

MASS TIMES:

SUNDAY: 8.00am Mass (every Sun) until Christmas

WED: No Mass unless advised

Note: A Funeral Mass takes priority over Wednesday Mass

RECONCILIATION: Sunday (7.30am - 7.45am)

BAPTISMS: Telephone or email office in Young

WEDDINGS: At least 6 months' notice

Telephone or email office in Young

WEEKEND MASS TIMES AT YOUNG AND BOOROWA

YOUNG: 6.00pm (SAT) & 10.00am (SUN)

BOOROWA: 5.00pm (SUN)

ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS: WED. 25 DEC 24

ACOLYTE: Nev Stokes

MUSIC: Peter Butcher

READER: Phillipa Baker

COUNTERS: Phillipa Baker
Julie Finn

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: SUN. 29 DEC 24

ACOLYTE: Greg Ewers

MUSIC: Peter Butcher

READER: Glenys O'Connor

COUNTERS: Peter Butcher,
Mary Moffitt

GRENFELL FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

As the death of a loved one can be a very stressful time, we have support in place if you need it.

Please contact Di Franks (6343-2230 or 0418 619-740) or Mary Moffitt (6343-1575 or 0419 440-692) if you or your family would like assistance with funeral preparation arrangements.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: - (The Holy Family)

1 Sam 1: 20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2: 41-52

Prayers are requested for Leslie King, Jonah Mills, Terry Carroll, Martin Stait (Grandson of Mary Galvin), Fran Harveyson, Bill Mainwaring, Jennifer Sullivan (Sister of Bill Mainwaring) & Shirley Cassidy (Sister of Mary Galvin) who are not well at the moment.



St. Joseph's Parish, Grenfell

We sincerely acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wiradjuri people

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - 25 December 2024

Parish Priest: Fr Jiss Sunny MS **Assistant Priest:** Fr Mark Ha

Office Hours: Friday 9.30 am - 1.30 pm

Phone: (02) 6382 2222 / **Fax:** (02) 6382 2667

Office Address: Campbell St., (P.O. BOX 6) YOUNG NSW 2594

Email: young@cg.org.au **Web site:** www.cg.org.au/grenfell

Parish Safeguarding Commitment: St Joseph's Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all of our children and vulnerable people. If any parishioner has any concerns about the above, please email Fr Jiss or the Parish Office.



Dear Parishioners,

As we gather to celebrate this joyous season, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year in 2025. May this year be a time of abundant grace, hope, and renewal for each of us.

Reflecting on the past year, we are grateful for the many blessings we've received under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It has been a year of spiritual growth and community, and as we step into this new year, we embrace the theme of Pilgrims of hope, which invites us to look forward with faith and anticipation.

On December 29th, we will take a moment to bid farewell to Fr Mark Ha. Let us come together to express our gratitude for his service and to wish him well as he embarks on his new pastoral journey. His contributions to our community have been invaluable, and he will be missed. Young Mission (Young, Boorowa & Grenfell) has bought a Farewell gift for Fr Mark and will be presented to him when it arrives.

I also want to inform you about the upcoming renovations scheduled to begin on January 7, 2025 in St Mary's Church. During this period, our Saturday evening Mass will take place at 6.00pm and our Sunday Mass at 10.00am in Hennessy Catholic College Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to unite as a community, and I encourage everyone to lend a helping hand in preparing for these Masses (arranging chairs each Mass etc) as we continue to celebrate the Eucharist together.

Furthermore, I will be travelling to India for a provincial chapter and will be away for a few weeks. During my absence, a priest from Canberra will be available to assist us at St. Mary's Church in Young. For our Boorowa parishioners, we will have support from Galong Monastery, while Grenfell will have a Liturgy of the Word in my absence.

As always, I am grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Your involvement and care make a significant difference in our Young Mission.


Wishing you all peace and joy during this Holy season.

Blessings, Fr. Jiss

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our beloved parishioners.

May the peace and joy of Christmas always remain in your hearts and family.


From Fr Allen, Fr Jiss, Fr Mark and the Parish team.



OFFICE NOTICE

Please be advised that there will be no Anointing Masses, Baptisms or Reconciliation during the month of January.

The Parish Office will also be closed for holidays and opening again on 21st January 2025.



May GOD's blessings come to you a Thousand fold; May the Love in your Heart never get old; and may you find treasures more precious than gold.



Have a and a Blessed Christmas Happy New Year to You and Your Family.

JOKE

"Isn't Baby Jesus ever going to grow up?"


A four-year-old girl went with a group of family and friends to see the Christmas lights, displayed at various locations throughout the city.

At one Church, they stopped and got out to look more closely at a beautiful nativity scene.

"Isn't that beautiful?" said the little girl's grandmother. *"Look at all the animals, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus."*

"Yes, Grandma," replied the granddaughter. *"It is really nice. But there is only one thing that bothers me."*

Isn't Baby Jesus ever going to grow up...? He's the same size he was last year!"



MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joseph's Parish is rostered for Meals on Wheels deliveries from Monday, 20th January till Sunday, 26th January.

If you are unable to do your rostered day, please find a replacement and advise Deidre Carroll on (0403) 480-729, who in turn will advise Meals on Wheels.



The why of Christmas decorations and gifts

Q no 1: Why do we give Christmas gifts covered in ornamental papers? It is because God gave Himself to us a divine gift covering His Divinity as a human baby.

Q no 2: What does the Christmas star mean? The star on top of the tree symbolizes the star of Bethlehem, which led the three men to the stable where Jesus was found.

Q no. 3: Why do we decorate the Christmas tree? It is because the Christmas tree represents the "tree of life" in the Paradise which was restored later by the tree of Calvary in the form of a cross.

no. 4: Why do we make cakes on Christmas day and share it with others? The cake represents the "Promised Land flowing with milk and honey" given by God to His Chosen People and his own body and blood given as the Holy Eucharist, the heavenly food to his followers by Jesus Christ.

Q no 5: Why do we celebrate Christmas with Christmas star and other light decorations? It is because Jesus introduced himself as the light of the world and advised his followers to become the light of the world.

Q no 6: What do candy canes represent? The shape of the candy cane represents a shepherd's staff or shepherd's stick, which he used to guide the sheep. Historically, the red color on the candy is said to be Jesus' blood and the white resembles life after salvation for Christians.

Q no 7: Why do we use Christmas wreath? According to many theories, the wreath represents the crown of thorns that was put on the head of Jesus when he was crucified. In modern times, it is used as a symbol of God's everlasting love and eternal happiness.

Q no 8: Why do we use bells in Christmas decorations? Bells were part of the Jewish high priest's garb. Christmas bells not only symbolize the joy of Christmas; they also remind us that Christ is the High Priest.

Q no 9: Why do use Christmas cookies, breads and pastries? Christmas pastries are made with flour and remind us of the many uses of bread in Scripture. The Jewish people offered cakes made with oil to the Lord. The Israelites took their unleavened loaves with them when they fled Egypt. They recalled this event yearly in the feast of Unleavened Bread. The manna in the desert tasted like wafers made with honey. Elijah performed a miracle in which a widow's flour did not run out during a time of famine. When David brought the Ark of God back to Jerusalem, he gave each person in Israel a loaf of bread, a cut of meat, and a raisin cake. Jesus multiplied loaves twice in Scripture and came as the Bread of Life. He comes to us in every Mass under the form of Eucharistic bread and wine. This rich history is present to us with every taste of Christmas pastries.

no 10: Why do we sing Christmas carols? Christmas carols remind us of the angels who announced the birth of Christ by singing, *"Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!"* Song has been a part of worship since the beginning. Miriam composed and sang a hymn of Thanksgiving when God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians. David sang and danced before the Ark of the Lord when he was accompanying back to Jerusalem after having rescued it from the Philistines. He composed the Psalms, all of which are to be sung. Many of the Psalms mention times when the Jewish people sang, some of which are: bringing in the harvest, going up to the temple, success over one's enemies. Jesus mentioned funeral songs in one of His exhortations. People use song as an expression of highest emotion. How fitting that we sing about the birth of Christ!