



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Day

Year B Cycle II

24/25 December 2023



Christmas Blessings to All!

Christmas brings the Good News of peace and hope. In Jesus Christ, the child born in the stable at Bethlehem, God has spoken definitively to all of us and all creation. God's word is: "You are loved deeply by the God of all love and mercy."

In these days of family reunions and prayer, let us receive all that the God of love wishes to offer us: Hope, peace and forgiveness. Let us then offer this love that gives everything to others.

We share love in and through our human relationships. Love isn't always a warm and cosy feeling; love is a commitment and a decision to stick by others, come what may, through thick and thin, when the going is easy and when the going gets more challenging. The love that we share in our human relationships is a reflection of the love of God, calling us to give of ourselves for others.

At Christmas, we remember that Jesus was born in poverty, in a stable among the poorest people and the farm animals. What does this mean for us today? You and I are called to look for the face of Christ in the poor, those at our own door and in places far from here. Love can look like a cup of coffee offered, a hand held, a smile shared, and a story heard. I firmly believe that, in the end, we will be judged by how we care for our poor brothers and sisters.

Archbishop Martin Currie

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

Carols 4:30pm, Children's Nativity Mass 5pm

Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm

Carols 11:30pm, Midnight Mass 12am

Christmas Day Monday 25 December

Morning Masses 8am and 9:30am

Mass 11am at Reynolds Court, Bias Avenue Bateau Bay

(No Mass Christmas night)

New Years Day Monday 1 January

Feast of Mary, Mother of God Mass 9am



Feast Days this Week

The Nativity of
the Lord

25 December

St Stephen

26 December

St John, Apostle

27 December

The Holy

Innocents

28 December



Welcome

to the Richardson
family for the
Reception of their
child for the
Sacrament of
Baptism.

My Offering

Amount \$ _____



Christmas Offering Envelopes

are available on
the tables.
Donations help
support the Priests
of our Diocese -
active and retired.



Quote for the Week

*As long as
you live,
keep learning
how to live.*

- Seneca

Mary's Ways

In this Sunday's Gospel, *Luke 1:26-38*, we see the story of the Annunciation, where the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. This passage is often associated with the importance of Mary's faith and obedience to God's plan, but it also speaks to the importance of family and community.

Mary's immediate response to the angel's message is to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with John the Baptist. This visit shows Mary's desire to be with family during this important time in her life, and it also highlights the importance of family support and love in times of joy and uncertainty.

The Christmas season reminds us all of the importance of family and community in our own lives. This time of year can be filled with joy and celebration, but it can also be a time of stress and pressure. By surrounding ourselves with loved ones and supporting one another, we can find strength and comfort in the midst of the challenges that life brings.

Let us remember Mary's example of seeking out the support of family and community during this time of anticipation and celebration. Let us also reflect on the ways in which we can be a source of love and support for those around us, whether they are family, friends, or neighbours.

May we all be blessed with the love and support of our families and communities during this Christmas season and always. Wishing all our parishioners and visitors to our parish a very Merry Christmas.

Colleen Smith Pastoral Associate

He is the Radiant Light of God's Glory

The traditional belief is that Jesus was born at night, a belief that contains powerful symbolism. It is certainly true that Jesus came into a world that was engulfed in spiritual darkness. Caesar ruled with force - the basis of his government. Slavery was the primary source of labour. Violence was the primary mode of entertainment. Coming into this darkened world, Jesus' birth was like a rising sun. St John wrote: "The real light which gives light to every person was coming into the world" (*Jn 1:9*). There are striking parallels with the everyday event of the rising sun and the climactic event of Christmas day. For one thing, it marked the start of something new. Jesus came to speak of God as a wise, compassionate, and loving Father. By word and deed, Jesus proclaimed this revolutionary concept of God, and little by little, it took root.

His coming also brought a new understanding of the human person. He started showing respect for the lowest and least. He spent time with outcasts. He proclaimed the worth of every person, and slowly this restructured society.

One other characteristic of the sun rising that symbolises the birth of Christ is its power. Once it starts, there's no stopping it. Jesus' capacity to fashion victory out of defeat has persisted through the ages. In our darkened world, his way of living seems forgotten and rejected. But always, when the smoke clears, he is still here. The things he represents may be deferred, but not defeated. His coming was, and is, like a new sunrise.

The Sign Fr Sean Cullen

Farewell Tân - Welcome Rosan!

We bid farewell to our seminarian Tân Nguyen on Christmas day. It has been great to have Tân with us this year to get his pastoral experience. We wish him well as he goes for a holiday in Vietnam and then back to the seminary at Homebush for his final two years of study.

We are delighted that Bishop Anthony has appointed another seminarian to us, Rosan Mathew, to start in the parish on the 12th of January. Rosan has finished his studies and he previously lived with me at Lower North Shore parish for a year. Fr Brian

A Message from Tân

Dear parishioners of The Entrance parish,
As Christmas is approaching close, and my appointed time here at our parish is coming to end, I just want to take this opportunity to express my great gratitude and appreciation to you all, especially to Fr Brian, Fr Joshi, the staff. Living and spending a year of my seminarian formation here at The Entrance has brought me much joy, affirmed me in my vocation, and helped me to grow in my love for God and his holy people. I have learned a lot and had a wonderful experience here. I thank God and thank you all for that. Please continue to pray for me as I am going back to the seminary in Homebush to complete my study and formation. May the Child Jesus bless all of you and your families abundantly this Christmas and the New Year.

Seminarian Tân Nguyen

Thank You All!

To the wealth of parishioners who make this parish a wonderful place to belong, we thank you. The behind the scenes work that goes on, especially at this time of year, is much appreciated! From our Acolytes to our Bus Drivers, you all enrich and enliven our faith community. We are very blessed! Thank you all again for your generosity.

Welcome Visitors!

A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish this Christmas. It is good to have you with us. Our parish family wishes everyone a happy and holy Christmas, with the blessings of the Season, for your time at The Entrance. If you have any queries during the Christmas break please speak to our Parish Priest, Fr Brian, our Assistant Priest, Fr Joshi, or our Deacon, Paul after the Masses.

Please Note

Office Closed

The Parish Office and Gift Centre will be closed from Friday 22 December to 2 January. Blessings of the Season from the Parish Staff!

On Holidays

Men's Group and Secular Franciscans have concluded until February. A holy Christmas to all!

The Catholic Weekly

Now on sale on the Church tables. \$2 to the poor box please.



Welcome Rosan!

Rosan will start with us on 12 January.



Children's Christmas Mass Dress Up

All children are invited to dress as angels and shepherds for the Children's Nativity Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve. (Carols start at 4:30pm.)



Low Gluten Hosts

Please see one of the Priests before Mass if you are a coeliac.



Shop Locally

Please support the shops in the Carnival Hall building in the shopping precinct. These shops support our parish.

THE ENTRANCE PARISH DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

A beacon of Faith, Hope and Love

PARISH PRIEST & DEAN OF THE CENTRAL COAST Fr Brian Moloney **ASSISTANT PRIEST** Fr Joshi Naduppura
DEACON Paul Simmons **SEMINARIAN** Tân Nguyen **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE** Colleen Smith
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Leanne McGill **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MANAGER** Karen Green
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OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL Tel 7256 2115 **ST PETER'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE** Tel 4351 2344

Mass & Devotions

Sunday Masses Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am (11am at Reynolds Court, Bias Ave Bateau Bay)

Weekday Masses Monday - Thursday 9:00am Friday 11:45am Saturday 9:00am

Reconciliations Saturdays 9:30-10am and 4-4:30pm

Liturgy of the Hours Saturday 8:40am **Rosary** Monday-Thursday 8:35am Friday 11:20am Saturday 9:30am

Cenacle Prayer Group Wednesday 9:30am **Christian Meditation** Friday 10:30am-11:30am Reynolds Room

4th Sunday of Advent

Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Rm 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Keep Us In Your Prayers

There is no gift more precious than prayer - Fr Benedict Groeschel

Recently Deceased: June Marsh-Hughes, Carolyn Finch, James Diggins, Jim Eves, Moira Grace.

Funerals: The funeral of June Marsh-Hughes was held during the week. Please pray for June and her family.

Anniversaries: Stephen Byrne.

Remembrances: Pat Smith, Marie Powell, Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Terence & Josephine Smith, Terry Howard, John Giutronich, Rose Goodwin, Patricia & Neville O'Hara, Maria & Richard Lucchese, Frank Malone, John McDermott, Betty & Jack McDermott, Agnes & Alfred Rodger, Mary, James & Molly Freney, Frank & George Grech, Denis Farrell, Robert Fowler, Ralph, Ruth, Sidney, Margie, Trevor, Monica & Hugh Jayesuria, Leonie & Lakshman Perera, Neliya de Silva, Jeanette & Duke Leonidas, Leo Lowe, Kathy Lowe-Scafidi, Leo & Margaret Foley, Thomas & Adeleine Foley, Gert & Jack Lloyd, Jeanette Fowler, Ronald Foley, Terence Foley and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Families: Grech, Zahra, Grima, Cassar, Sciberras, Camilleri, Falzon, Patterson, Thompson.

Sick: John McClement, Margaret Falzon, Martin Ghirxi, Susan Simmons, Barbara Greaney, Anne & Trish Knoke, Lyle Dunn, Paul Smith, Anne O'Rourke, Collette O'Grady, Emma Horton, Marc Sabat, Linda Read, Peter O'Grady, Tanya Doorn, Kelly Will, and all with serious illness.

Welcome Newly Baptised: Levi Gilliver, Lewis & Max McIntosh.

Pearly Gates Revisited



Merry Christmas from the Gift Centre

Wishing our Gift Centre volunteers and customers a very happy and holy Christmas break.

We will see you in the New Year.

Leanne