

CENTRAL CANBERRA PARISH



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

25 December 2017

St Brigid's
Cnr Bancroft & Wilshire Sts, Dickson

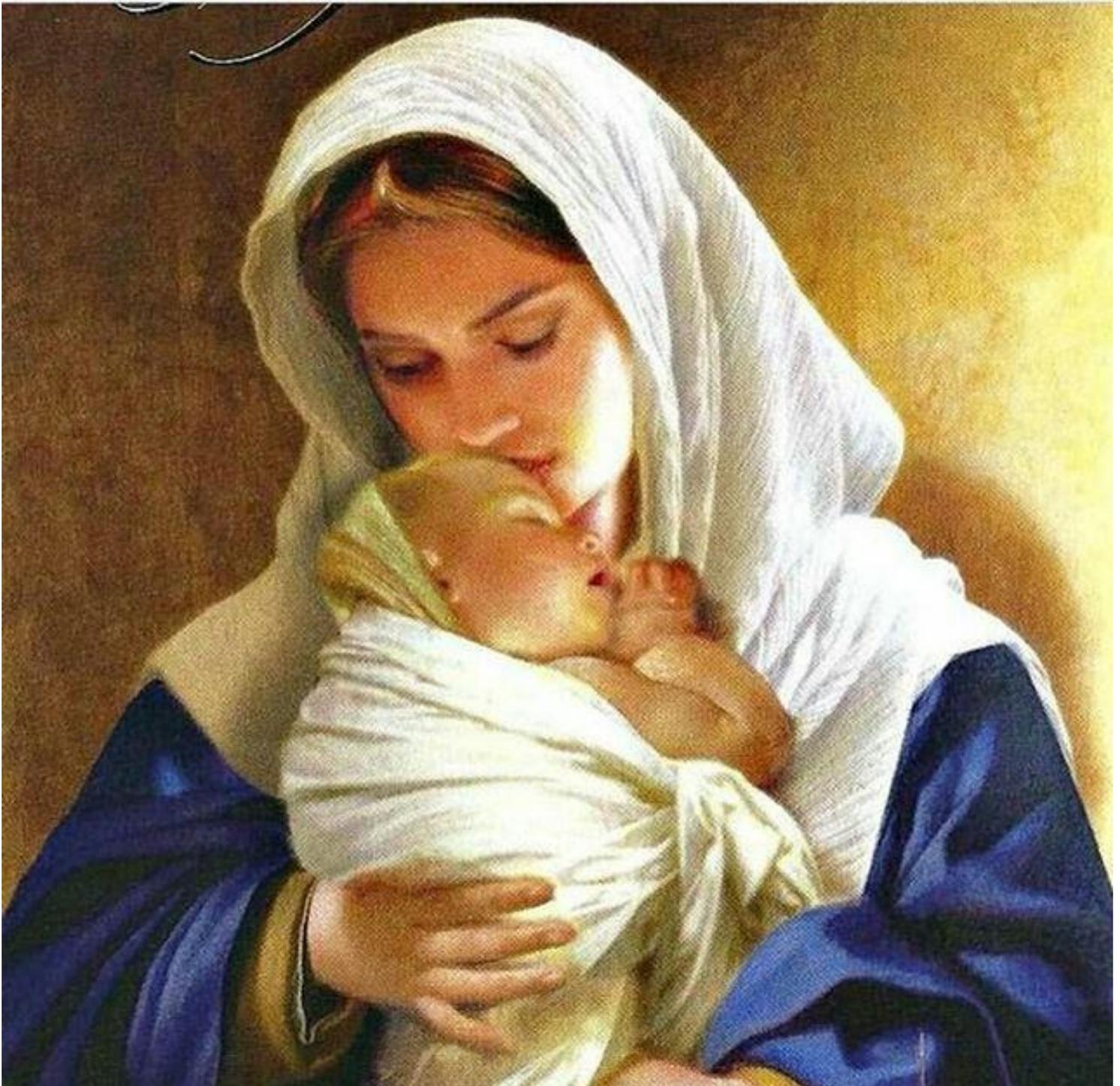
St Patrick's
Cnr Donaldson & Cooyong Sts, Braddon

Year B

Welcome to all who have joined us today. We hope that you have felt 'at home' in our Parish Community.

We are one Family. We acknowledge the traditional peoples of the land on which we stand.

We pay our respects to them for their care of the land.



TODAY THE CHURCH CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST



PRESBYTERY & OFFICE:

2 Bancroft Street, Dickson
Postal Address
PO Box 127 Dickson ACT 2602
Ph. 6248 5472
Email: canberracentral@cg.org.au

Parish Priest:

Fr Bernie Patterson
Fr Joshua Scott

Parish Secretary:

Ms Lorraine Vahland

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Thu, 9 am-12 pm

MASS TIMES

Saturday

6.00pm St Brigid's

Sunday:

8:00 am St Patrick's

9:30 am St Brigid's

(Followed by Morning Tea)

10.00 am St Patrick's - German Mass

There will be two collections today.

The first is to support the Clergy
(The Archbishop & other local Diocesan Clergy).

The second is for the Archbishops Christmas Appeal

ROSTER CHRISTMAS 25 Dec

Monday 25th St Brigids

9.15am Carols – 9.30am Mass

Acolyte Lorraine Vahland

Readers Volunteer

Offertory Volunteer

Chalice Volunteer

Normal masses will resume 27 December

1st January 9.00am Mass at St Brigids

Christmas in Our Parish

Every Christmas the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem invites us to stop and to pay attention to the things that are especially important in our lives: our loved ones, our family and friends and our loving God who holds us in the palm of his hand'.

When Christmas is over, an excellent way to grow in faith and to develop one's relationship with God is to be part of our community as we celebrate the Eucharist on Saturday nights, and Sunday mornings. You will be most welcome!



"We wish you all God's Blessing and His Love at this festive time and pray that 2018 will be a year of peace, joy and happiness for you "

Please Pray for:



The Sick



The Faithful Departed

Barry Avis, Stan Bierkowski, Josie Brackett, Elsie & Les Butwell, Dionisio Cabard, Florina Cabardo, Joan Cahill, John Cahill, Athol Collins, Maurice Culnane, Noell Culnane, Paul Culnane, Ella Curtis, Gerry Curtis, Beth Dugard, Warsita Gunawan, Joshua Harms, Ray Harms Fumiko Hattori, Toshio Hattori, Beryl Huddy, Hajime Kamei, Mama Kos, Maria Lenar, Kate & Tom McCulloch, Catherine & Daniel McDonald, Liz Mercer, Anna Miller, Olive & Walter Murphy, Krys & Rob Mustac, Beto Nogueira, Linus Patricia Norman, Catherine O'Brien, John & Enid Prendergast, Theresa Quinlan, Silvio Rossi, Jess & Allen Silvester, Suzanne Stafford, Andrew Szczepanski, Teresa & Henry Szczepanski, Jusuf Tedjajadi, Maria Eppy Tedjajadi, Rudy Tedjajadi, Ivan Urh, Vera Urh, Emma Jane Vahland, Tom & Margaret Walsh, Antonius Irawan Widjaja, Florrie & Cliff White, Ron Wiley, Frederick Williams, Augusta, Agnes, Gregory William Alexander Moon, Amarindo & Balbina
McGee Family, Lyons Family Allan Family, Brackett Family, Byrne Family, Dominguez Family, Edgeworth Family, McDonald Family, Murphy Family, Muir Family, O'Conner Family, Pearson Family, West Family, Whiley Family, White Family
Sr Mary Jemma, Our Relatives and Friends, German Community



I would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity and help this year. I have a huge list of people to acknowledge.

Thank You to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council the Finance Council the Parish Liturgy Group, The Children's Liturgy Leaders, to the Acolytes, Altar Servers, Readers, Offertory Bearers, Special

Ministers of the Eucharist, Musicians & Choir, Counters & Collectors, Flower Ladies, Altar Society, Morning Tea workers, St Vincent de Paul, Social Function Organisers and all the other quiet achievers who contribute to the life of our wonderful Parish!

Finally I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas that is full of joy and grace

Fr Bernie

Symbols of Christmas

Candles A candles flame makes a light in the dark and reminds us of Jesus. Jesus said, I am the light of the world. (John 8:12)

Angels Angels are messengers from God. An angel appeared to Joseph (Matthew 1:20 and 2:13), an angel appeared to Mary (Luke 1: 34,35),an angel brought the good news to the shepherds that Jesus had been born (Luke 2: 9-14).

Christmas Trees Christmas trees are selected from Evergreen trees. An Evergreen tree is always green, never fades or loses its colour. Christmas trees remind us that Gods love is eternal, never ends and never fades. God says, I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Christmas Wreath Like a Christmas tree, Christmas wreathes are made of Evergreen branches. A wreath is a circle with no beginning or end. which depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life

Bells Since long ago, bells have been used in churches to announce the birth of a child or to draw people together for worship. Bells remind to praise God for the birth of Jesus just as the angels did with the shepherds.

Gifts Gifts also remind us of the gift that God offers to us through our belief in His Son, Jesus. Through the forgiveness of our sins, we are saved and given eternal life.



Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2017

The Christmas Bowl appeal is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering. Funds raised will go the National Council of Churches ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal, in support of:

- **Wilcannia Forbes Diocese, and the Wilcannia Hub project supporting young indigenous families**
- **the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria and the Philippines for a Diocesan Seminary.**
- **Funds will also support towards providing a school bus to transport young children to school from poor villages in La Salette Matha Province, India**
- **And student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land**

Last year the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal raised \$64,078 a full listing on how this was distributed can be found in the December addition of Catholic Voice – available in the foyer.

With your generous support we can, make a difference through our giving this Christmas.

Origin of the Crib

In 1223 St Francis of Assisi decided, in order to arouse devotion, to celebrate at Greccio in Italy with the greatest possible solemnity the memory of the birth of the Child Jesus. So that this would not be considered a type of novelty, he petitioned for and obtained permission from the Supreme Pontiff.

St. Francis; wanting to enact the memory of the Infant who was born at Bethlehem prepared a cave with a manger filled with hay between a donkey and an ox. Friars who had come from many communities, gathered around St. Francis as did the men and women of the neighbourhood. They bought candles and torches to brighten the night.

St. Francis, dressed in deacon's vestments, (it is said that out of humility he never attempted to become a priest) sang the Gospel. Then he preached a sermon to the people. It is recorded that after the Mass, St. Francis went to the crib and stretched out his arms as though the Holy Child was there, and brought into being by the intensity of his devotion, the Babe appeared and the empty manger was filled with the radiance of the new born King.

St. Francis' idea of bringing Bethlehem into one's own town spread quickly all over the Christian world, and soon there were Christmas cribs in churches and homes.



The light of the Christmas star on you,
the warmth of home and hearth to you,
the cheer and goodwill of friends to you,
the hope of a childlike heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
the love of the Son and God's peace to you.

A traditional Irish blessing

CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Archbishop Christopher Prowse,
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.
December 2017

NO ROOM AT THE INN

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).

Right from the first moments of his life on earth, Jesus is found to be on life's periphery. He seems homeless. There is a lack of hospitality from those in the town to the Holy Family's situation. We can easily sentimentalise these moments but, in fact, they hide a harsh reality that still ought to trouble us even today. In more recent times, our chief social welfare agencies in the Archdiocese have reported to me that homelessness in our part of Australia is increasing as is a most troubling associated reality.

This real poverty in our midst is becoming younger and involves more single mothers.

The St Vincent de Paul Society report to me that 8% of the visits to our Night Patrol this past winter were from young people under the age of 18.

They comment, "The lack of pay increases since the GFC, impact of penalty rates, reactive policies addressing affordable housing in an environment where a roof over your head could be as high as 40% of income, creates the second largest group of our companions seeking assistance; between the ages 20-39 years. This group makes up 43% of the requests for emergency support..... 19% of our companions identify as indigenous."

Our CatholicCare report to me that so many young mothers whose marriages have ended are now too often with their children using their cars as the principal means of "housing". There are tragic stories behind these facts! Like Jesus, there seems to be "no room in the inn."

Let us be more highly conscious of this over the Christmas and New Year holiday time. At least, let us give generously to Christmas appeals that request our practical charity. There is also the practical Christmas charity of not simply the giving of our money but our time and efforts towards greater hospitality.

All of us can do something practical here – in our families, in our neighbourhood, and in our wider communities. The Christmas practical charity of contacting by phone or message those who have become distant from us is to be a priority. Better still, a face to face "catch up" who those who are on the "periphery" of our families or communities is a great Christmas gesture.

Make sure there is a genuine smile on our face and a deep resolve to start afresh in our relationships and communications. Then Christmas today will begin to reverse the inhospitality of the first Christmas at Bethlehem over two thousand years ago! May I take this opportunity to ask sincerely the choicest blessings of the Infant Jesus upon you and your loved ones in our Archdiocese.

I do pray that this time of refreshment and hopeful distance from our daily routines will revitalise us all. May we return later to our commitments after finding more time to pray and be revitalised for the important challenges that await us all in 2018.

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all!

1st Reading

Isaiah 9: 1-7

For there is a child born for us, a son is given to us

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 increase. They rejoice in your presence as people rejoice at harvest time, as they are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on them, the bar across their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. 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 is 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 forever, the jealous love of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm: 97:1-6

O Sing to the LORD; bless his name. **R**

Proclaim his help day by day tell among the nations his glory; and his wonders among all peoples. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; let the sea and all within it thunder praise; let the land and all it bears rejoice all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes he comes to rule the earth. **R**

With justice He shall rule the world he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**

2nd Reading

Titus 2:11-14

He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it makes 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 the 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 Jesus Christ.

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 ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord

Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL:

LUKE 2:1-14

I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor 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 Judea, to the town of David that is called Bethlehem, since he was 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 over 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 for you who; he is Christ and 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 all who enjoy his favour."

The Gospel of the Lord

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture readings :—*LabOra Worship and liturgy* 2013 © 2012, Liturgy Brisbane &. Jerusalem Bible © 1966, published by Dalton, Longman and Todd Ltd & Doubleday & Co Inc