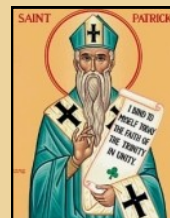


# KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay  
**CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2018**  
**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**



Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord— Vigil Mass  
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord—Midnight Mass  
A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us—Dawn Mass  
All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God—Day Masses



## O come, let us adore Him

A pentecostal friend of mine tells the story of leaving church one Christmas morning as the preacher was standing at the door, greeting everyone and shaking hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The pastor said to him, 'You need to join the Army of the Lord!' To which my friend replied, 'I'm already in the Army of the Lord, pastor.'

The pastor looked amazed and said, 'How come I don't see you here at church then, except at Christmas and Easter?' My friend whispered back, 'Because I'm in the secret service.'

**If you are like my friend and find yourself in the 'secret service', you're in good company at Christmas time.**

The first hearers of the Christmas story were not much into church-going either. Shepherds in first century Palestine had to watch their flocks around the clock for fear of thieves and wolves. This didn't leave much time for temple attendance. They prayed where they were, as they were. These shepherds, however, were in the right place at the right time to hear the first Christmas message. Maybe they had the right disposition too.

**Sometimes, publicly religious people can sound as though they know the mind of God better than God does!**

**It's a trap we need to avoid and Christmas helps us do it.**

No one predicted the way God would send us a saviour. No one knew the day or the hour of God's coming. No one foresaw that God would be born a homeless person. No one envisaged that the first witnesses to the birth would be illiterate shepherds from nearby fields. While some waited for a mercenary to overthrow the Romans, others held their breath for the procession of a heavenly king. The love of God, however, took flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone and came to us as a poor, defenceless baby.

That's our God, not bound by our precepts or expectations, but honouring the promises made to our ancestors, in the most surprising of ways. And Christmas provides us with the most tender images of our God, one  
who needs to be nurtured, suckled and held tight.

It's not a bad metaphor for our Christian faith either. If Christmas means anything to us then it's not an annual religious outing or something to fill in time on a public holiday. It's a moveable feast which we celebrate every time we do something just, loving or peaceful. That's why we gather here for the Eucharist each week: to be nurtured, fed, suckled and held in God's embrace, if only for a while, so that we find the courage and strength to go out from here, confront the wolves and thieves of our own day and be in the right place at the right time for God to find us.

As a result of that first Christmas, Christ wants to nurture a people who by their lives will change the world for the better, for all people everywhere.

So this Christmas cash in your secret service card and,

**'Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.**

**Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.'**

© Fr Richard Leonard SJ

**Let peace prevail** – Keralites (like Fr Shiju & myself) from all over the world make it a point to try and come together and spend time with all their families, relatives and friends on Christmas.

*You, the parishioners of KCCP, are our extended family in Australia and we ask the Infant Christ, to shower you with His blessings during this Season of Christmas.*

We also wish each of you great joy, safe travels and good health in 2019.

**Merry Christmas & God Bless, Fr Shaju, Fr Shiju & Staff.**



**Hello to all visitors to our parish –**

Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish, warmly welcomes all visitors and extended family members to our churches. It is wonderful to have you among us and to join with us as we celebrate Christmas and experience the Joy of Our Saviour's Birth. Together we pray that Peace abides in our hearts, homes and homelands, now and throughout 2019.

## PASTORAL CENTRE

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082  
P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082  
Phone: (02) 9456 2450  
Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au  
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

**Centre Hours: 9am – 3.30pm.**

Parish Priest Fr Shaju John, OSH  
Assistant Priest Fr Shiju Simon, OSH

Parish Secretary Margaret Cooper  
Bookkeeper Karen Price

Youth Ministry Co-ord. Michelle Chahine  
School/Parish Liturgy L. Patricia Smith  
Sacramental Team: kccpsacraments@gmail.com

### RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 9.30 am at St Patrick's  
Every Friday After 9am Mass at St Bernard's  
(except First Friday—see below)

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	5pm	St Bernard's
	6pm	St Patrick's
Sunday	8am	St Patrick's
	9am	St Bernard's
	10am	St Patrick's
	6pm	St Patrick's

### WEEKDAY MASSES

St Bernard's	8am	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
	9am	Wednesday and Friday
St Patrick's	8am	Wednesday and Friday
	9am	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

First Friday – **No First Friday Healing Mass or Night Vigil during January.**

**Wednesday 26:  
Boxing Day NO MASSES**

**Tues 1 Jan: Solemnity,  
Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
8am Mass Berowra  
9am Mass Asquith**

## LITURGICAL SERVICES & PASTORAL CARE

**Rosary** After weekday Masses both Churches

**Visit Housebound** Fr Shaju & Fr Shiju - 9456 2450

**Nursing Home Visits** By request

**Emergency Priest** 0468 341 841  
(Out of office hours only)

**Clergy Days Off** Fr Shaju – Monday  
Fr Shiju – Tuesday

**Home Visits** For Masses,  
House Blessings & Pastoral Requests—  
Please phone the office 9456 2450.

**HOSPITAL ADMISSION:** If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services.

Be sure to notify the Pastoral Centre, if hospitalised and you would like our own priests to attend.

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## Hark the Herald Angels Sing



Angels play an important and special role in Advent and Christmas celebrations. They were involved in the birth of Baby Jesus as well as bringing this wonderful news to the world.



Archangel Gabriel brought an amazing and vital message to Mary that she was chosen to bear God's son—Baby Jesus.



An angel appeared to Joseph and told him he would marry Mary and care for Baby Jesus.



Angels guarded Mary and Joseph on their pilgrimage to Bethlehem and heralded the good news to everyone with a beautiful song to the world.



A Christmas Angel appeared to the shepherds giving them the most significant news in Christian history of the birth of Baby Jesus.



### A Christmas Prayer for Children

Gentle Jesus born today, in a manger filled with hay.  
We your Christmas children be, help us now your love to see.  
Gentle Jesus, come today, be our shepherd, Lord we pray.  
Gentle Jesus, come this hour, fill us with your love and power.  
You fell asleep in Mary's arm, God kept you safe from all alarm.  
Gentle Jesus come today, be our shepherd now we pray. **Amen**

### COLLECTIONS Did you realise?

*The 1st Collection & Christmas Offering (special envelopes)  
go to our Diocese to support the Clergy.*

**The 2nd Collection is ESSENTIAL** for our **PARISH ACTIVITIES** such as insurance, maintenance, parish events and programmes as well as office expenses and wages. *Our parish thanks you for your generosity.*