

## REFLECTIONS by Dianne Bergant CSA

4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Advent: 24 December 2023

The world in which we live and the events of which we are a part are the stage upon which the drama of salvation is enacted. God works through real flesh and blood people, those like David, who occupy the seats of power and influence as well as those like Mary and us, who are unseen and unknown. All can be agents of salvation. God's future is in our hands. Human history is really the history of salvation. Each turn of God's revealing causes us to wonder at what might come next. In this tension, mystery is revealed. What was hidden is now made known. Jesus establishes a people of covenant promise. Still, the mystery is unknown, for it continues to come to us from the future, revealing more and more of itself in the junctures of history. The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the impossible, God works the possible. During Advent, we have been waiting for the realisation of the promise made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes. With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.



### The Nativity of the Lord: 25 December 2023

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced. If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.



### CONTACT DETAILS

#### Parish Priest

Fr George Ogah  
George.Ogah@cg.org.au

#### Parish Secretary

Mrs Alicia O'Connor  
Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood  
Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan  
Finance Chair

Mr Neil Ffrench  
Parish Safeguarding Volunteer

Mr Philip Roach  
Email to be confirmed

Lumen Christi Catholic College  
Mr Shane Giles (02) 6495 8888

#### Marriage Preparations

Damien & Celi Kennedy  
Parish Office

Hours - 9am to 3pm  
Wednesday and Thursday  
Phone - 0435 036 236  
Email - pambula@cg.org.au  
Web - www.cg.org.au/pambula  
Address - 79 Main Street /  
PO Box 249, Merimbula,  
NSW, 2548

#### Churches

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden  
St Joseph's, Merimbula  
St Peter's, Pambula  
St Joseph's, Wyndham

#### Mass Times

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Month  
-9:30am, Merimbula  
Saturday -6pm, Eden  
Sunday -8am, Pambula  
-10am, Merimbula  
Tuesday -5pm, Merimbula  
Wednesday-10am, Pambula  
Thursday -10am, Eden  
Friday -10am, Merimbula

## ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH



PARISH OFFICE NOW CLOSED OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND WILL REOPEN ON: Wed 31 Jan: 9am-3pm; Thurs 1 Feb: 9am-3pm.

**RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS Friday 22 December 5pm at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula.**

### Prayer for Fourth Sunday in Advent (Peace)

*Leader: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen. (All four candles are lit).*

**Lunching with Ladies - Infuse Tura Beach shops - Sunday 28th January - 11:30am for 12pm. All women in the Parish are most welcome. Name to Teresa (0408 827 794) by Sunday 21st January.**

**WELCOME FR DONATUS** WHO WILL BE JOINING US FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. PLEASE MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A CHRISTMAS GIFT WITH HIM TO THANK HIM FOR HIS PRESENCE, PLEASE DO SO.

**Thank you for all the beautiful gifts on the occasion of my Birthday and Christmas! Thank you also for welcoming Fr Donatus so kindly. For you all you to make our parish life so full and vibrant-I am so grateful. Merry Christmas from Fr George.**

**FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Christmas and the New Year is upon us. It's a good time to reflect on the year and thank everyone who has contributed to our Parish family in any way this year. You continue to be generous with your time and talents. So thank you so much. A big thank you to Alicia who does a fabulous job with all our back of house commitments. To Fr George - from whom a happy smile and kind words always greets you - a big thank you. Happy Christmas and Happy New Year - stay safe.

**SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER**

**2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 / Romans 16:25-27/ Luke 1:26-38**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2**

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7:14**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Friday, after Mass, Merimbula

Saturday, before Vigil Mass, Eden

Wednesday, after Mass, Pambula

**Anointing of the Sick**

Will be offered at weekday masses during the last week of every month.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Welcoming Mass – 4th Sat/Sun of the month prior to Baptism during Mass on 1st Saturday/Sunday of the month.

Please ring office for all Baptism preparation enquiries.

**Weddings**

By appointment only – at least 6 months’ notice in advance.

**Adoration**

Tuesday at 4:15pm followed by Mass at 5pm, Merimbula

1st Sunday at 3:00pm, Eden

**Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary**

Sunday 9:30am and Fridays at 4:30pm

At St Joseph’s Merimbula

**Rosary**

Monday Cenacle 11am in Merimbula

Tuesday 4:30pm in Merimbula

Wednesday 9am in Pambula

Thursday 8:45am in Eden



Our mission as the Christian community of St Peter’s Parish, enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that others may experience the love of Christ.  
**We acknowledge the Yuin people and pay our deepest respects to elders of past, present and emerging from all first nations around the world from whom we have learned so much.**

**MONDAY 25 DECEMBER**

**Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-6/ John 1:1-18**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3**

(R.) 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!

**Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 97:3**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**FEAST/SPECIAL DAYS THIS WEEK:**

Mon 25 Dec: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Solemnity with Octave).

Tues 26 Dec: St Stephen, the first martyr (Feast).

Wed 27 Dec: St John, apostle, evangelist (Feast).

Thurs 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, martyrs (Feast).

Fri 29 Dec: 5<sup>th</sup> day in the Octave of Christmas.

Sat 30 Dec: 6<sup>th</sup> day in the Octave of Christmas.

**Planned Giving Collections:**

First: \$704.80; Second: Envelopes: \$590.50; Loose: \$295.40.

**THANK YOU...** to ALL parishioners who continually support our Parish through our plate collections at Mass, through the envelopes and direct banking. Without your financial help our Parish could not continue to function.

*Let Us Pray for and support those who are sick and for all who have asked for our prayers...* Frank Elton, John Liston, Conrad De Zwart, Jake Alcock, Anne Cooper, Jocelyn Petty, Jeff and Monica Paffen, Glen Alcock, Lynette Robert, Patricia May Bills, Cliff Hamilton, Suzanne Montgomery, Margot Neilson, Rob Francis, Chris Greenwood, Margaret Coates, Lyn Collie, Geoff Heffernan, Mary O’Donnell, Judy Broddrick, John Reynolds, Max Andrew, Ros Beveridge, Eric Mangion, Anselmo Guiffre, David Went.

*This Week’s Mass Intentions:* nil.

*We pray for all the Faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including:* Maria Dimasi (RIP); John Reynolds (Eden, RIP).

**May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of our Lord, rest in Peace, AMEN**

**PARISH NEWS & EVENTS**



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

**4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass**

Sat 23 Dec Eden Vigil 6pm

Sun 24 Dec Pambula 8am  
Merimbula 10am

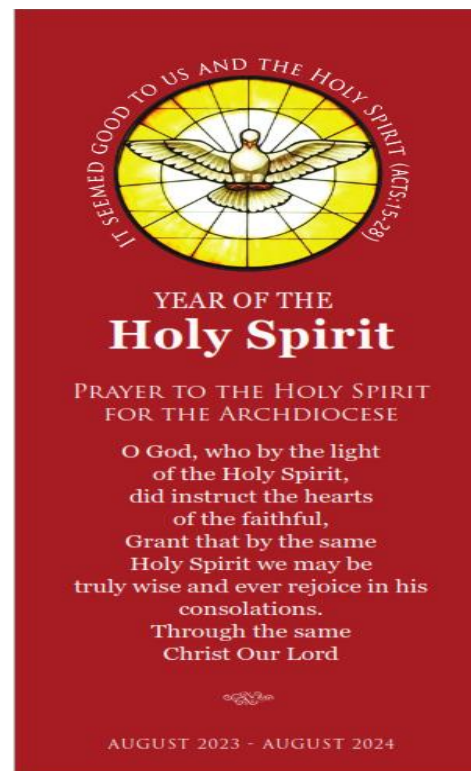
**Christmas Eve Mass**

Sun 24 Dec 5pm Children’s Mass  
Merimbula

7pm Eden  
9pm Pambula

**Christmas Day Mass**

Mon 25 Dec 8am Pambula  
9am Merimbula



Please join in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit for the Archdiocese which will be prayed at each weekend Mass.



**PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT:** St Peter’s Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people to have their say, to be listened to and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

**COMMUNICATING CONCERNS:** You are encouraged to raise any concerns by emailing Fr George, the Parish Office, the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer or directly to Maria Hicks at the Institute Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) on ipss@cg.org.au