



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.

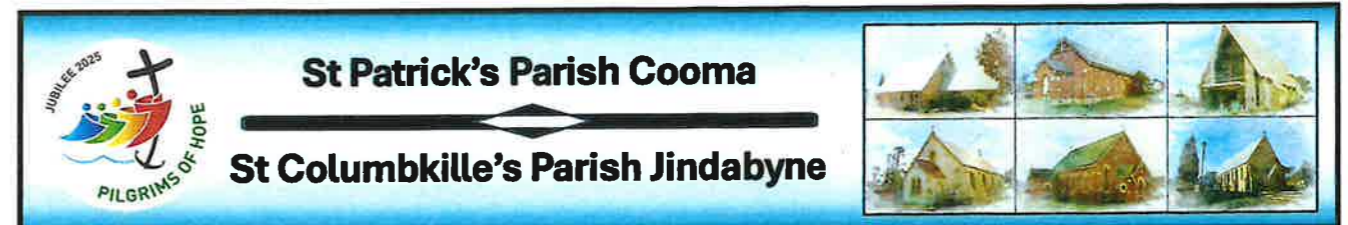
Reflection by Greg Sunter

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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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!



Fourth Sunday of Advent / A **21st December**

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST
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 0428 190 759
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Sacramental Program
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School Principal
 Dr Mangan
 School Website:
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
 Darren 0429 904 291
WEEKEND MASS & LW&HC TIMES
Adaminaby
 No Mass until further notice
Berridale
 2nd & 4th Sunday
 Vigil Mass Saturday 3.30pm
 All other Sundays
 LW&HC 10am Sunday
Cooma
 Mass Sunday 10am
 Mass Tue, Thu & Fri 10am
Except 3rd Friday
 Mass Yallambee Lodge 9.30am
 Mass Hudson House Respect 11am
Jindabyne
 Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm
 Except 5th Sunday
 LW&HC 5pm Saturday


JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2026:
 Also, **COLUMBAN CALENDAR**
 are still available for
 purchase \$10 each in
 the Sacristy, see Fr Mark.

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 all the baptised, that their love
 and peace will draw many into the
 freedom they enjoy as the children of
 God.**
**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 vibrant
 community and proclaim the Gospel
 with renewed faith and hope.**

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



**REMEMBERG
 THEIR FAITH AND LOVE**

Recently Deceased
 Archbishop Christopher's brother,
 Stephen; Joseph Chandy,
 Leo Upton, Christine Schatzle,
 Joanne Dodd.

Anniversaries & Intentions
 All our dearly loved family and
 friends

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

*"They will call
 him Emmanuel
 ... which means
 'God-is-with-us!'"*
 Matthew 1:23

The first, isolated record of an English-decorated 'Christmas' tree dates from the 15th century, when a fir tree lit with candles was set up in a London street

The fir tree has long been a Christian symbol, with its evergreen branches representing eternal life. Legend has it that the German reformer Martin Luther invented the Christmas tree, as we know it, on a winter's night in 1536. Luther was walking through a pine forest near his home in Wittenberg, Germany, when he suddenly looked up and saw thousands of stars glinting jewel-like among the branches of the trees – so the story goes. This wondrous sight inspired him to set up a candlelit fir tree in his house that Christmas to remind his children of the starry heavens whence their Saviour came. The first, isolated record of a decorated tree in England also dates from the 15th century, when a fir tree lit with candles was set up in a London street. If there were others, they are not recorded.

PARISH CALENDAR

Week 22 December 2025

MON	-
TUE	10am Mass
WED	
THU	10am Mass
FRI	10am Mass
<i>4th Sunday of the Month</i>	
SAT	3.30pm Berridale Vigil 5pm Jindabyne Mass 5pm Nimmitabel LWHC
SUN	10am Cooma Mass 5pm Numeralla Mass

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- Christmas Mass Collection for 2025 Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!
- Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2025** will be conducted at all Christmas Masses and will again have funds split.
- The ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal assisting displaced people or under threat of being displaced
 - Further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land
 - Diocese projects within Diocese of Otuokpo, Nigeria Eldoret, Kenya and female students in Tetisari
 - Local contributions will support The Farm in Galong and HOME in Queanbeyan caring for people with specific needs in a safe environment. Please give generously as you are able, all donations are appreciated.
- Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.**

Prayer of the Faithful
Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer



PRIEST: In faith we offer these prayers of intercession before the Father confident that God will bless them through Christ our Lord.

COMMENTATOR:
 We pray for Pope Francis and the bishops who lead us in the faith that comes to us from the apostles: (pause) May their proclamation revealed in the scriptures encourage the people of our day to look to the Gospel as the words of eternal life.
 We pray to the Lord.

We pray for our farming families and all those whose livelihood is dependent upon the land especially, at the time, those impacted by the widespread floods: May more stable conditions bring hope for the future.
 We pray to the lord.

We pray for families where there is division or tension. (pause) May the true spirit of the Christmas season show itself in their own expressions for peace and healing.
 We pray to the Lord..

We pray for ourselves as we approach the celebration of Christ's birth. (pause) May we deepen our understanding of what is of value in life, and may we be guided in our lives not by what the world expects but by what the Gospel demands.
 We pray to the Lord.

We pray for safety on our roads during the holiday period (pause) may the family visits this Christmas season be occasions of joy, that under the protection of Christ our times may be peaceful
 We pray to the Lord

We pray for all who have died, especially those who most need God's mercy (pause). May they achieve the fullness of life God has promised.
 We pray to the Lord.

We pray with Mary that the birth of her Son may bring peace to our world, especially in Ukraine: Hail Mary.....

PRIEST: God of all goodness, you are with your people always. Fill us with your peace at this time and make us worthy to celebrate the birth of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A
 First Reading: Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14
 Second Reading: Col 3: 12-21
 Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15.19-23



- CHRISTMAS SERVICES**
- CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER**
- ST JOSEPH'S BERRIDALE 4PM
 - ST JOSEPH'S DELEGATE 4.30PM
 - ST PATRICK'S COOMA 6PM
 - ST ANDREW'S NIMMITABEL 6PM
 - ST MARY'S BOMBALA 6.30PM
 - THREDBO CHAPEL- LWHC (*Pending Leader*)
- CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER**
- ST MARY'S ADAMINABY 8AM
 - ST PATRICK'S COOMA 10AM
 - ST COLUMBKILLE'S JINDABYNE 10AM
- Weekend 27& 28 December 2025**
(4th Sunday)
 Berridale 3.30pm Vigil Mass
 Jindabyne 5pm Vigil Mass
 Nimmitabel 5pm LWHC
 Cooma 10am Mass
 Numeralla 5pm Mass
- NEW YEARS DAY**
 Bombala Mass New Years Eve 9.30am
 Cooma Mass New Years Day 10am

1 combined **Christmas Mass Collection**
 at all Christmas Masses