



# CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A 21 December 2025**

Our mission as a Christian community of the Catholic Parish Centre's of Pambula is enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that others may experience the love of Christ. We acknowledge the Yuin people and honour Elders past, present and emerging, and all First Nations peoples worldwide.

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

### Parish Priest

Fr Kuriakose Chennelil Joseph MS (Fr Kose)  
kose.joseph@cg.org.au  
Phone: 0470 498 321

### Parish Office

Open to the public on Wed & Fri from 10am-2pm

### Parish Secretary

Mrs Su Chantler  
Phone: 0435 036 236 or 02 6495 0683  
Email: pambula@cg.org.au  
Web: www.cg.org.au/pambula  
Address: 79 Main Street / PO Box 249  
Merimbula NSW 2548

### Parish Centres

Merimbula: St Joseph's  
Pambula: St Peter's  
Eden: Our Lady Star of the Sea

### Sisters of St Joseph

Sr Marie Carson

### Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

### Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan

### Finance Chair

Mr Michael Wood

### Parish Safeguarding Volunteer

Mr Philip Roach  
pambula.safeguarding@cg.org.au

### Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles 02 6495 8888

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Reconciliation (Confession)

Merimbula: Friday before Mass,  
Eden: Saturday before Vigil Mass  
Pambula: Wednesday before Mass  
At any other time by request

### Anointing of the Sick

Merimbula: Friday 2 January 10am  
Pambula: Wednesday 28 January 10am  
Eden: Thursday 26 February 10am

### Sacrament of Baptism

Families are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish. A Welcoming Mass is held on the 4th Saturday/Sunday of the month prior to Baptism, with the Baptism celebrated during Mass on the 1st Saturday/Sunday of the following month. For all enquiries and Baptism preparation arrangements, please contact the Parish Office.

### Weddings

By appointment only: Minimum 6 months advance notice.

### Adoration

Eden: Thursday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.  
Merimbula: Friday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.

### Divine Mercy Chaplet

Merimbula: Sunday 9:30am & Friday 9am

### Rosary

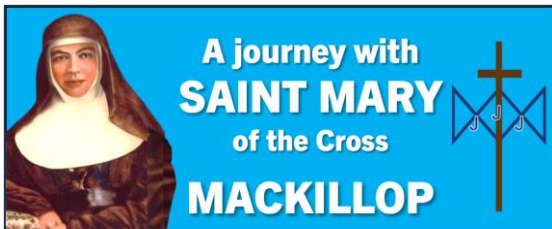
Merimbula: Cenacle & Holy Hour 11am Monday  
Pambula: Wednesday 9:30am

### Formation Matters

To realise synodality, we need formation. This means learning how to listen, discern, and walk together as disciples who are growing in faith.  
Reflection: What step of formation could help me grow in faith this year?  
Prayer: Lord, form my heart and mind so I may follow You more closely.

## PARISH CALENDAR/MASS TIMES

**Tuesday:** 5pm Merimbula  
**Wednesday:** 10am Pambula  
**Thursday:** 10am Eden  
**Friday:** 10am Merimbula  
**Saturday:** 5.30pm Eden  
**Sunday:** 8am Pambula  
10am Merimbula



Believe in the whisperings of God in your own heart. (21.12.1868)  
Our courage should rise with difficulties and obstacles. (14.12.1890)  
Though our crosses and sorrows are in a manner great, our own dear Lord's love is much greater. (23.12.1871)  
He knows our hearts and much that is hidden from his creatures is well known to Him. (23.12.1871)  
God loves courageous souls. (14.12.1890)

## COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

### Aged Care Facility Mass

6 January 2pm Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula  
8 January 11.30am Imlay House, Pambula  
15 January 11.30am Uniting Age Care, Eden

### New Parishioners

Could anyone new to the Parish contact the Parish Office or Fr Kose, so that the Parish has your contact details. Thank you.

### Volunteers Needed

**Flower Arrangements** – If you would like to assist, please contact Ruth Smith on 0427 441 287, Parish Office or Fr Kose. Thank you.

### Looking for daily inspiration in the New Year?

“God’s Word Daily Reflections 2026” is now available. You can purchase a copy for \$20 at the Parish Office or by contacting Fr Kose.

### No Mass

No Mass at 10am in Merimbula on 26 Dec 2025

### 4th Sunday of Advent – Theme: God Comes Through the Ordinary

Mary teaches us that God’s greatest miracles often begin in everyday life. She said “yes” with trust and simplicity. As Christmas draws close, we remember that God comes to us through ordinary people, ordinary moments, and ordinary love. Lighting the fourth candle, we pray for the grace to welcome Christ into our homes and hearts just as Mary did.

### Announcing the Passing of Mrs Marykutty Joseph

We sadly announce the passing of Mrs. Marykutty Joseph, mother of Fr Kose. Please pray for her soul, and keep Fr Kose and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



### Thank you Note

We sincerely thank Fr Mark Ha for coming all the way from Canberra to celebrate weekend Masses in Fr Kose’s absence while he travelled to India for his mother’s funeral, your support is truly appreciated

## SOLEMNITIES/FEAST DAYS

**25 December (Thursday)** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

**26 December (Friday)** St Stephen, the first martyr

**27 December (Saturday)** St John, apostle, evangelist



## PRAYER INTENTIONS



**We pray for all the faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including:**

Giuseppina Gianfrotta, Ros & Ruby Hain, Shirley Aldridge, Lynette Robert, JGanette Robert, Murray Beveridge, Dragan Pelt, John Reynolds, Jenny Reynolds, Frank Elton, Sr June Bath rsj

**Let us pray for and support those who are sick and for all who have asked for our prayers:**

Pat Wong, John Liston, Jocelyn Petty, Ros Beveridge, Mary Scanlan, Anne Cooper, Monica Paffen, Garry Moorhead, Cristina Embac  
(The list will be refreshed every first week of the month.  
If you would like the names to continue, please inform the Parish office via email or phone)

## COLLECTIONS

### Last Week Collection:

First: \$658.45 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese  
Second: \$850.45 - Support running the Parish

### Planned Giving Collections:

THANK YOU to ALL parishioners who continually support our Parish through our plate collections at Mass, through the envelopes and direct banking. Without your financial help our Parish could not continue to function.

## Catechism Corner

### Week 6 — Who Are the Saints?

The saints are people who lived holy lives, following Christ faithfully in their own time and place. They are examples for us and intercede for us before God.

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race set before us.” — Heb 12:1  
We too are called to become saints by living with faith, hope, and charity.

### Christmas Carols



25 December at 9.30am, St Joseph’s Church, Merimbula

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### 24 December (Wednesday)

5pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Joseph’s Church, Merimbula

7pm Christmas Eve Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden

### 25 December (Thursday)

8am Christmas Day Mass at St. Peter’s Church, Pambula

10am Christmas Day Mass at St. Joseph’s Church, Merimbula

St Peter's Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people to have their say, to be listened to and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

**COMMUNICATING CONCERNS:** You are encouraged to raise any concerns by emailing Fr Kose, the Parish Office, the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer or directly to Maria Hicks at the Institute Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) on [ipss@cg.org.au](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au)



## Christmas Message

Dear Parish Family,

As we gather to celebrate this holy season of Christmas, my heart is filled with gratitude for each one of you. Christmas reminds us of the most beautiful truth of our faith: God is with us. In the quiet town of Bethlehem, in a small and humble manger, the Saviour of the world was born. He came not with power or noise, but with gentleness, light, and peace.

In Jesus, God enters our world and our daily lives—our joys, our struggles, our families, and our hopes. He comes to bring healing where there is hurt, comfort where there is loneliness, and strength where there is weakness. The birth of Christ invites us to pause, breathe, and remember that we are never alone. God's love surrounds us and walks with us each day.

As your parish priest, I am deeply grateful for the faith, generosity, and service that shine through our community. Thank you for your support, your kindness to one another, and your dedication to our parish life. You make our parish a place of welcome and hope.

This Christmas, may the light of the newborn Jesus warm your homes and your hearts. May His peace fill your families, and may His joy guide you into the New Year. Let us continue to care for one another, pray for one another, and share Christ's love with all we meet.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

With prayer and blessings,

Fr. Kose Chennelil  
Parish Priest



### Vacancy for Pambula - Parish Officer

People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Officer for the Catholic Parishes of Pambula including Our Lady Star of the Sea Eden, St Joseph's Merimbula and St Peter's Pambula. This is a permanent part time position of 12 hours per week and will be based in the Parish Office, Merimbula. There may be some travel between parishes when required. Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. For a copy of the Duty Statement please email the Parish Office [pambula@cg.org.au](mailto:pambula@cg.org.au) Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Parish support Manager [Leanne.Boyd@cg.org.au](mailto:Leanne.Boyd@cg.org.au) and cc: to Fr Kose Joseph, Parish Priest [kose.joseph@cg.org.au](mailto:kose.joseph@cg.org.au) by CoB 9 Jan 2026.

Essential Requirements for Parish Officer positions:

- Experience with database packages & Microsoft Suite
- Strong communication and liaison skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to work on your own, as part of a team, and take direction
- Understand and administer areas of church and regulatory compliance (eg. Parish sacrament registers, Working with Vulnerable People, WHS, child protection, copyright)
- Understanding and respect for the Catholic Church and its teaching
- Current experience in an office environment



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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!**

## 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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