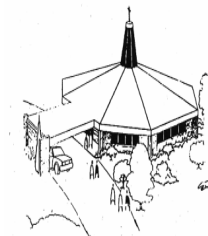


St Benedict's Catholic Church



In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

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Parish Team:

Fr Dan Benedetti MGL (Parish Priest)

Fr David Lemewu MGL (Mission Centre)

Fr Baiju Thomas MGL

Deacon Luke Van Der Mark MGL

Luz Carlile (Parish Secretary)

Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Message:

Dear brothers and sisters I wish you and your families a happy, blessed and safe Christmas and New Year. It's a challenge for us to be reflective and spiritual at this time of year. St Benedict would encourage us to "prefer nothing to Christ," in some way to make Jesus a priority this Christmas. To allow the Star to lead us to Bethlehem and to find Emmanuel, God with us. For many perhaps Christmas isn't a joy filled time, perhaps there is stress, fear, anger, sadness, hurt, violence, grief and unforgiveness. Jesus lead us by your Star to Bethlehem, be born into our darkness as you were that first Christmas. Fr Dan Benedetti MGL PP

Merry
Christmas!

and a
Blessed New Year



- ❖ Christmas Vigil—(School Hall)
see booklet for readings
- ❖ Christmas Night (8pm & Midnight)

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17,22-25
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Response to the Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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

❖ Christmas Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10
2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Response to the Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

The Archbishop's Christmas Message

Christmas Joy

In his Christmas message this year, Archbishop Christopher Prowse emphasised that giving love is the greatest love there is. "It is certainly true to say at Christmas – 'Isn't it great to be loved!,' the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn said. "But it is even greater to say 'Isn't it great to love!.' "Jesus is always found in the latter. Jesus is forever the guiding and saving light that scatters the darkness of sin. "If this is what Jesus does, so must we do the same this Christmas."

Archbishop Christopher drew upon the symbolism of light and darkness at Christmas Time.

"It seems that Jesus was born in the middle of the night. People were sleeping," Archbishop Christopher said. "Yet, it was not simply the absence of the sun that caused this midnight. Another type of "darkness" was at play: inhospitality. "The Holy Family, at least at this crucial moment of salvation history, were homeless due to the absence of hospitality in Bethlehem."

Reinforcing that the giving of love and the shining of light are not simply an academic or a sentimental exercise, Archbishop Christopher highlighted the practical charity done by groups such as St Vincent de Paul and others in the Canberra community. They help relieve homelessness, hunger and anguish for "the lost, the least and the last," especially at Christmas Time.

"Darkness will not have the last word," he said.

"There is hope. There is light. For Christians that LIGHT IS JESUS, our hope, and glory. This is our Christmas joy!"



Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2018 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 **bringing hope and opportunity to** those in need in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Syria and Pakistan.
- ◆ Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan** projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and Broome Diocese, and globally, within the Dioceses of Otuokpo, Nigeria.

Other endeavors will include support towards: **helping** the rural parish of St Joseph's, Battambang in Cambodia provide improved and extended education opportunities to students beyond their infant years to primary, secondary and tertiary levels whilst also seeking to improve the self-sufficiency of the parish and their community is envisaged, projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India, and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

During the holiday period please note of the following:

- ◆ **Adoration** begins **Monday, 4 Feb 2019**
- ◆ **Jindalee and Mountain View:** No services during January. Starts February 2019
- ◆ **Parish Office Closed over Christmas and New year. Reopens** on Thurs 3 Jan 2019, then as usual from Tues 8 January 2019. For Emergency please call 6239 6772.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S GIVING TREE

We would like to thank parishioners, parents and students and St Benedict's for their generous response of food and toys for the Christmas Hamper Appeal.

We have delivered enough hampers to deserving homes in Narrabundah. ~ SVDP St Benedict's Conference

*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.*