

# CHRISTMAS, Year A

25TH DECEMBER 2022

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Good News and Great Joy to All !

### MASS TIMETABLE

#### St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

Monday	Mass: 7am
Tuesday	Mass: 7am
Wednesday	Mass: 7am Confessions: 11:30am Mass: 12.10pm
Thursday	Mass: 7am
Friday	Mass: 7am Adoration: 11:30am Confessions: 11:30am Mass: 12.10pm
Saturday	Confessions: 11am—12pm
Sunday	Mass: 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

#### St Brigid's, Gwynneville

Thursday	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday Vigil	Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday	Mass: 9am

#### St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow

Tuesday	Mass: 9.30am
Thursday	Mass: 9.30am (Italian)
Sunday	Mass: 8.30am Mass: 10am (Italian) Mass: 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

#### Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie

Sunday	Mass: 10am
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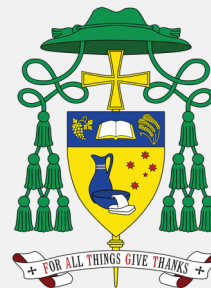
## LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC PARISH

### MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE ...

Deceased members of our parish, Gladys Elena Parada, Jane & James McGoldrick, deceased members of the McGoldrick Family, Peter Evans, Sarah & Alex Drysdale, Mary, John, James McMillan, Julie Tutt, Maria Bulhanan, deceased members of the Jessop & O'Meara Family.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...

Bishop Peter Ingham, John Parkinson, Mick Davies, Isobel Joseph, Gerard Gray, Ross Abbott, Jan Coulson, Noel & Therese Rouse, Nikiesha Thorton, Tony Moriarty, Veronica Bowman, Angela Mosley, Angela Sirc, Dianne Hukins, Margaret Gray, Christine Bulters, Matthew Johnson, Suzy May Gellel, Lordna Omiping, Dr Madeleine Cincotta, Elenka Egan, Dr John Frey, Johnny Dimise, Francisco Santos, Ada Raynor, Denise Mastro, Jadon Kalp, Amanda Dennis, Tara Conklin, Jamie Chitwood, Karl Llorin, Sue Freestone, Ardell Sharpe, Joseph Scalia, Lilia Pelino, Don Alanis.



### PARISH OFFICE

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 9.00am —1.00pm  
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  
**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  
**Gabi Tobin,** Chair of the Finance Council

### PARISH SCHOOLS

**Kathy Uroda,** Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville  
**Toni Sillis,** 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.

# In our parish & around the diocese

## PARISH CALENDAR: DEC 2022—FEB 2023

- Mon, 26 Dec—Tue 3 Jan: Parish Office closed  
Fri, 30 Dec: Feast of the Holy Family, SFX 7am & 12.10pm  
Sun, 1 Jan: Mary Mother of God, Normal Sunday Timetable  
Mon, 2 Jan: Normal Mass times resumes  
Fri, 13 Jan: Music Coordinators Meeting, Rigney Room 10am  
Thu, 26 Jan: Australia Day Mass, SFX 7am (No Mass at SBG)  
Fri, 27 Jan: Catechists Meeting, Rigney Room 10am  
Fri, 27 Jan: Schools resumes  
Sat, 21 Jan: Inservice—Liturgy of the Word, SFX 9.30am  
Wed, 1 Feb: Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Gwynneville  
Thu, 2 Feb: Presentation of the Lord, SFX 7am, SBG 9:30am  
Sun, 5 Feb: Hospitality Weekend Resumes  
Tue, 7 Feb: Mass of Anointing, SJV 9.30am  
Mon, 20 Feb: Confirmation Parent Evening, SBG 6.30pm  
Tue, 21 Feb: Confirmation Parent Evening, GSFM 6.30pm  
Wed, 22 Feb: Ash Wednesday Masses TBA  
Fri, 24 Feb: Stations of the Cross to commence on Fridays  
Tue, 28 Feb: Finance Council Mtg, Rigney Room, 5pm

## SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** By appointment only (contact the parish office during office hours for details)
- **Marriages:** A preliminary appointment needs to be made at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date (**No Sunday weddings**)
- For Pastoral and Sacramental needs, please contact the parish office during office hours

## HELPFUL LINKS

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

## THE BIRTH OF CHRIST GATHERS US TO SHARE AND REJOICE



### A Christmas Message from

*Fr Bernard Gordon*

Christmas is the liturgical season which most draws us together to share and rejoice in our families, homes, and parish churches. This gift of gathering to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour continues the loving example of Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men from the East. They were all brought together by the desire to be with Christ and welcome him with tenderness and joy. Likewise, may Christ touch your hearts and the hearts of all who are dear to you with his welcoming joy and peace.

*Attached to your Christmas Parish Bulletin you will find a Candy Cane. You may ask why?*

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness to Christ, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated some symbols from the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolise the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolise the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God.



The candymaker made the candy in the form of a “J” to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Saviour. It could also represent the staff of the “Good Shepherd” with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

I hope this simple gesture of giving you the Candy Cane will help you remember the infinite love and mercy God has for you and your families and friends.

On a personal note, as I reflect on the year of 2022,

*Continue to read on page 3*

For more information on bequests please visit: [lumenchristi.org.au/bequest](https://lumenchristi.org.au/bequest)

# In our parish & around the diocese

I am deeply grateful to the parishioners who serve as sacristans, choir directors, musicians and singers, altar servers, ushers, money counters, members of our hospitality teams, those who care for the church linen and vestments, members of the Catholic Women's League, members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Conferences, members of our Pastoral and Finance Councils, those who care for our church grounds and buildings, our catechists in the State Schools, those who visit the sick with the Holy Eucharist, members of our various prayer groups, the RCIA Team, our parish school leaders and teachers at St Brigid's and Good Samaritan, and roster coordinators. My heartfelt thanks to everyone! The work of each strengthens the life of all.

On behalf of Bishop Brian Mascord, Fathers James Arblaster, John Stork, Anthony Ha, our General Manager Kevin Galea, Leanne Burlin, our parish secretary, and Patricia Di Leva, our Parish Support Officer, I wish all our parishioners and visitors, and all your families and friends, a truly blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy and a Prosperous New Year.



Giotto, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, WikiArt, Public Domain

Throughout 2023, may the grace of Christmas deeply impress upon your heart and memory the truth that "the Lord takes delight in you" (Isaiah 62:4, Christmas Vigil, First Reading).

Fr Bernard

## MASS TIMETABLE 26 DEC—1 JAN

### Monday 26th December, St Stephen

Wollongong: Mass 7am

### Tuesday 27th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am

### Wednesday 28th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, Rec 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm

### Thursday 29th December

Wollongong: 7am

### Friday 30th December, The Holy Family

Wollongong: Mass 7am, Rec 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm

### Saturday 31st December

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

### Sunday 1st January 2023, Mary Mother of God

Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

Gwynneville: Mass 9am

Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

Normal Mass times will resume Monday 2nd January 2023

## Second Reading

Heb 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

Longer version: Jn 1:1-18 will be read.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

## 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-infinite 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](http://lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium)

VIGIL & MIDNIGHT MASS READINGS

**First Reading**

**Is 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**

**Ti 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**

**Lk 2:10-11**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Lk 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.'

CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS

**First Reading**

**Is 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,  
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.

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