Fri:** Saint Thomas Beckett  
**Sat:** 30/12 LW&HC Delegate 5pm  
**Sun:** 31/12 LW&HC Bombala 9am

#### PARISH CONTACTS

##### PARISH PRIEST

Father Mark Croker  
02 8331 7609

##### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

02 6458 3776

##### School Principal

Mrs Susan Tighe

##### PARISH COUNCIL

##### Chair Parish Council

Mrs Anna Vincent

02 6458 5208

##### Chair Finance Committee

##### Bursar - Mr John Vincent

02 6458 5208

##### PARISH WEBSITE

[www.cg.org.au/bombala](http://www.cg.org.au/bombala)

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Ms Chris Page 02 6458 4885

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Delegate

[joeydsdelegate@gmail.com](mailto:joeydsdelegate@gmail.com)



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



#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

##### POPES INTENTION DECEMBER For Persons with Disabilities



We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



**We pray** for our sick and infirm family, friends and parishioners; may the light of God's presence bring them healing and comfort:

Donna Nash, Sally-Ann Thompson, Jane Nash, Keith & Barbara Brownlie, Wendy White, Barry Reed, Jim Parkes, Ashton, Danielle & Stewart Hurley, John & Anna Vincent, Marlene Kennedy, Kim Peisley, Val Perkins, Natalie Lestone, Meryl Knight, Jen Farrell, Tom Kennedy, Patricia Guthrie, John Elliott, Betty Cowell, Peter Hopkins, Heather Whitby, Larry Bedingfield, Erika & Margo Birmingham



#### REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

##### December Anniversaries

Carol Badewitz, Vincent 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."**



**"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.."**



Quotes and Thoughts

**SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP**



**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**



## FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

### A summons

Let's actively embody the Good News this Christmas through acts of kindness, compassion and service.

**Daily Prayer Intention** - We pray for the safety and smooth travels of those on the roads during the Christmas and New Year period. May their journeys be secure, without incident, and may their reunions with family and friends be joyful and blessed

**Weekly Prayer Intention** - We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



## Prayer of the Faithful

**Response: (R)**  
**Lord, hear our prayer**



**CELEBRANT/LEADER:** Sisters and brothers, in the joy of this night we pray for the Church and the world in which we live.

**READER: For** Pope Francis, all bishops and ministers of word and sacrament, that like Paul the apostle they will boldly proclaim the glorious mystery that is Jesus Christ. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**For** families, and those separated from the ones they love at this time, may they be reunited and that Christ's coming may bring a new joy into all our relationships. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**May** the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem strengthen the faith of every Christian, and bring courage to those who are persecuted for their faith. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**May** the presence of God's Son in our world bring peace to the Holy Land of his birth, to Ukraine and the Middle East and to every land where there is war. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**May** the angels who brought the good news of Jesus' birth to shepherds, help the Church to witness to him through prayer of adoration and charity. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**May** the wonder of the shepherds at the sight of Jesus, inspire us to see the presence of God in all people, especially in the poor and needy and in the whole of creation. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**May** those who suffer because of natural disasters and drought, homelessness and loneliness be supported by our prayer. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**May** Jesus take into the heavenly home all of our departed relatives and friends, along with our parishioners who have died since last Christmas. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**For** those burdened with sickness, ill health, anxiety, mental illness and the continuing presence of COVID-19, that the song of the Angels may lift their hearts with hope, so that they are able to also praise God. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

**For** Our Lady's intercession for all our needs we pray **Hail Mary...**

**CELEBRANT/LEADER:** Heavenly Father, on this night we sing of your goodness who, in sending us your Son, Jesus, as our Saviour, frees us from sin, fills us with grace, and promises eternal life, he who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **AMEN**

## FR MARK'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023



2023 is close to being in the past. The season of Christmas gathers the Christian community throughout the world. As we are aware in the land near to the child Jesus' entry into this world, there is anything but calm and peace occupying his homeland.

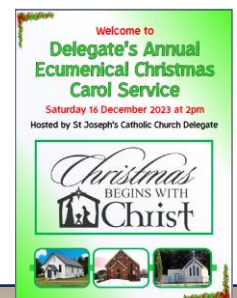
Know too, bombs are dropped unexpectedly in other ways; sudden deaths of loved ones, life threatening illness, depression, mixed seasons, slumping prices, abuse in the Church etc. I recognise too, that many have been hurt by the Church in different ways. As your leader, may I speak for the Church by offering an apology for any hurt. We are the family of God and ask you to consider a more active presence to your faith and parish. All are welcome. It is only in faith we celebrate The Good News that is Christ is with us. We are never on our own. The promised Saviour, Jesus Christ, came into the world over two thousand years ago teaching by word and example the meaning of just love. Peace and goodwill to you at this Christmas season and for 2024!

*Fr Mark Croker*



## DELEGATE ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to everyone who participated in the delightful celebration of carols, Christmas readings and fellowship last weekend at St Joseph's Church and School Centre in Delegate. We were thrilled to have over 40 adults and children join us. Thank you to our parishioners along with those of St Andrews and St Philips Delegate and St Mary's Bombala. Special appreciation goes to the readers and the children who made the afternoon a genuine reflection of the 'true essence of Christmas.' We look forward to next years event at St Andrews Delegate.



**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.**

## 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



## ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE 2023 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE LOVE ALWAYS TRIUMPHS



The birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, always triumphs over the darkness.

The hope and light of the First Christmas in the Gospels is proclaimed from the darkness of the night. There is a star that guides. There is the joyful light that the shepherds, the Magi, and all creation encounter in the humble stable. The surrounding "night" is not simply due to the fact of no sun. It is because there is no Son (of God) in the hearts of some. There are those who plot the killing of the Christ Child. Jesus himself is clothed in cloths and placed in a wooden crib - all suggesting a future death on Calvary. There is no hospitality for the "Prince of Peace" here. This pattern continues even today.

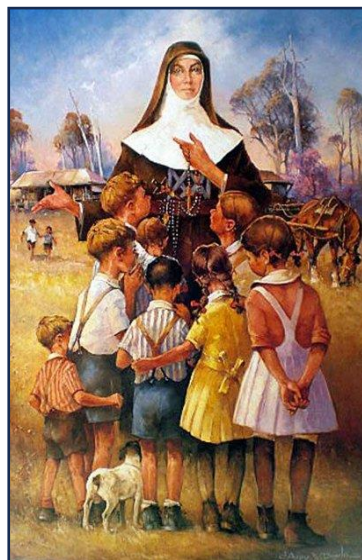
There is the continuing darkness of the wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Africa and other places. Let us not forget that war is always a defeat for humanity – here darkness is chosen over the light of love and peace-making. There is also the challenge in Australia of re-imagining our relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the defeat of the Voice Referendum.

Also, with the upward trend of the cost of living, this Christmas will be tough for so many to provide the necessities of table and shelter for their loved ones. Yet, in the midst of these many darknesses, dawns the triumph of Divine Love found in the birth of the Son of God - Jesus, love itself.

Let us in silence and adoration invite this Christmas light, that chases away the long darkness of loneliness and isolation, to triumph in our hearts, our families and our communities! Let Christmas joy have a practical expression in helping others. Please give generously to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. It will assist greatly places of need throughout the world.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse*



**CHRISTMAS IS NEAR.** With such joy, we celebrate the birth of a Child, a reminder that we are all children of a lavishly loving God who, in Jesus, chose to have no boundaries between divinity and humanity! Following Jesus, Mary MacKillop lived in a way that held no boundaries around her love for God and her love for humanity. Love is love is Love. When Mary MacKillop was visiting families of the children attending the Hall School in Adelaide, she noticed a number of poorly clad children playing in the streets. She invited them to come to the school, making sure that their parents understood that they did not have to pay. Sadly, they informed Mary that this was not possible as they had no suitable clothes. Mary took immediate action. She put an advertisement in the local Catholic paper asking for second-hand clothes to be delivered to the Hall so that she, the Sisters and the older students, could cut them down and then make them up for the street children. The response to her call was so successful that within six months, the enrolment in the Hall school had gone from around 60 to 200! People saw this indiscriminate, lavish squandering of time and energy, of encouragement and generosity; not looking for fault but for affirmation and new life! People saw and wondered, "What's going on here! Who is this woman?" Christmas is the feast of plenty! It is the celebration of Love that makes sure that rain falls on the scattered seeds of humanity no matter where they have fallen: on barren soil, among thorns, along hardened pathways or in lush, green pastures.

So, to the profoundly beautiful call of Christmas! Like Mary MacKillop, are we prepared to be as unjust as our God who makes rain to fall on the deserving and undeserving alike? As I go about my daily life and see someone who is struggling among the thorns of her anxieties or depression, can I drop a little rain? Or, one who is walking the path of ill health, can I drop a little rain? Or, one who is sitting on a rock of hard times. Can I share my little store of rain? Or, if I see someone enjoying good times, can I share in the joy and laughter and even dance with them? We, like Mary MacKillop, are called to join in this mad dancing in the lovingly unconditional rain! Blessed Advent! Happy Christmas!

Sr Emilie Cattalini rsj (Source: *Inspirations from Mary - Sisters of St Joseph - North Sydney*)



**Grandma's Christmas Strategy:** One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas cheques she sent to the kids. The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their cheques. When asked by a friend what caused this change in behaviour, the grandmother replied, "Simple. This year I didn't sign the cheques."



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### 25 December

#### First Reading Is 62:1-5

*The Lord takes delight in you.*

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

**Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2**

**(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 spoke of Christ, the son of David.*

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, whose 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 Mt 1:1-25

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

#### Gospel Mt 1:18-25

**(or Longer Form Mt 1:1-25)**

*Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.*

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.



#### 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.'

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