

CANBERRA CENTRAL PARISH



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

27 December 2020

St Brigid's
Cnr Bancroft & Wilshire Sts, Dickson

St Patrick's
Cnr Donaldson & Cooyong Sts, Braddon

Year B



The Holy Family with the Infant St John in Carpenter's Shop, Murillo

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

PRESBYTERY & OFFICE

2 Bancroft Street, Dickson

Mail: PO Box 127 Dickson ACT 2602

Ph. 6248 5472

Email: canberracentral@cg.org.au

Website: <http://cg.org.au/canberracentral>

Priests

Fr Emil Milat

Fr Joshua Scott

Parish Secretary:

Miss Belle Joseph

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9:30am-12:30pm, Wed 9:30am-1:30pm,

Thurs 9:30am-1:30pm

MASS TIMES

Note: St Brigid's Church is open from 8am to sunset (8pm on Wed) every day.

Saturday

6:00pm St Brigid's

Sunday

8:00am St Patrick's

9:30am St Brigid's

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday: 9am (St Brigid's)

Weekday 12:30pm Masses at Braddon suspended from 24 December to 4 January. Resume Tuesday 5 January 2021.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions have resumed at Dickson from 9:30am-10am on Saturday mornings.

Extra Confession time now before Saturday evening Mass 5:30-5:50pm.

At St Thomas More's in Campbell:

Confessions at 5pm Wednesdays before 5:30pm Mass- but not in school holidays

Note: Confessions Fridays 12 noon at Braddon except from 24 December to 4 January.



Excerpts from Archbishop Christopher Prowse's Christmas Message

Christmas is all about hope. I have experienced some wonderful examples of hopeful living over this eventful year.

Here are some "snapshots".

There were the bushfires on the South Coast. The trauma is ongoing for those affected.

I witnessed hope in hearing of the generosity of heart shown by the frightened gathered at the Moruya Showgrounds.

There was the raw courage shown by the two women who saved our Cobargo Church and belltower.

I witnessed Fr Luke Verrell and others offering hope to the people at the Bega Emergency Centre.

There is also the hope that the long and devastating drought is finally breaking.

The rains have come. The canola fields near Harden are healthy and brilliant in gold. The vision exudes hope. Travellers are stopping to take photos and breathe in the clean air.

It is a total change from smoky and hail damaged Canberra in January.

Even the farmers themselves seem rather upbeat and hopeful for the immediate future.

The Covid-19 global catastrophe has really worn us out.

Compassionate people talk of the hope that a phone call or visit gives the house bound.

Grandparents delight to see their children and grandchildren on FaceTime, Viber or whatever is electronically available.

In so many ways, the underlining pandemic of loneliness and isolation is conquered by all these "little miracles" of practical hope and closeness, as Pope Francis would phrase it.

In the meantime, we continue to offer others the "new normal" of a kindly smile and generous word and help. It is all part now of the vaccine of hope we offer. This is especially shared at Christmas.

Over the centuries, Christians have knelt in awe before the Holy Family at the Bethlehem stable. They have done so in greater fervour in times of war, pestilence and catastrophe.

They have done so not simply to draw personal hope for life after death.

They have prayed too for the communitarian hope in the here and now arising from the humility of the Bethlehem stable.

This is our hope. This is our Christmas prayer.

Emmanuel – God is with us! Do not be afraid!

A prayerful and Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

For the full message, see printed copies in the

Church foyer or go to www.catholicvoice.org.au

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal

The 2020 Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be conducted at all Christmas Masses. Contributions can be placed in the red collection box (but not on Tap machines).

This year the Appeal will go to the ecumenical Christmas Bowl Appeal; to diocesan projects in Australia, Nigeria, India and Papua New Guinea; to projects run by the Oblates of the Sacred Heart helping the poor in India; and to student assistance to those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

Check In CBR App is Here

The parish now has the Check in Cbr QR Code. You can still use the Mass Register Sheets if you would prefer not to use the QR Code.

How does this work?

Download the *Check in Cbr App* from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

Register your details (required for the first time only).

Open the App, select 'check in now' and hover your smartphone over the QR Code.

Add in any additional people – those who are with you without their own device or app.



SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Thank you to all those that helped prepare the Christmas Masses, it is such a blessing to have brothers and sisters in Christ who are able to give time to Jesus in the worshipping community to prepare a worthy celebration of our Saviour's birth. This is when they have their own Christmas family and friends functions to prepare.

We continue to celebrate Christmas liturgically for an Octave- eight days- until New Year's Day, closing with the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.

This Octave is rich with reflections, graces and blessings for families and family life. We are very blessed to be the entry point of prayer for these graces to come into our families.

Let us pray that 2020 which changed the pace of western modern economic and family life due to physical distancing, and new work from home arrangements, may usher in a new outlook- where our society grasps how a family based on God is one which renews, sustains and brings society into an ever greater future.

Note: the New Year's prayer vigil with the rosary prayed on the hour is a deeply reflective and blessed way to bring in 2021.

God's blessing, Fr Em

Meetings at St Brigid's Church or on Zoom

Community of the Risen Lord

Charismatic Prayer Group: Friday night meetings resume 8 January.

Next **Divine Will Prayer Group** meeting Sunday 3 January 2021 at 2pm in Dickson parish hall.

The **Marian Movement of Priests** invites you and your friends to **THE 14th ANNUAL CANBERRA NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL**

Where: St Brigid's Church

Date: Thursday 31st December 2020

Time: 8.00pm



Exposition from 8.00pm until Midnight Mass. Benediction will take place before Midnight Mass. See church foyer for more information. For further inquiries, phone Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202.

Welcome morning tea cuppa for Fr Andrew Lotton

Will be after the 9:30am Mass Dickson Sunday 3 January 2021. If anyone (who is in town!) could help organise this cuppa or bring something along please contact the parish office.

Message from Fr Joshua Scott

I wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners who came to my farewell luncheon and made it a truly memorable occasion. Many thanks, too, to all who contributed to the farewell gift. I was deeply touched by your generosity and kindness.

As you may have heard, I have been assigned to South Tuggeranong (Gowrie) parish and will be starting there on February 1st.

I haven't had the time to thank personally all the people I wanted to, but know that you are all in my prayers. I wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year, and hope that our paths may cross again soon. God bless you,

Fr Josh Scott

Please Pray for:



The Sick

Joe Abad, Leone Carse,
Mary Cummins, Brenda Curren, Maureen Dawes,
Joan Goodwin, Nadine Hartley,
Gabriel Hengkiarto Indra, Gloria Kennedy,
Henry Lee, Frank Mines.

First Reading Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 104: 1-6, 8-9

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! R.

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. R.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. R.

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. R.

Second Reading Colossians 3: 12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Luke 2: 22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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