

**The Nativity of the Lord 9.00pm**  
**First Reading** *Is 9:1-7* A reading from the prophet Isaiah *A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy in-crease; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his op-pressor, these you break as on the day of Midi-an. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. *The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God*

**Second Reading** *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus *God's grace has been revealed to all people.* God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no am-bition except to do good.

*The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God*  
**Gospel** *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *Today a saviour has been born for you.* Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was gov-ernor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Beth-lehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in

the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.' *The Gospel of the Lord R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

**The Nativity of the Lord 9.00am**  
**First Reading** *Is 62:11-12*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah *Your Saviour is born.*

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your saviour comes, the prize of his victory with him, his trophies before him'. They shall be called 'The Holy People', 'The Lord's Redeemed'. And you shall be called 'The-sought-after', 'City-not-forsaken.' *The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God*

**Second Reading** *Ti 3:4-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus *His own compassion saved us.* When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

*The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God*  
**Gospel** *Lk 2:15-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.* Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shep-herds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**The Nativity of the Lord 4.00pm**

**First Reading** *Is 52:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah *All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.* 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. *The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God*

**Second Reading** *Heb 1:1-6*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews *In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

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 every-thing 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.

*The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God*  
**Gospel** *Jn 1:1-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word: 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 wit-ness, 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 enlight-ens 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 pro-claims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his full-ness 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.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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**ST BERNARD'S PARISH**  
**BATEMANS BAY**  
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



P .O. Box 3220, Batehaven, 2536.  
Tel: 4472 4153  
E: batemansbay@cg.org.au  
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay  
Office Hours: 10am to 2pm  
Tuesday-Friday

**Priest:** Rev. Martins Aloga  
**Secretary:** Roslynn Trompp  
**Finance Admin:** Anne Jackson  
**PC Co-ord:** Marie Weatherall  
**Asst. PC Co-ord:** Sr. Marie McAlister  
**Youth Minister:** Liarna Miller

**Principal:** Mrs. Jo Wain  
**St. Bernard's Primary School, Batehaven**  
**R.E.C:** Sharon Beashel  
**Principal:** Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan  
**Carroll College, Broulee**  
**R.E.C:** Erica Drewsen



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## 2021 CHRISTMAS YEAR C

### Christmas Message from Archbishop Prowse

#### Bethlehem Amazement

Sometimes we are offered the following Christmas greeting: "Have an amazing Christmas!" No doubt this greeting can mean all sorts of things. For Christians, the most amazing aspect of Christmas is God becoming human in the little babe of Bethlehem.



For us, all other amazements in life flower from this fundamental Bethlehem amazement.

The Christmas scene of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, three Magi, animals, stars and angels are all stilled in silent amazement as they gaze on the Almighty God becoming a vulnerable baby in the humble stable at Bethlehem. Mary's prayer becomes our prayer as she says for all of us in amazement that our "soul magnifies the Lord."

During this Christmas and New Year Season, let us all magnify Jesus in our gratitude and humble response to all the amazing things that have happened to us during this extraordinary Covid year of 2021 - both good and not so good!

Let us show an amazing closeness to our families, neighbourhoods and cities where this time may be a real practical struggle. Now that we are able, let us visit each other- especially those who have had a very isolated and lonely 2021. Then our Bethlehem amazement will also have a real practical expression.

Rest up during this time! We are all tired!

God bless you all during this Christmas and New Year Season

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**  
*Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn*  
*Apostolic Administrator of the Military Ordinariate of Australia*



WISHING EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2021

Dear Parishioners,

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2021 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 Africa, the Middle East and Asia.
- Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan projects within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria, Africa, Thamarassery, India and Gizo in PNG. Within the Gizo Diocese assistance will support construction of a school hall at Vanga Point.**
- Other international endeavours will include support towards: **projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India; and further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.**



An article with detail on this year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal is also in the December edition of the Catholic Voice along with a Coupon for people wishing to send in their donation to the address below.

**Archbishop's Christmas Appeal**  
Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell  
GPO Box 3089 Canberra ACT 2601

## Hope, Hospitality, Reunion

At Christmas, we celebrate the fulfilment of hope in an ancient promise.

The promise of human salvation through the birth of the Christ-child, the Emmanuel, God-with-us (Isaiah 7.14; Mt 1. 23). In this singular act, is the fulfilment of the hope of salvation handed down through human history.

Christmas, by nature is a feast of hospitality, greeted with massive decorations, illuminations from the summer sun and innovative lights, traditional cuisines, exchange of gifts, travels, extended holidays, family time, weddings, engagement parties etc, with most people making complementary plans for the best and perfect Christmas. All these reminds us of God's initial and ongoing hospitality, to save us, God gave His best and all - *Jesus, the reason for the season.*

Christmas is a feast of reunion - *God reuniting with humanity in the birth of Emmanuel.* What a lesson! God being God reached out to re-unite with humanity. Being made in His image and likeness, we are invited to overcome our 'busyness', pride, anger, resentments, divisions, guilt and hate to reach out to others as we celebrate Christmas of re-union this 2021.

Christmas blessings.

- Fr Martins

### Christmas Masses

#### Christmas Eve Friday December 24th

6pm Children & Family Mass

8.30pm Christmas Carols

9pm Mass

#### Christmas Day Saturday Dec 25th

9am Mass

4pm Mass

#### Feast of the Holy Family

#### Saturday Night Vigil Mass Dec 25th

6pm Mass

#### Sunday December 26th

9am Mass

5pm Mass

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

All are welcome to join us at the Parish for lunch and good company



## LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY



### Christmas ~ A Time of Joy

Today we celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child – God revealed in our world! Some reflections from theologians...

In the incarnation, God enters the world. Christmas teaches us that God is as much domestic, as monastic, a God of the body as well as of the soul, a God who is found in barns as well as in churches, in kitchens as well as cathedrals.

Among the many things we celebrate at Christmas therefore, is the sacredness of our own lives, in all their physicality. All is made holy by the birth of Jesus as we have reflected on recently in *Laudato Si.*

Spirit too is blessed and made holy by the incarnation but the Word was already spiritual ~ at Christmas 'the Word was made flesh'.  
(Rolheiser)

Christmas brings us all back to the crib of life to start over: aware of what has gone before, conscious that nothing can last, but full of hope that this time, finally, we can learn what it takes to live well, grow to full stature of soul and spirit, get it right!

There is a child in each of us waiting to be born again. It is to those looking for life that the figure of the Christ, a child, beckons. Christmas is not just for children. It is for those who refuse to give up and grow old, for those to whom life comes newly and with purpose each and every day, for those who can let yesterday go so that life can be full of new possibility always, for those who are agitated with newness whatever their age.

Life is for living, for those in whom Christmas is a feast without finish, a celebration of the constancy of change, a call to begin once more the journey to human joy and holy meaning!  
(Chittister)

**May the blessings of the Christ-Child enfold you, your loved ones and those who may be feeling anxious and alone. May these blessings flow throughout 2022.**

CROATIAN MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED  
MONDAY 27TH DECEMBER @ 11 AM  
*All are welcome*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Nativity of the Lord – 6.00pm

First Reading *Is 62:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord takes delight in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown

of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

Second Reading *Acts 13:16-17. 22-25*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.*

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

Gospel *Mt 1:18-25*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

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