



KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2022 ~ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Responsorial Psalms:

Vigil Mass & Youth Mass ~ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord

Midnight Mass ~ Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord

Day Masses ~ All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God

*“Peace on earth will come to stay,
When we live Christmas,
Everyday!”*

Helen Steiner Rice



The Rudolf Gospel

© <https://associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/christmas-day-25-december-2021/>

Santa's most popular reindeer by far is Rudolf, the famous red-nosed reindeer, who according to the popular song, had a very shiny nose...then, as every child knows, one foggy Christmas eve Santa came to say: **“Rudolf with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?”** The story of Rudolf is the story of salvation. It is our story both as individuals and as the human family. In our own case it is not Santa who saves us but the Child Jesus.

To begin with, Rudolf was a misfit. Compared to the image of the ideal reindeer we can say that something was definitely wrong with him. What is more, he was not in any position to help himself. So are we all, misfits, as the Bible tells us. **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23). **“All we like sheep have gone astray”** (Isaiah 53:6).

Like lost sheep we are not in a position to help ourselves. Rudolf could not help himself. All that his fellow reindeer did was to make things worse for him. Only one person could help him, Santa, the messenger from heaven.

Today we celebrate the birth of the Messenger from heaven. As we read in today's gospel, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”** (John 1:1, 14). He comes to liberate us from the human predicament, our sinfulness. For it is sin that mars and disfigures the beautiful image of God that we all are. Sin turns us into a despicable Rudolf, the red-nosed reindeer. But the heavenly Messenger comes, not to take away the red nose but to declare to us the Good News that we are acceptable to God even with the red nose. Rudolf's red nose was a defect. But Santa chose him precisely on account of that. The heavenly Messenger has the ability to turn the defects and red noses of our tainted humanity into assets for the service of God. Jesus is this heavenly messenger.

What makes the reindeer gospel so poignant is that Santa does not use his magic wand to heal Rudolf of his red nose defect. He let him go on with the red nose even as his chosen reindeer. Certainly Rudolf would have wanted nothing so much as to be a normal reindeer like all the rest. Similarly Jesus does not simply make us good men and women, rather he makes us into people who can use all their strengths and defects to the service and the glory of God. This is the proof to us that it is not by our own will power that we are able to become children of God. It is by God's grace, by God's unmerited and unconditional love of us. As God tells St Paul, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

How does the grace of God transform us? God's grace works two things in us: enlightenment and empowerment. **“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”** (John 1:17). God's truth enlightens us and God's grace empowers us. God's truth enlightens us to see ourselves and our world in a new light. It is a word that brings reassurance, affirmation and hope. You can imagine how Rudolf felt when he heard the words of Santa, **“Rudolf with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?”** That is why we call it the Good News. It is news that is liberating and empowering. It empowers us by changing our former disposition of insecurity, despair and hopelessness into that of blessed assurance, new hope and enthusiasm in the Lord's service.

Like Rudolf before Santa, let us today listen to the Message that the Child Jesus brings us, let us commit ourselves into his service without looking back, even when we do not know where the journey will lead us, knowing one thing for sure: that the grace of God will supply the strength we need for the long journey of faith ahead. **“For to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God”** (John 1:12).

Let peace prevail – Happy Christmas & God Bless you all, from Rev Dr Biju and Fr Joy.

People from all over the world make it a point *to try* and come together and spend time with family and friends at Christmas.

We become creative and we open ourselves up to new ways to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour.

You, the parishioners of KCCP, are again this year our extended family. Fr Joy and myself pray that the Infant Christ, will shower you with His blessings during this Season of Christmas. We also wish each of you great joy, safe travels and good health in 2023.

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 2023.

May God bless you all and keep you safe and healthy during your visit with us.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS ~ How the funds are administered ...

1st Collection: **LEAVES** the parish and goes to a common fund **outside the Parish** to support priests.

2nd Collection: **STAYS** in the parish to pay for all our costs, including insurance, maintenance, telecommunications, wages, pastoral programmes, church and office expenses, the Priests' cars & petrol etc, etc and is **ESSENTIAL** for our **PARISH** to **FUNCTION FINANCIALLY**

ROSTERS & READINGS FOR WEEKEND – 31st December 2022 / 1st January 2023 — (Solemnity) Mary, the Holy Mother of God — Year A
 Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Paul Dryden	Volunteer needed	Mani Subramany	Francis Lizardo	Malcolm Cross	Darrin Patterson
Altar Servers	Substitute requested Harry Tod	Andrew McLoughlin Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Thomas Clarke Rebecca Clarke	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed
Reader (1)	Substitute requested	Jeanette Neary	Edwina Subramany	Vivienne Schreiber	Chris Newnham	Mary Stokes
Reader (2)	Mary Dorahy	Volunteer needed	Celia Cox	Russell Schreiber	Sue Newnham	Les Fogden
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	Natasha Steele, Genevieve Funk, Ted Cook (f), Annette Shapter (s)		Cynthia Gilbertson, Sue Watts, Cathy Gray, Maria Hon (f)			
Maintenance	Team A & B - <i>additional help always appreciated</i>		Dec: Malcolm Cross, David Chui			

Next time you sing “Good King Wenceslaus” try keeping this legend in mind

Good King Wenceslas may be one of the most popular carols ever written – The man we know as ‘Good King Wenceslas’ was actually Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia. He was assassinated on September 28th by his brother, and this date would ultimately become his Saints Day. **After his death**, Wenceslas was regarded as a martyr and saint almost immediately but he wasn’t given the title of King of Bohemia until Holy Roman Emperor Otto I, gave him the title posthumously. People in Bohemia and England in particular began to venerate St Wenceslas. **One 12th-century preacher said:** *“His deeds I think you know better than I could tell you; for, as is read in his Passion, no one doubts that, rising every night from his noble bed, with bare feet and only one chamberlain, he went around to God’s churches and gave alms generously to widows, orphans, those in prison and afflicted by every difficulty.”* The carol was written for the Feast of St Stephen, better known as Boxing Day. And it celebrates the long tradition of charitable giving on the Second Day of Christmas. It’s become one of the best loved carols ever written. **The words are:**

Good King Wenceslas looked out, On the feast of Stephen; When the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even.
 Brightly shone the moon that night, Though the frost was cruel; When a poor man came in sight, Gath’ring winter fuel.
 ‘Hither, page, and stand by me, If thou know’st it, telling; Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?’
 ‘Sire, he lives a good league hence, Underneath the mountain; Right against the forest fence, By Saint Agnes’ fountain.’
 ‘Bring me flesh and bring me wine, Bring me pine logs hither; Thou and I will see him dine, When we bear them thither.’
 Page and monarch forth they went, Forth they went together; Through the rude wind’s wild lament, And the bitter weather.
 ‘Sire, the night is darker now, And the wind blows stronger; Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer.’
 ‘Mark my footsteps, good my page, Tread thou in them boldly; Thou shalt find the winter’s rage, Freeze thy blood less coldly.’
 In his master’s steps he trod, Where the snow lay dinted; Heat was in the very sod, Which the Saint had printed.
 Therefore, Christian men, be sure, Wealth or rank possessing; Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall yourselves find blessing.



(Adapted) The real story behind the carol Good King Wenceslas by Elizabeth Davis <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/real-story-good-king-wenceslas-carol/>



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

**The Parish Office will be essentially
 CLOSED
 from 23 December 2022 and
 will fully reopen on 30 January 2023**

If you need assistance during this period please email the office on:
 parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au
 (this will be monitored regularly **BUT** for urgent matters only). You can also phone 9456 2450 and leave a message which will be converted into an audio message and sent as an email to staff.

Please note, messages will only be **CHECKED ONCE PER WEEK.**

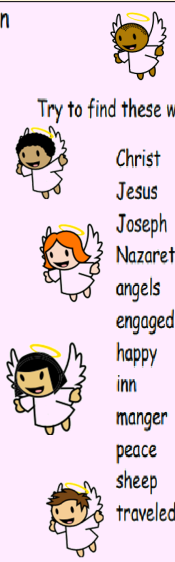
REMEMBER:

If in urgent need of a priest, the emergency number is: 0468 341 841.

Joy to the world! The Saviour is born

F O M A P W Q Q B L B E U W E
 L F F J V I N N R U M D W G A
 P N X V V N J W S H E E P E P
 N K D M A N G E R Y D L E U D
 D T P C N A Z A R E T H E S K
 H A H P W J O S E P H Q C V I
 W J J A B T P X Z Y U W U A P
 D L W F V T T R T B B O U N Q
 A F U V T R A V E L E D Z G A
 Y H Y S T T I A P J L U J E W
 E L E Z Z N X X H E O N C L Q
 I N C H R I S T I S Z A B S D
 K U L E H A P P Y U P E A C E
 L Y B K W V Z Y D S H F M U V
 P R X E N G A G E D H Z W M N

Try to find these words:



Christ
 Jesus
 Joseph
 Nazareth
 angels
 engaged
 happy
 inn
 manger
 peace
 sheep
 traveled



PASTORAL CENTRE: 1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082, P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082
 Ph: (02) 9456 2450; E: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au; W: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp
Centre Hours: **9am – 3.30pm.**

Parish Administrator: Dr Biju Jose, OSH Assistant Priest: Fr Joy Thomas, OSH
 Parish Secretary: Margaret Cooper Vol. Office Assistant: Jan Favaloro
 Bookkeeper: Karen Price Sacramental Team: Peta T & Phill C

RECONCILIATION: Fridays: 9.30am Mass St Bernard’s Berowra Hts; Saturdays: 9.30 am St Patrick’s, Asquith

WEEKEND MASSES: St Bernard’s, Berowra Heights: Saturday Vigil 5pm and Sunday 9am
 St Patrick’s, Asquith: Saturday Vigil 6pm and Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm

WEEKDAY MASSES: St Bernard’s, Berowra Heights: 9am Wednesday & Friday
 St Patrick’s, Asquith: 9am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday