



**CHRISTMAS**  
**25 December 2022**

**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 of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'



## **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 your 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 all who are weary of the world's wars and divisions, that the sign of the new-born Christ will fortify their hope for healing and lasting peace. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For baptised Christians around the world, that the feast of Christmas will deepen their faith in God's power to make all things new. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For Christians in the Holy Land and every place where they are a tiny minority, that they will be able to celebrate Christmas in safety, freedom and joy. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the Christian churches in Australia, that they will speak out with one strong voice for justice, reconciliation and the care for creation. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are gathering with families and friends today, that the celebration of Christmas will deepen the love they share and bring healing where needed. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have found this year one of struggle and hardship, that today's festival of grace will be a turning point for better times ahead. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are rostered to maintain health and welfare services during the Christmas holiday period, that they will join together in caring well for those in need. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Les Hart, Bob Fletcher, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Petti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers, the residents of the Aged Care Unit and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased Wynne Jones, Gordon Shorrocks, for Laurie Reeson, Gwen Reeson, Eileen & Ray Reeson, Bob Bradley, Harold & Ena Bradley, Kevin & Zita Hart and Norma Flack . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that with all the angels and saints they will rejoice in the glory of God forever. (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.*

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**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413**

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

**Weekday Mass:** in recess until further notice

**Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

**Social Justice Group:** Tuesday 1 February 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

**Call to Connect Women's Prayer Group** in recess

**Christmas Mass times are as follows: Braidwood 24<sup>th</sup> – 5.30pm in the church**

**Feast of Mary Mother of God – 31 December at 6pm**

**Epiphany – 7 January at 6pm,**



Dear Parishioners,

**This year, the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be taken up again this Christmas Mass.**

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 9:1-7. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Titus 2:11-14. Gospel: Luke 2:1-14.

**Readings for next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Numbers 6:22-27. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gal. 4:4-7. Gospel: Luke 2:16-21.

### **Ministry Rosters for our Masses**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Acolyte</b> | <b>Welcomer</b> | <b>Readers</b>   |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 24 Dec      |                | Helen P         | Michael/Wendy H  |
| 31 Dec      | Felix          | Geraldine       | Bobbie/Tommy     |
| 7 Jan       |                | Cathy F         | Wendy H/Germaine |
| 14 Jan      | Felix          | Helen P         | Wendy M-B/Ann    |

| <b>Ministries of service:</b> | <b><u>23 Dec</u></b> | <b><u>30 Dec</u></b> | <b><u>6 Jan</u></b> | <b><u>13 Jan</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Altar Decorating:             | <b>All please</b>    | Joy                  | Margaret            | Helen P              |
| Cleaning:                     | Bronnie & Felix      |                      | Sarah & Helen P     |                      |

Counters: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday: Wendy H  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please 4<sup>th</sup>: Phil Owen

**Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your Christmas roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.**

Have a happy and holy Christmas,  
Helen Hart