



*Every Christmas Blessing
For All
Parishioners & Visitors*



The Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday 25th December 2019

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 6th 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.

FREE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH at the Youth Centre behind the **UNITING CHURCH.** Commences with drinks and nibbles at 11.30am. Lunch at 12 noon. Come and enjoy the 28th year of this popular event with hundreds of others.

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

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- 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 ON THE PEWS. YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

CHRISTMAS LITURGY

TUESDAY CHRISTMAS EVE
6.00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS WITH YOUNG FAMILIES
10.00 PM SOLEMN LITURGY CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9.50PM FOR CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB

WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS DAY
The Nativity of the Lord

8.00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
10.00AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
6.00PM MALALAYAM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
OLA CHAPEL

THURSDAY: St Stephen, *the first martyr* (Boxing Day)
7AM; 9.15AM Cathedral
FRIDAY: St John, *apostle, evangelist*
9.15AM Cathedral; 11AM Mass/Anointing
KTL; 5.40PM Cathedral
SATURIDAY: The Holy Innocents, *martyrs*
9.15AM, 6PM VIGIL MASS
SUNDAY: The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8AM, 10AM, 5.30PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER: 5.00PM - 5.30PM
SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER: 11.30AM-12NOON; 5.00PM - 6PM

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
(Reference with your Planned Giving Number and your name)



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*



APOSTOLIC LETTER
ADMIRABLE SIGNUM
OF THE HOLY FATHER
FRANCIS

ON THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE
OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

1. The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.

3. ... Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

Setting up the Christmas crèche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on that event. At the same time, its portrayal in the crèche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.

In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to "feel" and "touch" the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need (cf. *Mt 25:31-46*).

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary. And to realize that in that knowledge we find true happiness. Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

FRANCISCUS



Given in Greccio, at the Shrine of the Nativity, on 1 December in the year 2019, the seventh of my Pontificate.