



The Nativity of the Lord - Year B Sunday 24th / Monday 25th December, 2017



*God in heaven,
You never forget we need You,
and that is why You sent Your Son, Jesus,
to dwell among us.
We thank You for such a tremendous gift
and praise Jesus, who is mighty God
and Prince of Peace,
now and forever. Amen.*

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving.

If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." – Pope Francis

In this wonderful season of joy, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the many generous people who contribute to the life and spirit of our parish community. I'd also like to offer my prayerful best wishes to all associated with our parish, that you may experience a truly blessed and hope-filled Christmas. As Pope Francis suggests, in his statement above, Christmas is given to us because we have the ability to understand and accept the mystery of God among us.

I pray that God will continue to bless our parish family, and, may Mary, the Mother of God, who so courageously said 'yes' to what God asked of her, intercede for us, and watch over us all. I pray that the light of hope, born to us in the Christ child of Bethlehem, will sustain us, and shine in us, so that we may offer all those we meet, this same hope for a brighter future. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and every blessing for the new year that lies ahead! – Fr Alan



We pray for all who have died recently: Olga Aponso, Maureen Stone & Sr Joy Hanrahan PVBM.

And for those who we remember at this time: Patrick Owens, Ryan Castricum, Maria Daraio, Mary Doyle, Giuseppina Di Donato, Peter South, Maria Saracino & James Phyland.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES

Please note: there will be no weekday Masses on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th, & Friday 29th December.

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday 30th Dec.: 6pm / Sunday 31st Dec.: 9am & 11am.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Monday, 1st January – New Year's Day Mass – 11am.

The normal weekday Mass schedule resumes with 7pm Mass on Tuesday 2nd January, 2018.

ST JOHN'S PARISH GROUPS will take a break over the Christmas/January period and resume on the following dates. We wish everyone a happy and safe new year.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING – Thursday, 4th January

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP – Tuesday, 6th February

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP – Tuesday, 6th February

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will resume in Term 1, 2018

PARISH BULLETIN If you'd like the weekend bulletin emailed to you each week, please send an email to:

office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

to indicate this, and we'll add you to the distribution list.

Rosters - Monday 25 th – Sunday 31 st December 2017	
Flowers	Sue N
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas
Linen	Sue O
Welcomers	6pm Louise, Peter 9am Sue, David, Thelma 11am Kath, Andrew, Maria
Lectors	6pm Louise 9am Pamela 11am Kath
Counters	Bryon, Ruby, Stephanie
Gardens	Patrick, Harry

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAYS

Closed 25th December 2017 to 1st January, 2018.

Open 2nd, 3rd and 5th January, 2018.

From 8th until 19th January, the office will open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Normal offices hours resumes on 22nd January.

Please note that as Friday 26th January is a public holiday, the office will be closed.

For your information: the Parish Office will also be closed on Monday 29th January, 2018.

The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

Alleluia!

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 9 : 1 - 7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who love 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 the 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 forever the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

*Response. Today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.*

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

2 : 11-14

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke 2 : 1 - 14*

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 those who enjoy his favour".

The Gospel of the Lord

