

# SACRED HEART PARISH TEMORA

TEMORA MISSION – INCORPORATING THE PARISHES OF TEMORA/BARMEDMAN,  
ARDLETHAN/ARIAH PARK & BARELLAN/BINYA

**Parish Priest** - Fr Simon Falk

**Assistant Priest** – Fr Trenton van Reesch (Temora & West Wyalong)

**Parish Co-Ordinator** - Sr Maureen McDermott (Ardlethan/Ariah Park)

**Parish Co-Ordinator** – Sr Janet Glass (Barellan/Binya)

Phone: 69772104

Email: [temora@cg.org.au](mailto:temora@cg.org.au)

Website: [www.cg.org.au/temora](http://www.cg.org.au/temora)

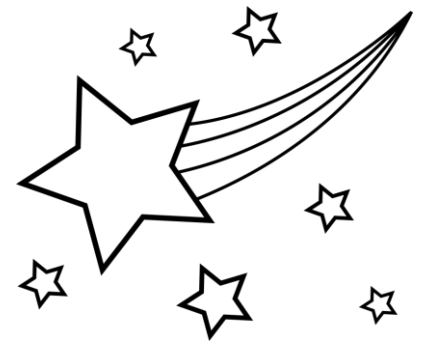
25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## CHRISTMAS TIME

**MARY 'WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON AND YOU MUST NAME HIM JESUS.' TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE THE REALISATION OF THE ANGEL'S PROPHECY TO JOSEPH. GOD IS BORN OF A WOMAN. JESUS IS ONE OF US FOR EVER. FROM NOW ON NO HUMAN BEING NEED BE CALLED 'FORSAKEN' OR 'ABONDONED' BUT RATHER 'GOD'S DELIGHT'.**

Christmas is for remembering – remembering a promise, we who are prone to forget even the greatest of gifts. When we hear the angel's song at Christmas – “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will” – we tend to think only of the divine Glory as simply echoing God's grandeur, His power, far off in the clouds upon His throne on High! But that's *not* all the angel says.

When Jesus takes on the likeness of sinful flesh, we see the *Glory of God* come to dwell in the weakness and helplessness of a child, born into very pitiable conditions. God reveals Himself as the exact opposite of what we expect! Humble, lowly and so very close and gentle. Often this can seem too good to be true! Strange and un-befitting of a God! Perhaps that's the reason why so many struggle to even believe at all in our days! It simply defies our wildest desires, needs and dreams. That God would actually come *that* close and become *that* vulnerable. The *Glory of God* doesn't stay in the heavens but descends to touch the earth... in all its disarray! “... on earth peace!”



Christmas reminds us that God has not remained far off and distant, like the ancient pagan gods of old. Rather, He humbly and loving dwells in our broken humanity. In the midst of the mess which is our human lives. This is a reality particular important to remember after what has been a challenging year for our world, our country, our towns, and perhaps even personally.

In a world where God is far off and distant, there can *never* be peace. But a new world is born when God becomes man. Then true peace becomes possible, and that is the angel's announcement! You have every reason to be proud to be Catholic – because yours is the promise – the promise of a new marriage that has taken place in the Incarnation where God now bears *your* human flesh and all the burdens that go with it in order that He might transform them. Let this be the reminder we hear again this Christmas that God now dwells with us!

Fr Trenton

***Glory to God in the highest and on earth may that peace which only God can bring, be ours***

## *Nativity of the Lord 2017*



Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel of John in the Mass of the day tells us that “in the beginning was the Word...” who was “with God”... and this “Word was made flesh... lived among us, and we saw his glory... full of grace and truth.” So, we approach the Nativity of the Lord, affectionately known to many of us as Christmas. It is the time we recall that God came to live among us. Working back through the other Gospels we hear of shepherds coming to visit, of a little family having a boy child, of them having to travel and struggling to find a suitable place to have their little one. This is our Christmas story, that our living God, creator and Lord of heaven and earth, enters into our humble story as a child searching for a home. As the next year of 2018 unfolds we will continue to hear more of this God among us. We hear he has a name ‘Jesus’. We follow his story through a moment of his childhood and the beginnings of his adult life. We witness him call companions, teach with parables, heal the sick, bring the outcasts back into the embrace of God and God’s people. We witness Jesus’ deep and intimate relationship with the one he calls ‘Abba’ or Father, and learn as Jesus invites us into that relationship as well. We will look on as some misunderstand Jesus, betray him and put him to death. He voices his forgiveness. We discover that his forgiveness and love not only opens a way to salvation for his detractors but for us all. We encourage you to keep following these Gospel stories about Jesus. We even encourage you to come and listen to them with others on Sundays, that together, we may come to know and love this God among us called Jesus.

We hear it as families in Syria rebuild the rubble of their lives and loves. We see it as children in the Philippines slosh in flooded streets that were their homes. We see the vulnerable face of God, who is with and among us, in the suffering faces of those enduring abuse in the home or the workplace, and in the spectre of those burdened with long term mental health challenges. Like Jesus, all these people are not just examples, they have a name and they have a story. They too seek to be welcomed into life. Then there are the longings of our own families and friends hoping that we can see the dignity of God made flesh in the light of their eyes too.

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas, reminds us that God entered life like our own, as a vulnerable child, to enter our lives that we may know we are full of grace and truth as well.

May you know God is among you at this time.

*Fr Simon*



