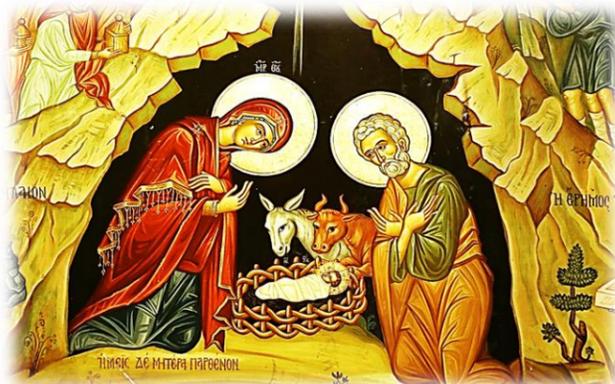




*Every Christmas Blessing
For All
Parishioners & Visitors*



The Nativity of the Lord
Friday 25th December 2020

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

OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will be mostly unattended until Monday 4th January. Leave a message on the answering service and your call will be returned in due course and please use the letterbox outside the entry to the Parish Office for any Mass Offerings, yellow forms etc.

SUPPORT YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR PARISH:
1ST COLLECTION (supports the clergy):
BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001023527
2ND COLLECTION (supports the Cathedral and parish):
BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001006225

**CATHEDRAL PARISH OF
SAINTS MARY & JOSEPH**

132 DANGAR St (PO Box 2025)
ARMIDALE 2350 PH 6772 2218
armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
www.smjcathedral.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 DUES...
ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SIGN IN TABLE.
YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY
THURSDAY CHRISTMAS EVE
4.00 PM, 6.00 PM, 8.00 PM
10.00 PM SOLEMN LITURGY CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9.50PM FOR CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB

FRIDAY CHRISTMAS DAY
The Nativity of the Lord
7.30 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
9.00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
6.00 PM MALALAYAM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
OLA CHAPEL

SATURDAY: St Stephen, *the first martyr* (Boxing Day)
9 AM Cathedral

SUNDAY: The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8AM, 10AM, 5.30PM

MONDAY: The Holy Innocents, *martyrs*
9.15AM, 6PM VIGIL MASS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER:
11.30AM-12NOON; 4PM - 5PM



Pope Francis @Pontifex

To pray is to light a candle in the darkness. [Prayer](#) rouses us from the tepidness of a purely horizontal existence, lifts our gaze to higher things, makes us attuned to the Lord, allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope.



May the spirit of Christmas shine like lights and warm your hearts this season of JOY. May God bless you and your family.

*Bishop Michael, Fr Roel
Fr Samson & Fr Paul*



COVID UPDATE: As of Monday 7th December, there is no maximum capacity for places of worship. The rule is one person per 2 square metres.

PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN IN.



If you have a compatible phone. If you need help in setting it up on your phone, please contact the Parish Office. This is the preferred means of signing in as it is contactless, and the data is easily accessible if required in the event of an outbreak.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO KEEPING YOU SAFE.

Our Cathedral Parish is a registered COVID Safe venue A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is on the noticeboard for you to read.

Please stay home and get tested if you are experiencing any cold/flu symptoms (even if they are mild).



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index has thrown up some interesting findings in this extraordinary year of COVID 19. It reveals that 95% of us are more grateful for the things we have in life than we were before the pandemic; 91% say they are living more simply; and 96% have more empathy for others. Almost 8 in 10 say they are finding a better work-life balance and 87% are spending more quality time with their family.

It strikes me that these are all qualities and attitudes that we have long associated with Christmas when we make a communal effort to refocus on what's important in life: faith, family, friendship, helping others, and a sense of gratitude.

This 'silver lining' to the cloud of the pandemic, whilst encouraging, does not negate the terrible evil of the pandemic: the many lives lost, livelihoods shattered, and vulnerable people adversely affected.

The problem of evil – why it exists, and what to do about it – has been with us a long time. We Christians do not pretend to have all the answers, in fact we still refer to evil as a mystery. But our faith does provide us with some answers.

The colloquial saying "every cloud has a silver lining" has a deeper reality which we Christians often express as "God can bring good out of evil." I'm sure we have all witnessed this many times this past year.

Of course, the greatest of all evils in our world is human sin and the terrible pain and destruction it can cause. The greatest good that God brings out of that sin is salvation which is what we celebrate with joy at Christmas: that God does not abandon us when we sin and do evil, but tears opens the heavens and comes down to us (Isaiah 64:1).

May you experience the blessing God's love and salvation this Christmas.

+ M Kennedy

Most Rev Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale