

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve/Day)

24/25 December 2021

Isaiah 9:1-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14



*Readings
for the
Dawn:*

Isaiah 62:11-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:15-20



*Reading
for the
Day*

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18



Liturgical Jottings

Special Communicantes

The Roman Canon (the Eucharistic Prayer I) has some "Proper Forms" for the prayer beginning with "In Communion with those whose memory we venerate, ..." on the feasts of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas & Octave), Epiphany, Easter & Octave, Ascension and Pentecost. The Christmas proper is "Celebrating the most sacred night (day) on which the blessed Mary the immaculate Virgin brought forth the Saviour for this world, ..." The Feast of the Epiphany proper is "Celebrating the most sacred day on which the Only Begotten Son, eternal with you [Father] in your glory appeared in a human body, truly sharing our flesh, ..." Both with different emphases refer to the mysteries of the incarnation, motherhood of Mary, Trinity, Creation and our shared humanity and salvation in Christ.

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Looking at the Feast of Christmas

The Nativity Gospel narratives for the first two Masses of Christmas are from Luke. His Gospel has traditionally been subtitled the "Gospel of the Poor" This is particular evident in the birth of Christ: Mary is seen as a young and poor woman, she give birth in a stable, Jesus is laid in a manger and visited by poor shepherds. Throughout Luke's gospel Jesus shows compassion, mercy and concern for the outcast, women and the poor. We hear of Elizabeth, Lazarus, Zacchaeus, the Good Samaritan.

This truth is challenging but also is "Good News" to both the rich and the poor. It brings to us liberation and transformation. We are able to celebrate Christmas in our churches with neighbour and stranger from all walks of life. We are able to contemplate the poverty of Christ as giving us special attention and great riches.

The Gospel for Mass during the day gives a meditation to the reader and the listener of the Christ as the eternal Word that has joined us in the flesh and lived among us. John's prologue that forms the Gospel for the day also introduces his thematic message of Christ's divinity and the difficulty of many to accept his identity, mission and call to eternal life.

At Christmas we are able to identity with and warmly touch both the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Prayer for Christmas

Glory to God on High!

For all who give you a heart, Lord Jesus,
be preferring the poor to the rich,
the weak to the strong, we praise you.

For all who give to your poverty, Lord Jesus,
the look of hope for the Kingdom, we praise you.

For all who reveal you simply by what they are, Lord Jesus,
because they reflect your beauty in their lives, we praise you.

For all who give you a face by Lucien Deiss 1976

Pope Francis on Christmas

The lights of Christmas seem dimmed by the consequences of the pandemic, which, still weighs heavily on our time. All the more reason why we are called to question ourselves and not to lose hope. Birth of Christ as not being "out of tune" with the trial that we are going through, "because it is par excellence the feast of compassion, of tenderness. Its beauty is humble and full of human warmth. *Christmas Contest of Young Musicians 22 Nov 2021.*

On the Lighter Side

Christmas doesn't come from a store,

Christmas perhaps means a little bit more... — Dr. Seuss



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Carolina Pietropaolo
	Special Intentions	Giuseppe Casuscelli, Vincenzo & Giuseppina Casuscelli Michele , Serafina , Michelina and Caterina Pietropaolo (Italy) Antonio & Antonietta Casuscelli (Italy)
	Our sick and their carers	Phillis Newman

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 27 December

Weekday Mass

Mon 27th Dec No Mass
Tue 28th Dec No Mass
Wed 29th Dec No Mass
Thur 30th Dec No Mass
Fri 31st Dec No Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 1st Jan No Mass
Sun 2nd Jan 10:00 am Mass (Cuppa after Mass)

Weekday Mass

Mon 3rd Jan No Mass
Tue 4th Jan No Mass
Wed 5th Jan 9:15 am Mass
Thur 6th Jan No Mass
Fri 7th Jan 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 1st Jan No Mass
Sun 2nd Jan 10:00 am Mass (Cuppa after Mass)

Reconciliation (1st Saturday of the Month)
No Reconciliation in January



I'd like to take this time to wish all our parishioners a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Your presence in our faith community is what makes Sacred Heart a wonderful parish. We look forward to 2022 and celebrating with you all in our great Parish

Bishop Shane's Christmas message has been uploaded to YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWVIH6XYmq4&t=44s>

Alternatively you can view the Video on www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Fr John

Enrolment to the Guild of St Stephen

On Sunday 2nd January, Bishop Shane will be here to celebrate Mass and Enrol Ryerson De Lai into the Guild of St Stephen.

The Guild of St Stephen is an international organisation of altar servers founded in England in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London.

After Mass, we will be having a cuppa in St Mary's Hall – so please bring a plate to share.

Plenary Council First Assembly Document Released.

The 'first fruits' document from the First Assembly of the Fifth Australian Plenary Council, convened in October 2021 is now available for all to read online or download: Look for "First Assembly Proposals from Small Groups and Individual Members" in

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/keydocuments/>

OR direct access at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_d7hnmr8Bzf1XvG4Urv8MBRv3eit1i/view

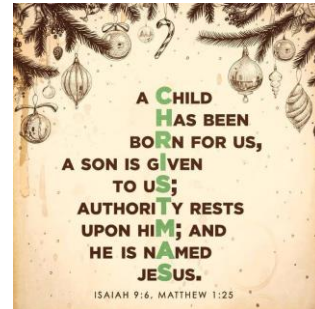
**MASKS MUST BE WORN
INSIDE THE CHURCH**

**MASS WILL BE
CELEBRATED ON
SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER
AT 10:00 AM**

**Finance Committee &
Parish Pastoral Council**

Next year we will be seeking nominations for both the Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council.

Over the coming weeks, please consider helping our Parish of the Sacred Heart on one of these committee.



Mary's Christmas Dream

I had a dream Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration of Our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks.

They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents were not for Our Son.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows, and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph, right in their house. They decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing Balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel to me. Oh, it was so beautiful. Everyone was laughing and they were very happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to Our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if Our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful Joseph, and everyone was so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at His own birthday party. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible Joseph, if it had been real!

**"Let's put Christ back into Christmas"
For then there will be Peace on Earth for all.**

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