



### Christmas Message from Bishop Kennedy

One of the best loved Christmas Carols is "Hark! The Herald Angels sing, Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." This just sums up Christmas, doesn't it? The carol oozes with joy as we lift up our voices with the angels in giving glory to Jesus our God and King who brings us *Peace on earth, and mercy mild.*

As we've just concluded the Year of Mercy, my own heart pauses upon those beautiful words "*mercy mild*". Jesus brings us God's mercy mild. Mercy is when we have a heart that feels another's pain which prompts us to do something for them.

I think of all the mercy mild that Jesus showed to people: he fed the hungry, healed the sick, and gave sight to the blind; he forgave sinners, restored people's dignity, and gave them hope. Pope Francis says that "what moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need."

This gives me an idea for Christmas: Instead of buying my family and friends something they probably don't need it would be better to tune my heart into theirs to discover their deepest need and then respond to that need because I feel their pain as if it were my own. It may be that what they need most from me is a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, my forgiveness for some past wrong, or maybe saying sorry for the time I wronged them.

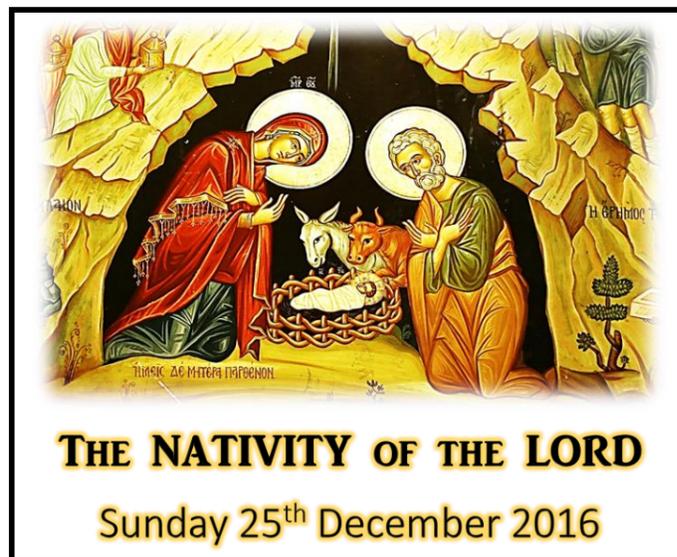
I think I'll also ask Jesus for a gift this Christmas. I'll ask him to give me what his merciful heart knows is my deepest pain and what I need the most.

May your Christmas be decorated with many acts of kindness and mercy!

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy  
Bishop of Armidale



*Every Christmas Blessing  
For All  
Parishioners & Visitors*



**CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SEASON**  
Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery (Easter), the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the CHRISTMAS SEASON. *GnLYC 32-33*

**PARISH OFFICE** will be closed this week. normal hours will resume Tuesday 3rd January. please leave message on the answering service.

**CHRISTMAS DUES...** envelopes are available on the pews. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**SUPPORT YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR PARISH:**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> COLLECTION (supports the clergy):**  
BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001023527  
**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION (supports the Cathedral and parish):**  
BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001006225  
(Reference with your Planned Giving Number and your name)

## WELCOME TO THE CATHEDRAL PARISH OF SAINTS MARY & JOSEPH

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[www.smjccathedral.org.au](http://www.smjccathedral.org.au)

- Faithful to the Teaching of the Apostles
- Faithful to Prayer
- Faithful to the Breaking of the Bread
- Alive in the Community of the Spirit
- Sharing what we have with those in need Acts 2:42-46

### CHRISTMAS LITURGY

#### SATURDAY:

6.30PM YOUNG FAMILIES CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS  
10PM SOLEMN LITURGY CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS

#### SUNDAY:

#### THE NATIVITY of the LORD

8AM CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS  
10AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS  
5.30PM CHRISTMAS MASS

MONDAY: ST STEPHEN (Public Holiday)

9.15AM; 12.30PM CATHEDRAL

TUESDAY: ST JOHN (Public Holiday)

9.15AM; 12.30PM CATHEDRAL

WEDNESDAY: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

7AM; 12:30PM CATHEDRAL

THURSDAY: 7AM; 9.15AM CATHEDRAL

FRIDAY: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9:15AM; 5.40PM CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY: 9.15AM; 6PM VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
8AM; 10AM; 5.30PM

#### SACRAMENT of PENANCE

FRIDAY: 5-5.30PM

SATURDAY: 11.30AM-12NOON; 4.30-5.30PM

#### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Autel Basha, Queenie Rizk (Sydney), Dorothy Cooper, Iris Harper (Moree), Margaret McDonald, Lucy Ross, Leon Fleming (Bingara), June Hutchinson, Andreas Georkas, Phillip Bready (Sydney), William Morrison (Tasmania), Joseph Abraham

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Patricia Martin, Violet Evans

**SICK:** Carol Goodhew, Ghodsi Amini, Mark Norman, Susan Maye, Michael Zhu, Michael Moloney, Aeron Ryan, Helen Hesketh, John Fleming, Laurie Fahy, Blake Ross, Gemma Milliken, Joseph O'Brien, Deacon Peter Harrison, Frederic Koelmeyer, Kay Robertson, Maureen Veitch, Maria Selvey, Eleanor Pankhurst, Kay Goodwin, Norma O'Brien, Anne Simpson, Silvia & Ralph Bowles, Justin Post, Dean Doran, Alice Payne, Jane Obbem, Gladys Navarrete, Desiree Redlich, Alexandra Curtis, Margaret Doherty, Fr John Carey, Marie Trevanion, Michelle Owens, Sheetal Patel

### *Truth has arisen from the earth and justice has looked down from heaven*

Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.

Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of the Virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.

Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but of God's glory: for justice has not come out of us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore, he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will.

For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head. For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

*St Augustine 354-430 AD*