



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



T: 4637 1500 F: 4637 1511
Email: admin@stpats.org.au
www.stpats.org.au

Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and Administrator: Fr. Michael O'Brien
Associate Pastors: Fr. Tom Duncan and Fr. Nandana Saparamadu

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)
St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



Bishop Robert and all at
St Patrick's Cathedral
pray that you may have a
Holy and Joy filled
Christmas and New Year!



Absent: Bishop Robert & John Briffa

When I was whizzing around town the other day, I had ABC Classic FM on the radio and Danielle McGrane was talking about Mendelssohn who composed a couple of pieces of music under the heading "Songs without words." Danielle said that Mendelssohn had particular thoughts about the use of words to define the meaning of a song. He said, **"Even if, in one or other of them, I had a particular word or words in mind, I would not tell anyone, because the same word means different things to different people. Only the songs say the same thing, arouse the same meaning, in everyone – a feeling that can't be expressed in words."** My thoughts went immediately to the busy-ness of the Christmas story, but then to those times in the story that people may have used few, if any words. Mary visiting Elizabeth and sitting quietly and absorbing the new overture that was to be the future for both of them, the long journey to Bethlehem where words were not needed as the donkey truded along the road, the quiet hours in the morning after the birth of Christ when Mary and Joseph just laid there listening to the quiet hymn of the morning and maybe Jesus' soft breathing beside them. Maybe the best Christmas gift we can give this year is less words rather than more. Maybe it is a moment to remember the absent melody of a loved one no longer with us. Maybe a time to allow people to grow and be present with us in the quiet gentleness of the season. Maybe we need to listen to the music that happens between us and the simple realisation of God's gift of togetherness and life itself. My mother once said that her mother told her, that when you hear a little baby during the night, not crying, but just laughing and gurgling quietly – that is when the angels are talking to them! This Christmas let the angels talk to you in your quiet moments.

God's blessing to everyone over this wonderful time.

Father Michael and Rosie.

When I had a conversation with a family recently, I found that the father of the family had abandoned the family with two children. Their mother was a worker in a garment factory. As the pandemic, Covid 19 spread rapidly in Sri Lanka, some factories have minimised the number of the workers. Finally she lost her job. She had applied for a loan to put up a dwelling place, then she lost the dream of a dwelling place too. But her words of hope surprised me. "I am determined to live; never give up the hope of living with my two children; I know God is living with us." Emmanuel is not merely a word but an experience of God's dwelling among us. God of Moses, Miriam, Joseph and Mary have saved them from slavery and have been journeying with them. Though some kings have tried to lock God in Temples, God says: "for I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up from Egypt until this day, but I have moved from tent to tent and dwelling to dwelling (1 Chronicles 17:5).

God by-passes important people and places; so often his favour rests on simple unlettered folk, all of them without influence power and prestige. Thus Mary of Nazareth allowed the word of God to be made flesh in her womb. She gave birth to the long awaited Word in a manger which resembled a tent.

Central to this story of Christmas is a loving respectful and non-patriarchal God to be born in our lives today. This miracle would become a reality, if we allow:

Love to be conceived in our hearts;
Peace to be conceived in our hearts;
Justice to be conceived in our hearts.

Fr Nandana



We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently: Shane Fels, John Croisca and those who have died from Covid-19. May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Chahira Coorey, Ray Power, Kev O'Neill, Martin Logan, Collins families.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Esme Machin, Patsy Quinn, Brian Machin, Graham McGovern, Madeline Gray, Richard Jones, Loan Smith, Maria Brown, Kim Ireland, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and those in our nursing homes and hospitals, and those suffering from Covid-19.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION DURING JANUARY.

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD FEAST DAY THIS YEAR WILL BE AT 5.30pm on 1st January, 2021
(9.00am Mass will be available at St. Thomas More's)**

Not just a party!

After a few weeks of preparing – trying to find a way to balance the call of John the Baptist to repentance and renewal with the powerful push from our commercial world to spend lavishly and celebrate frequently ... after all that, we come to focus [for 5 or 6 weeks] on the INCARNATION!

I offer a few thoughts about incarnation.

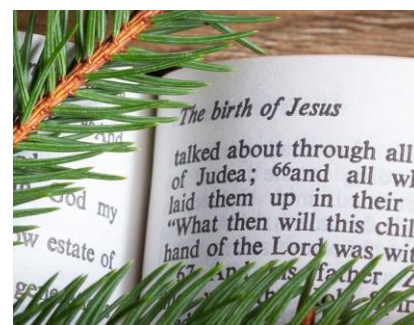
- The word means, literally, entrance into the flesh.
- God enters into, in Jesus, the totality of our human flesh.

God takes on board the whole package intimately; body and spirit, eating, sleeping, exercising, needing friends, suffering, laughing, struggling, learning, hoping, being lonely, dying...

This is not only a truth about God who became incarnate, **but an ongoing experience into which all of us are invited through being gifted with God's own Holy Spirit.** *Think about that!*

With prayers and love Hal Ranger

Today, eternity enters time so that time may enter eternity; creator becomes creature so that creature may return to its creator; gladness weeps so that weeping might rejoice; God becomes man that man may share the divine life! Dear friends, today is a wedding feast, in which things of heaven are forever wedded to those of earth. The good news is, we are each invited! I wish everybody, during this wonder-full season, a taste of the love which leads to joy, and the peace which follows, that our Saviour Jesus alone can give.



Stay safe and I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas – *Fr Tom Duncan*

Thursday 24 Dec	7am Mass SPC 6pm Christmas Vigil 8.30pm Christmas Vigil Live Stream	Mass in Cathedral and Cathedral Centre Mass in Cathedral and Cathedral Centre
Friday 25 Dec <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	12am Midnight Vigil 7am 9am	Mass in Cathedral only Mass in Cathedral and Cathedral Centre Mass in Cathedral and Cathedral Centre
Saturday 26 Dec <i>Saint Stephen</i>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	
Sunday 27 Dec <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass No live stream Mass this weekend	12pm Baptism of Wyatt Mallardi 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 28 Dec <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	5.30pm Mass SPC	ADORATION 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Tuesday 29 Dec	7am Mass SPC	
Wed 30 Dec	7am Mass SPC	ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 31 Dec	7am Mass SPC	
Friday 1 Jan <i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	9.00am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	NO ADORATION DURING JANUARY
Saturday 2 Jan <i>Saints Basil and Gregory</i>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	11am Baptism of Noah Buckley and Kaitlyn Buckley 12pm Baptism of Carson Apelt
Sunday 3 Jan	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am–Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Joshua and Lachlan Lax 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre Clergy Retreat begins 3 rd – 8 th

Planned Giving \$1370; Loose \$497; PayPoint :\$390 Helen Hoddle, Mick Cuskelly