



ST BERNARD'S PARISH

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Office Hours: 9am to 2pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Parish Priest: Fr. Martins Aloga

Assistant Priest : Fr. Dominic Byrne.

St Bernards Primary School: 'That All May Be One'. Principal: Jacqueline Heffernan.

Carroll College: 'Learning For Life'. Principal: Steve Bath

See roster sheets on the door in the church.

A very warm welcome to any visitors.

and

Wishing all parishioners a very

Merry Christmas!

*And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins.*
Matthew (1:21)



May the miracle of Christmas touch your life!

**NO ROOM IN THE INN" -
EXPRESSING HOSPITALITY IN PRACTICAL
CHARITY**

Surely one of the saddest lines in the Gospel is when Jesus came to be born in Bethlehem and Joseph and Mary had to find emergency accommodation at a stable as there was "no room in the inn." (Luke 2/7)

Already Jesus is found to be on life's periphery. He seems homeless. There is a lack of hospitality in Bethlehem. We can easily sentimentalise these moments but, in fact, they hide a harsh reality that still ought to trouble us even today. The social services agencies of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn advise me that homelessness is increasing at an alarming rate in our area. This real poverty has an increasingly younger face and involves many more single mothers with young children.

Like Jesus, there seems to be "no room in the inn." Let us give priority this Christmas and New Year season to practical charity. We could focus on our families, neighbourhoods and the wider communities. For a start, we could give generously to Christmas appeals for monies or Christmas gifts to the marginalised, especially the homeless. Then this Christmas will begin to reverse the inhospitality of the first Christmas over two thousand years ago.

May you and your families and loved ones be blessed in these fragile and troubled times.

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn*

**The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for
2017**

Our support will continue for the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in Australia and beyond.

Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese as well as the Wilcannia Hub project supporting young indigenous families, and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria and Tagbilaran, Cebu, Philippines for their Diocesan Seminary.**

Other endeavours will include support towards: **Providing a school bus to transport young children to school from poor surrounding villages within the La Salette Matha Province in India and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.**

<p>Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma District Funerals Mark Hewson JP Funeral Director Phone 02 4472 8886 Moruya 02 4474 3555 Narooma 02 4476 3888</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS 1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay Buy fuel any time EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</p>
<p> Kate & Tara your vets at Surf Beach EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre 4471 3400</p>	<p> ST BERNARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW Ph 4472 4446 Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>
<p>  — with a passion for print P 4472 1599 E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au www.excellprint.com.au Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536 Incorporating:  </p>	<p>THIS ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE</p>
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