



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A, 21 December 2025



PARISH VISION STATEMENT 2004



“Created by God, Loved by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit ... We come together inspired by our patrons, St Mary the Virgin and St Joseph, her husband, to worship, study and serve.”

St Mary's Bombala
St Joseph's Delegate
St Peter's Corrowong

PARISH CONTACTS

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Please assist the team by having items in by Wednesday pm.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict



Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

We pray for our war-torn world, that in every place of injustice, hate and bloodshed the grace of God will open pathways to peace.

We pray for young people in Australia facing generational inequality, especially with housing, that they will be determined advocates for a just society.

We pray for rural dioceses and country parishes, including our own, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, finding creative ways to build a vibrant community and proclaim the Gospel with renewed faith and hope.



We pray for those who are sick in our family & community, may they be able to see Christ's presence in their most difficult moments:

Christine Cowell, Lorna Thornton, Clive Cottrell, Joyce Crotty, John Liston, Roma Brownlie, Jenny Chaplin, John Elliott, Peter & Joyce Reed, Glad Hurley, Jim Parkes, Marilyn Holdsworth, Jen Farrell, Patricia Guthrie, Mary Anne Dillon, Terry Perkins, Kath Farrell, Val Perkins, Kim Peisley, Heather Whitby, Peter Hopkins, Marlene Kennedy.



PARISH CALENDAR

MON
TUE *Saint John of Kanty*
WED **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Mass Delegate 4.30pm
Mass Bombala 6.30pm
THU **NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
FRI *Saint Stephen*
SAT **LW&HC Delegate 5pm**
SUN **LW&HC Bombala 9am**
WED **NYE Mass Bombala 9.30am**



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Recently Deceased

Sr Margaret Maloney
Tom Kennedy, Myra Bruce
Jim Peadon

December Anniversaries

Carol Badewitz, Vincent Crotty
Del Duffell, Tori Finnane
Emily Giblett, Kitty Guthrie
Nola Hehir, Jareth Hillyer
Brian Murphy, Toby Mustard
Brian Nash, Kevin O'Mara
Dot Ogilvy, Helen Parkes
Mort Smith, Jimmy Thompson
Jim Twigg



**“We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death.”**



It's impossible to know what a day may bring. God has plans for us, but sometimes those plans take us through difficult times. You must remember to stay courageous, even when the going gets tough. Saint Teresa of Avila



**A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP**



**Do not say in heat what you may bitterly regret later. (17.12.1883)
Believe in the whisperings of God in your own heart. (21.12.1868)
What a Father we have in God-What a lover in Jesus Christ. (14.12.1980)
Mary MacKillop's remains placed in present tomb to the right side of the altar,
Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, 20.12.1993.**

CANDLE LITURGY



ADVENT WEEK 4 | THE FOURTH CANDLE IS PURPLE AND REPRESENTS LOVE

CELEBRANT/LEADER: But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. (4th candle is lit)

ALL: God of light, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. In our daily preparations and busyness, help us to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day and prepare our hearts for your coming. Amen.

FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

Moments of peace

Through our days and weeks there are little scenes of peace - we just need to recognise them.

Daily Prayer Intention - We pray for all who wield political, economic or technological power in the world, that they will not be blindly seduced by its appeal but use it for the common good.

Weekly Prayer Intention - We pray for all who wield political, economic or technological power in the world, that they will not be blindly seduced by its appeal but use it for the common good.



Prayer of the Faithful

Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer



CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, with the advent of Jesus, our Emmanuel, so close at hand, let us pray for salvation to dawn brightly upon our waiting world.

READER: For Australia's Jewish community at this time of tragic loss, that their grief and pain will be eased in time by pledges of support from the whole nation. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Pope Leo and all who preach the good news, that like the apostle Paul they will tirelessly proclaim the saving name of Jesus across the face of the earth. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For believers who have lost faith in God, that they will still be guided by their hearts' wisdom and lead lives of generous love. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For one another, that we will grow ever more prayerful and peaceful through the remaining days of the Advent season. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the sick among our parish community and for all who have sought our prayers, may they find strength, comfort, and healing. For those who have recently passed from this life and those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time. May they be lifted to the glory of the Risen Lord and rest in eternal peace. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people in war-torn places. We pray **Hail Mary...**

CELEBRANT/LEADER: God ever with us, you have made us your beloved children in Christ. Lead us always on paths of peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

LOOKING BACK 110 YEARS AGO

Laying of Foundation Stone – New Church Delegate



Sr Helen Madden sends her warm Christmas blessings and love to all in Bombala and Delegate. We are deeply grateful to Sr Helen for faithfully placing the prayer intentions from our parish bulletin at Saint Mary MacKillop's tomb each time she visits the Mary MacKillop Chapel. Please join us in sending our love, gratitude and Christmas blessings to Sr Helen.



Message from Our Lady Queen Of Peace of Medjugorje



Do not be afraid. As we approach Christmas, we are invited to reflect on recent Christmas messages, letting Our Lady guide us into deeper prayer and grace. Like the Wise Men, we journey not for reward or power, but to adore the New Born King and leave with hearts full of awe and peace. Our Lady reminds us to welcome Jesus, live the graces we have received and pray for the Holy Spirit's strength to be joyful witnesses. She calls us to be people of peace and hope, trusting that God's blessings will return to us through the good we give. May our hearts be united in joyful expectation, filled with peace and confident that all will be well in God.

Let us walk into Christmas and the New Year with prayer, trust, generosity, and courage, not afraid.

HYMNS - ONE LICENSE 3642645A

1. Bring Forth the Kingdom *Marty Haugen*

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!**

2. You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

2. Companions On The Journey *Carey Landry*

***Refrain: We are companions on the journey, breaking
bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope
we share for we believe in the love of our God, we believe
in the love of our God.***

1. No longer strangers to each other, no longer strangers in
God's house; we are fed and we are nourished by the strength
of those who care, by the strength of those who care. **R**

2. We have been gifted with each other, and we are called by
the Word of the Lord: to act with justice, to love tenderly, and
to walk humbly with our God, to walk humbly with our God. **R**

3. O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels; **R**

**R: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest: **R**

4. City Of God *Dan Schutte*

1. Awake from your slumber, Arise from your sleep
A new day is dawning, For all those who weep
The people in darkness, Have seen a great light
The lord of our longing, Has conquered the night. **R**

***Refrain: Let us build the city of God, May our tears
Be turned into dancing, For the Lord
Our light and our love, Has turned the night into day.***

2. We are sons of the morning, We are children of day.
The one who has loved us, Has brightened our way.
The lord of all kindness, Has called us to be
A light for his people, To set their hearts free. **R**

Christmas Mass Special Collection for 2025 – All Christmas Masses Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!

**Help life saving assistance to displaced people or people under threat of displacement whether from war or ,
climate change in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, female access to education in Pakistan as well as student
assistance in the Middle East. Communities in India, Africa and Timor Leste along with local works by The
Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan will also be assisted.**

Please ensure a special collection is taken up at all Christmas Masses

Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.

REMEMBERING SR NATHY (Margaret Maloney) 28/12/1933 - 14/12/2025

Sr Margaret (Nathy) Maloney passed away peacefully in Foxford, Ireland, on Sunday, just short of her 92nd birthday. She joined the Sisters of St Joseph in 1956 alongside Sisters Bede Hintz, Brigid McMahon, Christina O'Connor and Dominica Bampton, all of whom would, at different times, call Bombala or Delegate home. Sr Margaret came to St Joseph's Bombala in 1962 before transferring to the role of principal at St Joseph's Delegate in 1964, where she remained until 1969. Following her time in Delegate, she was appointed to Narrabri along with Sr Helen Madden, and then spent much of her ministry serving communities across northern New South Wales. In retirement, she returned to her beloved homeland of Ireland. Many will fondly remember her, especially her strong connection to and love for the country and its people. Her warmth, dedication and commitment to education and community leave a lasting impression on all who knew her.



Rest in Peace Sr Margaret



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

21 December 2025

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the
Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure
heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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 had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

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