

My dear Parishioners,

“Being missionaries of joy should be part of our lifestyles to help people face difficult situations in life.”

Pope Francis

As we gather for Christmas this year, we are mindful of the journey we have had throughout Covid time since 2020. But 2022 was a blessing for Goulburn Mission, especially for Sts Peter and Paul marking its sesquicentenary. We have had so many people working on this restoration since it began in 1987. It has been 40 Years, after this long journey, like the Israelites we have arrived at our Cannan. What a blessing!

It's been more than 3 years that I came to Goulburn Mission. Discussions and meetings for the last stage of the restoration began in early 2020. Ever since it has been an intense journey until its completion in November 2022. Putting new slates on the entire roof, installing brand new flèche on the top, underpinning the 50% of the foundation, new stormwater and water drainage system, repointing more than 50% of the green stones, rendering the damaged walls, timber works, painting, Electrical, fire, security, lighting, Audio, interior beautification and landscaping weren't easy jobs. Even the weather wasn't really kind to us this year. But against the odds, through the tireless work of many trade people and their patience, we were able to complete the restoration which has been decades in progress. And we will be eternally grateful to God and to them. Thank you to all the donors and financial supporters too.

Also, many thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do especially these last 12 months. I couldn't have done it without your support. Specially I would to thank a few people from the parish who journeyed with me closely: Ursula Stephens for her incredible leadership as the Restoration Committee Chair, members of Parish Finance Committee and Pastoral Council, Michael Lamarra and Tim Sieler who spend more than 3 months in cleaning, sorting out and storing things from St Brigid and the surroundings, David Bourke and Diane Green for their willingness to support and help anytime, Maureen Griggs for her meticulous cleaning, volunteers who helped to move things at the start of restoration, Matt Casey for coordinating the Reopening Celebration, Dominique Croker and the Trinity Catholic College Hospitality Team for their amazing service on the Reopening and Louise Thrower from Goulburn Post.

Special thank you Fr Joe for your great support, inspiration and commitment. Last 12 months you were a great support to parish and to me. You are humble, a man of prayer with great sense of humour. We will miss you. Please be assured of our prayers. We wish you the best in Tumut Mission.

Also, I take this opportunity to thank Sharon Cashman, on behalf of Goulburn Mission parishes, for her service as the parish secretary for last 16 years. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

As we are at the threshold of 2023, I give thanks to God for the honour of serving as your Parish Priest. Thank you for your support, encouragement, advise and prayers. I thank you Sr Rosemary Hart (Crookwell), Tash Polzin in the parish office, Leona Walsh & Prue Burfitt (Taralga), and our faithful gardeners Marcus Imbens, Kerrie & Bernie Bugden and Chanel & Dennis Burke, Penny Gordon in the restoration office, Dennis Borham, Lance Eccles, and Marlene Eggleston, the various ministries, committees in our parish, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and nursing homes, Sacramental and RCIA Team, Catechists, Bereavement Team, our faithful church cleaners, flower arrangers, sacristans, acolytes, our musicians and choir, altar servers and their parents. I am sure there are so many people are part our mission to keep our parish active and welcoming. Please forgive me if I have missed anyone. I am so grateful for the gifts of goodness shared by so many.

If you are returning to Church this Christmas from a long absence, or even a short one, Welcome. It's your home. We are one family. I do mean those words and I say it because last few months I am having lovely conversations with number people who chose to reconnect with the parish kindling the flame of faith. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers and travellers in our midst. Make room in the pews; greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality.

We remember at Christmas the gifts which we receive from the birth of Jesus: peace, hope, promise, mercy, compassion, and above all, the knowledge that Jesus accompanies us in every moment of our lives. Let us not send anyone away to be born in a manger like the baby Jesus.

May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionaries of that joy.

A Blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year.

Fr Joshy KURIEN PP

The Living Word

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight

25 December

First Reading **Is 9:1-7**

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

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

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

**(R.) 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 **Ti 2:11-14**

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

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 **Lk 2:10-11**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Good News and great joy to all
the world:**

**today is born our Saviour, Christ
the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Gospel **Lk 2:1-14**

Today a saviour has been born for you.

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.'

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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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GOULBURN MISSION

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 6pm SPP Goulburn
6pm Taralga
Sunday - 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
9am (Crookwell)
Binda - 10.30am (1st Sunday)
Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sunday)
Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sunday), Tuena - (5th Sunday)
St Michael's Church Bungonia, Thursdays 7pm
Rosary
CONFESSIONS: Sat. 9.30am -10am OLOF/
5.30pm SPP

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),
Wed & Thurs - 8am (OLOF) & Friday -12n
(SPP),
Sat - 9am (OLOF).
Mass Offerings: Please send to office, or central
collection boxes. Masses are allocated a week
ahead

ROSTER Coordinators

Goulburn: Judith Stuart -
judith.stuart11@gmail.com - **Roster signup
forms are in OLOF and SPP**
Crookwell: Kelly Jones -
kellyajones64@gmail.com
Taralga: Lyn Murphy

BAPTISMS: are booked through the Parish
Office, please email goulburn@cg.org.au for a
link to the online booking form.

MISSION NOTICES



Parish Office Closed: 27 Dec Tuesday Public
Holiday

No Mass or Liturgy : 27 - 30 December
9am Mass OLOF: 31 Dec

Fr Joshy will be on leave from Tuesday 3rd
January 2023 and return Thursday 9th Feb 2023.

Fr Joe will be leaving for Tumut on 5th Jan 2023.

Thank you, Fr Michael Mullen and Renoir Oliver
for assisting with Masses.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Goulburn

12 February Sunday: 8pm Chamber
Philharmonia Cologne SPPOC
19 February Sunday: 10 am Memorial Mass Fr
Laurie Blake SPPOC
17 March Friday: St Patricks Day Celebrations
Stay tuned

SACRAMENTS - 2023

Eucharist



Enrollment Night: 3 May (Crkwl) & 4 May (Glbh)
Session begins: 10 May (Crkwl) & 11 May (Glbh)

Confirmation



Enrolment Night: 2 Aug (Crkwl) & 3 Aug (Glbh)
Session Begins: 9 Aug (Crkwl) & 10 Aug (Glbh)

Reconciliation



Enrollment Night: 11 Oct (Crkwl) & 12 Oct (Glbh)
Session Begins: 27 Oct (Retreat Day at Trinity)

Multicultural Christmas Celebration

Our multicultural Christmas Celebration was a
marvellous experience of friendship and
community spirit. Thank you to all who
participated.

Special thank you Hermie Bye & Irna Priora
(Filipino), Babu Mathew (Indian), Michael Lamarra,
Dennis Burke, Di Green (Aussie) and all the artists
who made it colourful and joyful.

I am looking forward to 2023 to have more of such
occasions to strengthen our faith, friendship to
build strong relationships in the parish.

And I invite everyone to join to support, encourage
and advise to make our community thriving. Every
one of you has a role to play, and a gift to share.

Fr Joshy

Recently Deceased: Margaret Cummins, Sr Macrina
Galvin RSM, Maree Kennedy, Lauris Brown, David
Croke, Leon Druett, June Shannon-Hooper

Anniversaries: Mary Gill, Patrick Fisher, Ross
Whittaker, Deceased members Shepherd Family

Prayer List: Pat and Daphne Byron, Cheryl Anderson,
Melanie, Bill, Gloria and Peter McDonald, Relatives
and friends of the Byron, Tracey and McDonalds
families.

Archbishops Office
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Canberra ACT 2601



WALKING TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Despite COVID 19 still present in the community, in comparison to recent years we are able to enjoy this Christmas and New Year time in relative freedom from drastic restrictions. We can meet each other face to face and not simply on a computer screen. We can cultivate deeper friendships. So let us focus anew on the Christmas story.

Regardless of religion or the lack of it, people are generally happy to walk together at Christmas and reflect on their lives in the light of the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem.

Walking together and reflecting on this "Silent Night, Holy Night", gives us an opportunity to deepen inner silence in our chaotic lives. We can permit ourselves to be still for a moment in our change of era. A response can be made in simplicity in contrast to life's confusions.

I trust that such reflections can make us more graceful and peaceful. Hope is given. A star leads us. Humble shepherds help us to reflect on the lost, lonely and least around us. We are given motivation to offer practical assistance.

By walking together at Christmas, we realise afresh that we are not alone. We dismiss the temptation from self-appointed ideological elites that life is merely about "my choice" and "my Rights". We start to talk also about "our responsibilities and duties" to family and society's poor and oppressed.

Walking together means that this time is not simply "the festive season". We are not reduced merely to eating and shopping. It is also "the Christmas season". It is when "God-is-with-us" (Emmanuel) in Jesus. There is joy and laughter. There is song and hope. There is transcendence and radiance.

Let us pray for peace in our world, especially in Ukraine. May we do all we can to make peace flourish as we walk locally under God's "Star of Wonder".

May Jesus bless and protect you all at this Christmas time!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.
Apostolic Administrator, Military Ordinariate of Australia
Christmas 2022

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 | 02 6239 9811 | information@cg.org.au | www.cgatho1ic.org.au

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2022

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2022 is conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

- Our support will continue for the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in Ukraine, Syria, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and assisting Congolese refugees in Kenya.
- Contributions will be made to support Diocesan projects within the Dioceses of Otuokpo, Nigeria, Africa, Thamarassery, India and Bougainville in PNG. Within Bougainville, our contribution will support the expansion and overhaul of St Joseph's College, Mabiri, to meet and manage the needs of an envisioned increase in students, many of whom, must board away from home.
- 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.

An article with detail on this year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal is also in the December edition of the Catholic Voice



A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmm.... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills." The boy quickly replied, "That's right. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."