

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



### Parish Office: Christmas Opening Hours

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas period, from Saturday 24 December to Monday 2 January inclusive. The office will reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

### Archbishop's Christmas Appeal

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be held at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. This year the funds raised will go towards a range of projects, including the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in Ukraine, Syria, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and assisting Congolese refugees in Kenya. Cash donations will be taken. If you would like to make an electronic donation, please deposit your donation into the St Benedict's Parish Account:

BSB: 062 786  
Account number: 000014992

Reference: **ACA 2022** (please include this reference so we can assign your donation to the Appeal)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Sts Peter and Paul's Goulburn

**Volunteer for just 2 hours a month:** You will be joined by another volunteer to welcome pilgrims and visitors to the only Greenstone Church in the world. Join us in this exciting adventure.

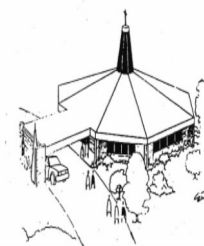


**Sign up** via the QR Code or email [goulburn@cg.org.au](mailto:goulburn@cg.org.au)  
[www.stspeterandpauls.com.au](http://www.stspeterandpauls.com.au)

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 24 & 25 December 2022		
	Sat 6 pm Vigil	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Family Mass— Special roster	Alma Burg
Readers	Family Mass— Special roster	Josephus Bumaat, Grace De Silva
Offertory	Family Mass— Special roster	Linda & Robert Henry
Eucharistic Ministers	Family Mass— Special roster	Barry Murphy
Flowers, Altar Clean	Ann Hill, Anne Sutherland	
Church Cleaners	Don & Jennifer Nguyen	
Mt View		Jindalee

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 31 December 2022 & 1 January 2023		
1ST READING Numbers 6:22 -27	2ND READING Galatians 4:4-7	GOSPEL Luke 2:16-21
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Carmel & Peter Pistor	Barry Murphy
Readers	Marlene Keir, Don Jeffery	Linda Henry, Asterie Niyonsenga
Offertory	Ian & Rita Smith	Social group
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Neimanis	Janice Kelly
Flowers, Altar Clean	Grace De Silva, Sue Neimanis	
Church Cleaners	Nimmy Philip, Santhosh Jose	
Mt View		Jindalee

## St Benedict's Catholic Church



In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

Parish Team:

Parish Office Hours: 9am—1pm, Tues, Thurs, Fri  
Corner of Sturt Ave & Jerrabomberra Ave (PO Box 55)  
Narrabundah ACT 2604  
Tel: +61 (02) 6295 7879/ Parish Office  
Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772  
Website: [cg.org.au/narrabundah/home.aspx](http://cg.org.au/narrabundah/home.aspx)  
Email: [Narrabundah@cg.org.au](mailto:Narrabundah@cg.org.au)

Fr Rembert Fernando, MGL (Parish Priest)  
Fr Baiju Thomas, MGL (Mission Centre Director)  
Fr Chris Eaton, MGL (Mission Centre Co-Director,  
Belle Joseph (Secretary, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am—1pm)  
Cathy Schneider (Finance Officer Wednesday 8am—12pm)  
Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)

### Christmas Day 24 & 25 December 2022



Adoration of the Shepherds, Bartolomé Estaban Murillo

*Wishing all St Benedict's parishioners and visitors a happy and holy Christmas*

### Archbishop Christopher Prowse's Christmas Message: 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.

St Benedict's Catholic Parish acknowledge the **Ngunnawal People**, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.



Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm 97:1-6

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,  
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.  
Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word:  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.  
A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.  
The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.  
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
'This is the one of whom I said:  
He who comes after me ranks before me  
because he existed before me.'  
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –  
yes, grace in return for grace,  
since, though the Law was given through Moses,  
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God;  
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

*Please pray for the sick and deceased of the parish*  
**Recently deceased:** Gemma Di Placido, Verica Fairman, Peter Bird.  
**Anniversaries:** Verona Auburn, Marino Bufalo, Tom Daly, Mary-Ann Davis, Leslie Edmonds, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Sharon Fitzpatrick, Edward Green, James Hogan, Raymond Lilley, Victor Martin, John Julian Martin, Nevio Menis, Olga Moore, Edith Snowdon, Thomas Tonna, Robert Woods, Fr Edward Hanrahan, Fr Ignatius Bossence, Fr John Sharkey, Fr John Bonnar, Fr John Butler, Fr Thomas Lynch, Fr Patrick O'Keeffe, Fr Edmund B. Ryan, Fr Peter Mulligan.  
**Our Sick:** Jindalee & Mt View residents, Julia Brown, Mitchell White, Germaphi, Leita Barron, Lorraine Davis, Mathew, Frank Smith, Lyn Walker, Louis Pini, Anthony, Helen French, Clem Dick, Flora Arias, Pat Atkins, Carol Rees, Mark Ransom, Pamela Brown, Anne Rosewarne; Monica Boyton, Mary Smith, Ben Melbourne, Colin Paley, Janice Paley, Gert Fletcher, Caroline Evans, Anna Pace, Daniel Collins, Barbara Parsons, Edwina Gundelach.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9am - 1pm**  
**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:**  
Saturday: 6pm (*Vigil*)  
Sunday: 9am; 6pm (*Charismatic Mass*)  
Fourth Sunday of the Month: 6pm (*Youth Mass*)  
**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**  
Tuesday: 5.30pm; Wednesday: 12.30pm; Thursday: 5.30pm;  
Friday: 5.30pm (*Healing Mass*); Saturday 8.00am  
**RECONCILIATION:**  
Friday following Healing Mass from 6.15pm-7pm  
Saturday: 5pm-5.30pm or by appointment  
**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**  
Saturday: 7.30am 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Padre Pio:5pm  
**BAPTISMS:** During weekend Masses or by appointment. See parish website for booking information.  
**WEDDINGS:** by appointment  
**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**  
During the 5.30pm Mass on first Fridays  
10.30am at Jindalee 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month  
10.30am at Mt View 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**  
*In recess, recommences early 2023*  
Monday & Tuesday: 6am-10pm  
Wednesday & Thursday: 1pm-10pm; Friday 6am to Saturday 8am  
Urgent hours that need to be filled:  
Monday 3-4pm, Tuesday 3-4pm, Friday 12-1pm  
**Hearing Loop** is located in the right center rows of the church. Please ensure your hearing aid is tuned to make the best use of this facility.  
**EMPOWER NIGHT** will recommence early Feb 2023 at the new time of 7pm till 9pm Tues nights. It's a Charismatic night of Lay preaching and healing in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The night is a chance for those attending training to use their skills and gifts. Everyone is very welcome to come worship and soak in the presence of the Holy Spirit.  
**LEGION OF MARY** meetings are held every Monday 6:30pm at St Benedict's Parish Centre. New members are welcome. Please contact Theresa Rees: 0402 271 531, for more details.

**New Year's Eve Vigil at St Benedict's**  
Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and Mass on New Year's Eve (Saturday 31st December).  
8pm Adoration  
10:30pm Rosary  
10:50pm Benediction  
11pm Mass