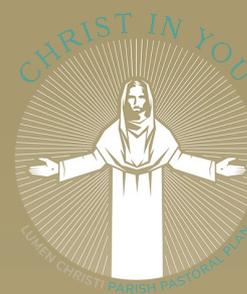


THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, B

25 DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTMAS

Good news and great joy to all the world!



MASS TIMETABLE 26 DECEMBER—31 DECEMBER 2023

St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

Tuesday 26th December Mass: 8am
Wednesday 27th December Mass: 7am
Confessions: 11:30am
Mass: 12.10pm
Thursday 28th December Mass: 7am
Friday 29th December Mass: 7am
Adoration: 11:30am
Confessions: 11:30am
Mass: 12.10pm
Saturday 30th December Confessions: 11am—12pm
Sunday 31st December Mass: 7am & 10.30am

* 5pm Mass for Sunday 31 December only is at
St Brigid's Gwynneville

* Parish Office will be closed on public holidays

St Brigid's, Gwynneville

Saturday Vigil 30 December Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday 31st December Mass: 9am & 5pm
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow
Sunday 31st December Mass: 8.30am
Mass: 10am (Italian)
Mass: 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie

Sunday 31st December Mass: 10am

PARISH CENTRE

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am—2.00pm
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)
36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

CONTACT US

Phone: 02 4211 0500
wollongong@dow.org.au
lumenchristi.org.au

PARISH STAFF

Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,
Diocesan Bishop & Parish Priest
Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,
Vicar General & Administrator
Reverend James Arblaster,
Assistant Priest & UoW Chaplain
Kevin Galea,
General Manager
Leanne Burlin,
Parish Secretary
Patricia Di Leva,
Administration Assistant

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Wollongong Hospital: 0475 815 506

PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCILS

Lisa de Paiva, Chair of the Pastoral Council
Vacant, Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Kathy Uroda, Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville
Lisa Tyson, Acting Principal, Good Samaritan Fairy Meadow

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We show our respect and acknowledge
the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country,
Elders past, present, and emerging,
and extend that respect to all other
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



LUMEN CHRISTI

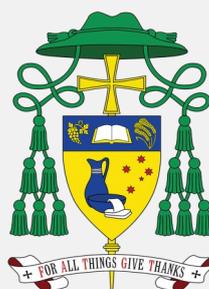
CATHOLIC PARISH

MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE ...

All departed parishioners and their relatives and friends.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...**

Frank Caruso, Bishop Peter Ingham, Fr David Catterall, Nelson Salinas, Joan O'Dowd, Alan Curtis, Matthew Johnson, Suzy May Gellel, Pat Carr, John Parkinson, Joseph Scalia, Bill Sharpe, Therese & Noel Rouse, Mario Saverimuttu, Ron Cooper.



In our parish & around the diocese

PARISH CALENDAR: DEC 2023—FEB 2024

- Tue, 26 Dec:** St Stephen (see schedule on page 1)
Sun, 31 Dec: SFX 5pm Mass relocated to SBG 5pm
Mon, 1 Jan: Mary Mother of God, SFX 9am
Mon, 1 Jan: Lumen Christi Parish Anniversary (2022)
Sun, 7 Jan: Epiphany & Blessing of the Chalk
Mon, 8 Jan: The Baptism of the Lord
Sun, 14 Jan: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
Tue, 16 Jan: Anniversary of Dedication of St Brigid's Church
Wed, 17 Jan: Baptism Class, SFX 7pm
Thu, 25 Jan: The Conversion of Saint Paul
Thu, 25 Jan: Catechists Meeting, Rigney Room 10.30am
Fri, 26 Jan: Australia Day Mass, SFX 8am
Thu, 1 Feb: Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Gwynneville
Thu, 1 Feb: Parish Lunch, Master Builders Club 12pm
Fri, 2 Feb: Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, SFX 7am & 12.10pm
Sun, 4 Feb: Hospitality weekend resumes
Tue, 6 Feb: Mass of Anointing, SJV 9.30am

SACRAMENTS

- ♦ **Baptisms:** By appointment only. Baptism preparation session must be completed. Contact the parish office or book online lumenchristi.org.au/baptism
- ♦ **Marriages:** A preliminary appointment needs to be made at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date (**No Sunday weddings in our parish**)
- ♦ For Pastoral and Sacramental needs, please contact the parish office during office hours

HELPFUL LINKS

- ♦ **Mass for you at Home:** youtube.com/massforyouathome
- ♦ **Mass/Prayer Intentions:** lumenchristi.org.au/intentions
- ♦ **Light a Votive Candle:** lumenchristi.org.au/votive
- ♦ **Census Form:** lumenchristi.org.au/census
- ♦ **Online Donations:** lumenchristi.org.au/donate
- ♦ **Join Planned Giving:** lumenchristi.org.au/support
- ♦ **Columbarium:** lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium
- ♦ **Sacramental Programme:** lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental
- ♦ **Privacy Policy:** privacy.lumenchristi.org.au
- ♦ **St Brigid's School:** sbgdow.catholic.edu.au
- ♦ **Good Samaritan School:** gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au

PARISH EFT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

CHURCH ACCOUNT

(Donations & Planned Giving)

BSB: 066 711 **Account:** 008056

Account Name: Lumen Christi Parish

PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT

(For the Clergy)

BSB: 066 711 **Account:** 002286

Account Name: Lumen Christi Parish Presbytery



Dear Parishioners

This year we have a Nativity Scene both in front of the Cathedral altar and a larger Christmas crib in the carpark side of the Cathedral for all passers by to view and feel drawn into the mystery of Christ's birth.

Personally, I have never lost the sense of wonder and the feeling of connection to the Child Jesus as I look at the beautiful Christmas scene. Such human simplicity transforms every human value. There is nothing complicated or obsessively sophisticated about this moment. There is nothing of Artificial Intelligence about it, only the warm offer of welcome and love reaching out to us, disarming us of our false façade and pride.

We may have walked in darkness this year, perhaps of ambition, selfishness, materialism, anger, jealousy, bitterness, violence and despair. But it is the love of the One entrusted to us in the Christmas mystery who gives light and joy to melt our hardened hearts. A heart softened by the great light of salvation is humble, generous, simple, kind, joyful, courteous, and hopeful. This kind of heart is a minister of true salvation. It is open and ready to be filled.

Given who Jesus is, sometimes I have thought that it would have been just perfect if cameras had been invented in his time. Then we could have photos of him as a baby and as he matured into adulthood. It would also have been great to see Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men as they tenderly held our Saviour in their arms. This unrealistic desire flows from the truth of the Incarnation. Truly, God has shared our human life in Jesus, the Son of God, and the face of God is revealed in the face of that little Child. It is a news of great joy because it is the most beautiful gift given by Someone with the largest of hearts and we have a place in his family circle. He is God with us, he is for us, he is given to us.

Please, if you are by the Cathedral with family or friends this Christmas, as you walk about the town show them the Christmas crib or tell them where it can be found. It may touch their hearts in a moment of peace as they look at the image of the baby Jesus who saves them with his love. For in the simplicity and mercy of his heart he reminds them of their dignity as beloved and chosen by God. This is a saving knowledge that lightens the burdens of every human soul.

With the heartfelt promise of my prayers for you and your families,

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Fr Bernard Gordon

For more information on bequests please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/bequest

In our parish & around the diocese

for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God

and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him

who was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh

or will of man

but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us,

and we saw his glory,

the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,

full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me

ranks before me

because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –

yes, grace in return for grace,

since, though the Law was given through Moses,

grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,

who has made him known.

The Creed is said. All kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate , Christmas Music

The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass.

Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope. But this baby is unique. This Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. This baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. This baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant.

And this baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. This baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us. Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by all peoples.'

For more information on our Columbarium please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium

VIGIL AND MIDNIGHT READINGS

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Creed is said. All kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate.

Communion Antiphon

John 1:14

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,

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