KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay
CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2020
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

Grafted into the Tree of Life

Words are often a weak method of communication. However, we have to use words, and today's gospel is an attempt, in simple language, to describe what happened on that extraordinary day, so long ago. It speaks of Jesus being born, and of the second meeting of heaven and earth, on that same night, when the angels appeared to the shepherds. This was the beginning of a process that is still on-going, as I speak. It is an old story that is ever new.

"Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and always." With God there is no such thing as time. All of time is totally present to him right now. God's work among us is always in process, it never comes to an end. In God's eyes, Christmas is an everyday event, that involves Jesus knocking on the door of my heart, seeking admission. The God-dimension never changes, the offer is always there, the good news is delivered with greater consistency than the morning newspaper. What happens after that is totally dependent on whether I accept the offer, open the door, and make my heart available as a manger.

One important point: when the shepherds heard the message they said, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see it for ourselves."

The life of the Christian is a journey of discovery. It involves coming to find out for myself the truth and the reality of what I had been told by my parents, teachers, or preachers in church. I have to cross that bridge. The gospel is in between two phrases.

At the beginning, we are invited to "Come and see," and, at the end, we are instructed to "Go and tell."

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May the Lord Jesus Christ ,

Grant you Peace and

Renew your Strength for the coming year.

Merry Christmas!

Let peace prevail – People from all over the world make it a point to try and come together and spend time with all their family and friends at Christmas. This year that is quite a bit harder to do, and so we adapt, we become creative, we open ourselves up to new experiences and come together in new (*but no less special*) ways to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour.

You, the parishioners of KCCP, this year more than ever, are our extended family 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 (or home holiday fun) and good health in 2021.

Merry Christmas & God Bless, Fr Shaju, Fr Joy & 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 2021.
May God bless you all and keep you safe and healthy during your visit with us.

What is a Christmas wreath and where did it all start?

A Christmas wreath is made of an assortment of flowers, evergreens, leaves, fruits and twigs that are twisted together to create a ring. The use of evergreens symbolises strength as these plants can survive even the harshest of winters. The word wreath is drawn from an old English word "writhen" meaning to twist. While wreaths have been around since the times of the Romans, who displayed them as a symbol of victory, they gained prominence with the Ancient Greeks who made "harvest wreaths".

They were later adopted by the Christian faith, where wreaths are used to observe the Advent season. The Advent wreath was first used by Lutherans in Germany in the 16th century, and in 1839, Lutheran priest Johann Hinrich Wichern used a wreath made from a cart wheel to educate children about the meaning and purpose of Christmas.
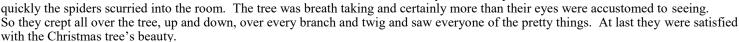
He also used the wreath to help children countdown to Christmas, thus giving rise to the modern version of the Advent wreath.

For every Sunday of Advent, starting with the fourth Sunday before Christmas, he would put a white candle in the wreath and for every day in between he would use a red candle. The use of the Advent wreath has since spread from the Lutheran Church to many Christian denominations.

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

Legend of the Christmas Spider ~

Once upon a time, a gentile mother was busily cleaning the house for the most wonderful day of the year – not a speck of dust was left. Even the spiders had left their cozy corner in the ceiling and had fled to the farthest corner of the attic to avoid the housewife's busy cleaning. At last, it was Christmas Eve. The tree was decorated and waiting for the children to see it. But the poor spiders were frantic, for they could not see the tree, nor the presents that waited for dawn. But the oldest and wisest spider suggested that perhaps they could peep through the crack in the door to see this glorious sight. Silently, they crept out of the attic, down the stairs and across the floor to wait in the crack in the threshold. Suddenly, the door opened a wee bit and quickly the spiders scurried into the room. The tree was breath taking and certainly more than their eyes were accustomed to seeing. So they crept all over the tree, up and down, over every branch and twig and saw everyone of the pretty things. At last they were satisfied with the Christmas tree's beauty.

But alas! Everywhere they went they had left their webs. Now seeing what they had done, they became very afraid that they would be killed. So they prayed for mercy. Suddenly an angel came and said, "I'll save you but, I will need some help, one of you must stay to save the rest." So it as agreed who would stay, then the angel touched the spider and turned it to ice and the webs became shimmering silver and gold. Since that time, we have hung tinsel on our Christmas trees, to remind us of, the sacrifice of one to save many, and according to the legend, it has become a custom to include a spider among the decorations on the tree.
(This legend is found in both Germany & Ukraine).

Stand 1.5m apart

Wear a mask

WE'RE COVID SAFE

MOST IMPORTANT and No. 1 Rule follow ALL DIRECTIONS of the USHER/s & Warden/s

Church Capacities: 202 ~ St Patrick's, 122 ~ St Bernard's If unwell ~ DO NOT come to mass ~ please see your doctor