



## Gospel Jn 1:1-18

(or Shorter Form Jn 1:1-5. 9-14)

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us.  
And we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass.

Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope. But *this* baby is unique. *This* Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. *This* baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. *This* baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant.

And *this* baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. *This* baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us.

Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by *all* peoples.'

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## First Reading Is 52:7-10

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3**

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen  
the saving power of God.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. (R.)

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

## Second Reading Heb 1:1-6

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A holy day has dawned upon us.**

**Come you nations and adore the Lord,  
Today a great light has come  
upon the earth.**

**Alleluia!**



**NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 25 DECEMBER 2025**

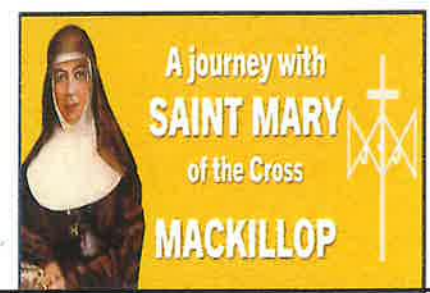
**Fr Mark's Christmas Message 2025**



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.



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,

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.

**PARISH CALENDAR**

This **Weekend 27 & 28 December (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

**\*ARCHBISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL\***

This year there will be one combined Christmas Collection this year to be split with Parish and Presbytery and Archbishops Christmas Appeal, thank you for your generosity.  
 Merry Christmas and New Year Blessings to all.



**Prayers of the Faithful**

Response: Be born in our hearts today.

**PRIEST:** This night in Jesus Christ a new light has dawned upon the world. In him we see our God made visible and his love for us revealed. Trusting in that love, we offer our prayers for the needs of the Church, our families and community and the whole world.

**COMMENTATOR:**

**RESPONSE:** Be born in our hearts today.

for all areas of darkness where God's light is desperately needed to bring peace, understanding, sensitivity and compassion.

Light of all ages: Be born in our hearts today.

for those who this night are hungry, cold or homeless; for all who are separated from their loved ones, all who find the festivities of Christmas emphasising their isolation and misery.

Light of all ages: Be born in our hearts today.

for our whole world; that it may stop its noise, chatter and arguing long enough to hear the angels singing of hope and peace.

Light of all ages: Be born in our hearts today.

for all families; that they may be blessed with the lasting joy of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Light of all ages; Be born in our hearts today.

for all who have died, of all faiths, or of none: that they will live forever in the light of Christ.

Light of all ages: Be born in our hearts today.

For the peace foreshadowed by this wonderful feast, especially in the Holy Land we pray with Mary: Hail Mary....

**PRIEST:** Loving God, we thank you for making your dwelling place among us in the person of Jesus. Make us truly your people, and a light for all peoples, until that day when we shall receive you in glory. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**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.



**What is one of the best Christmas presents that you can give and receive?**

A broken drum. Why? Because you can't beat it!

**Why did Santa have to go to the hospital?**  
 Because of his poor elf.

**Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?**  
 They're always dropping their needles.