



Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN: NATIVITY OF THE LORD, 25 DECEMBER 2025

Fr Mark's Christmas Message 2025

Christmas signals many things. For those of little or no faith, it is referred to as the festive season. Food, drink, and junk! For people of the Christian faith many rejoice in the true meaning that on this night over 2000 years ago, God's promise of a saviour was now the fulfilment of the prophets forecast; that a Saviour would pitch his tent among us. What does it mean to you and I? This year I received a seniors card. It reminds me of where I have come from as a child to where I stand as a faith leader within my community today. There were a lot of rituals in my family home leading up to Christmas and then celebrating this great feast. One of my many roles for many years was to mow the huge lawn we had. The smell of fresh cuttings of grass around this time of year bring alive the memories of the waiting and preparation for Christmas Day. The cooking of the Christmas cake and the steamed pudding were highlights in the kitchen leading up to the Christmas season.

The house was decorated, with the crib holding centre stage position. There were many cards sent and many were received. On Christmas morning no one was allowed to check their pillowcase until each of us was completely dressed and ready to go out the door for 8am Christmas Mass at the local Church of St Joseph's, which was built by the locals, many who were my ancestors. The Christmas choir, prepared by my mother totalled around fifteen children with angelic voices who stirred the heart of the congregation. Now many years have gone by, I realise that congregation must have reminisced on the many Christmases and the years of their life lived with many a mixed memory. I was fortunate to grow up in a family where love was abundant. So many are born into the world without such a security.

I am, with years of life behind me, grown appreciative of how fortunate I have been. This should call us all to be reminded to take our share of responsibility in caring for our neighbour in much less fortunate parts of the world. Let us not forget this as we ponder more deeply the person of the baby Jesus who knew the meaning refugee from the time of his birth.

HYMNS - ONE LICENSE 3642645A

Christmas Hymns

Delegate: Audio visual

Bombala: From the hymn books:

1. O Come All Ye Faithful 1
2. Hark the Herald Angels 8
3. Silent Night 7
4. Joy to the World 12



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP

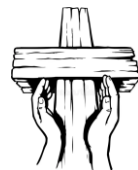
Wherever this may find you,
I, with all my heart,
wish you a very
happy Christmas
and a bright and
happy New Year.
Saint Mary MacKillop
7.12.1899



PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Catholic believers, that the opening of the Jubilee Year on Christmas Eve will call them to set out afresh as pilgrims of hope in our shadowed world.

We pray for rural dioceses and parishes struggling with limited resources, that they will find creative ways to build community and continue proclaiming the Gospel.



We pray for those who are sick in our family and our 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

- THU *Nativity of the Lord*
- FRI *Saint Stephen*
- SAT **LW&HC Delegate 5pm**
Saint John
- SUN **LW&HC Bombala 9am**
Holy Family
- WED **Mass Bombala 9.30am**
- THU **Mary, Mother of God**
New Years Day
- FRI *Saints Basil & Gregory*
- SAT **LW&HC Delegate 5pm**
Mass Bombala 5pm

Christmas and New Year Blessings

Sr Teresa & Sr Betty wish to pass on their Christmas Blessings and love to all in Bombala & Delegate. They particularly ask for a more peaceful world in 2026.

READINGS

FIRST READING: PROPHET ISAIAH

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: FOR EVER I WILL SING THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD.

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss.. (R)
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' (R)

SECOND READING: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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, who's 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".'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!
Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: SHORT VERSION

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.

A HEARTFELT REFLECTION AS 2025 DRAWS TO A CLOSE

As 2025 draws to a close, it is a fitting time to pause and give thanks for all those who help keep our parish and churches prayerful, welcoming and alive.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Father Mark and our assisting priests for faithfully celebrating Mass and the Sacraments, and for guiding our parish with wisdom, compassion and quiet dedication. Your ministry continues to nourish us spiritually, and we are deeply thankful.

Thank you to our liturgical leaders, readers, musicians and singers for the reverence, care and joy you bring to our worship. Your commitment enriches our liturgies and helps draw us closer to God.

We are also grateful to all who work behind the scenes, caring for our church's gardens and parish spaces. Your efforts ensure our churches remain places of dignity, peace and welcome. Our thanks extend to Sharon, our Parish Secretary, and those involved in parish communications and the bulletin, whose organisation and dedication keep our community informed and connected.

To those who bring the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, elderly and housebound, thank you for your compassionate ministry that keeps them closely connected to our parish family.

Finally, to our parishioners, though fewer in number, your faithfulness, generosity and prayer remain the heart of our parish. Your continued support ensures our churches remain open and welcoming.

As Saint Mary MacKillop reminds us, "Never see a need without doing something about it." May we carry this spirit forward through prayer, service and kindness.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year. May God bless you abundantly in 2026.



Prayer of the Faithful

Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer



CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, on this holy day the glory of the Word made flesh shines upon us. Bathed in his light, let us pray for the world and all its needs.

READER: For peace. May every land, people, home and heart be filled with deep peace in these days of grace. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the human family. May all its members, young and old, cherish and care for the earth, our common home. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For families in all their rich diversity, that this festive season may draw them together in joy and gratitude. For those who are travelling, may they journey safely and return home in peace. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all who find Christmas a painful or difficult time. May the caring companionship of others help lighten their spirits. 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: Eternal God, you bring all things to birth and declare them good. Open our eyes to you and open our hearts to each other. We ask this through Christ, our newborn Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**