



CHRISTMAS
25 December 2021

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



OPENING PRAYER

Father,

we are filled with new light by the coming of your Word among us.

May the light of faith shine in our words and actions.

Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

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

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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.’



A Christmas Prayer

God-with-us

inhabit our hearts, inhabit our lives, as you once inhabited human flesh.

May those who are poor be welcomed in our society.

May those whose voices have been silenced find listening hearts.

May those who seek wisdom recognise it cloaked in simplicity.

May the singing news of you gracious presence

ring out in all the dark and lonely corners of peoples' lives.

Author unknown reprinted from CCJP newsletter December 1998

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For peace in every land, that the many peoples of the earth will own their common humanity and live together in harmony. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the whole human family, that the eyes of all will be opened to see creation as God's gift entrusted to them. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation and its inhabitants old and new, that Australia will be a land of peace, generosity, justice and compassion. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For asylum seekers being held in indefinite detention, that their pain and anguish will be replaced without delay by the joy of freedom. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are separated from loved ones or are lonely this Christmas, that friends and neighbours will draw them into a circle of love. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For our families, that the celebration of Christmas will unite us in joy and thankfulness, and wherever needed, in forgiveness and reconciliation. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For one another, that the birth of Christ will inspire in each of us new faith in God's saving love. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: especially those on our prayer list. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased . . . and for Laurie Reeson (anniv.), Gwen Reeson, Eileen & Ray Reeson, Bob Bradley, Harold & Ena Bradley, Kevin & Zita Hart and Norma Flack: that with all the saints they will see the glory of God. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,

With faith and joy we celebrate the birthday of your Son.

Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him.

Amen.

From Father Mick:

On the 23rd January I have asked Steve Scroope and Frank Stanford to speak at **Bungendore** and **Gundaroo** about a MenAlive weekend to be held in April. They will be in **Braidwood** the following weekend.

A women's retreat weekend will be held in April and I'm organizing an international speaker to run the retreat. There will be more about this soon.

The third Sunday in February (20th), will be Mass at **Nerriga** at 11AM. Everyone from our region is invited to attend this Mass followed by lunch at the pub. As a courtesy to the staff at the pub, those attending should inform Helen (Braidwood) or Julie-Ann (Bungendore).

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Mick Burke

Mobile: 0448 414 541

Pastoral Associate: Br Brian Berg
Braidwood Contact Numbers: Ph. 4842 2444;
Mobile: 0408 687 915

Parish email: braidwood@cg.org.au

Parish Website: <http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aspx>

Br. Brian email: bcberg@edmundrice.org

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Next weekend Mass time: Vigil Saturday at 6pm in St Bede's School Hall.

Weekday Mass: in recess until further notice

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 10.30am, at the Presbytery

Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Penance.

24th December – 4.30-5.00pm St. Bede's Church.

Christmas Mass times are as follows: Braidwood 24th – 5.30pm in the church

Feast of the Holy Family Braidwood – 10.30am Sunday 26th in the church

Epiphany – Braidwood 10.15am Sunday 2nd January,



Dear Parishioners,

The church is closed to the public for the duration of the roof repairs. Mass will return to the school hall after the New Year. Masks are no longer mandatory but, if you feel more secure wearing one, please do so.

Do you know of rental property in Bungendore or Braidwood? We have two teachers at St. Bede's school looking for places to live. Please contact the Mick or MaryLou Gorham if you know of a rental property.

Church cleaning: Our roofers have generously agreed to finish early so we can clean the church. Cleaning time 10am Thursday 23 December.

Christmas flowers: any donations of flowers to be brought to the church on Thursday 23 December. Arranging will be done in the afternoon. All helpers welcome.

This year, the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be used to support: the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Contributions will be made to support Diocesan projects within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria, Africa, Thamarassery, India and Gizo in PNG. Within Gizo Diocese assistance will support construction of a school hall at Vanga Point. Other international endeavours will include support towards: projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province, in India and further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

Readings for 26 December: Holy Family

1st: 1 Sam. 1:20-22,24-28. 2nd: 1 Jn. 3:1-2,21-24. Gospel: Luke 2:41-52.

2 January: Epiphany

1st: Isaiah 60:1-6. 2nd: Eph. 3:2-3,5-6. Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

| Date | Acolyte | Welcomer | Readers | Music/PP |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| 24 Dec | Geoff | Geraldine | Wendy H/volunteer | Helen H |
| 26 Dec | Felix | Geraldine | Volunteers please | Helen H |
| 2 Jan | Les/James | Helen P | Rod/Bobbie | Helen H |
| 8 Jan | Geoff | Cathy F | Wendy H/Germaine | Helen H |

Have a happy and holy Christmas,
Helen Hart