

God is with us!

In this Sunday's first reading the prophet Isaiah tells Ahaz, the king of Judah, that "therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and bears a son and shall name him Emmanuel."

Friends, in a few short days we will celebrate with great joy that a young woman, Mary a Virgin, who was with child more than 2,000 years ago, bore a Son, Jesus who is Emmanuel or God is with us incarnate. God has indeed sent us a sign. And what a sign God sent! God sent His only Son, Jesus, the living sign that God is with us.

In a few days we will celebrate again the greatest miracle that you or I will ever experience. We will celebrate that Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God, became flesh in completion of the promise God made in the Prophets. Jesus, the Word of God, took on our humanity so that we may share in his Divinity. What an incredible gift! God fulfilled God's promise by living among us as one of us, so that we may be touched by and may touch the Divine.

We all celebrate Christmas in a different way. Some of us gather in our homes packed with families, relatives and friends, wearing silly hats, singing and dancing and enjoying the Christmas lunch. Some of us gather in parks or beaches with prawns and salads. Some of us gather with others who have no-one to celebrate Christmas with and together touch the Divine by being with each other.



Whatever way you plan to celebrate the great miracle, which is Christmas, please take some time to remember the young virgin who brought the Divine into our world. Please take some time to remember the promise made by God through the prophets, fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Please take some time to remember that the reason for this season is that Child Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us! Please make Christmas happen at least to one person aside from yourself, then you have become a living "Emmanuel."

As you celebrate Christmas this year, may the Divine, the Word made flesh, touch you and may you share that touch with one another.

Fr Thomas

Reconciliation Before Christmas

Tuesday evening, 23rd December 7pm to 8pm (with Adoration)

Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS EVE - 24th December

6:00pm

8.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY— 25th December

12:00am (Midnight Mass) with Carols at 11.15pm 24th Dec

7:30am

9:30am

BOXING DAY— 26th December

9:15am Please note that there will be no 6.30am mass

Faith B4U...

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on **Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am.

To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/OURuFAeThA>

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty. By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card. View the range of Global Gifts: www.globalgifts.org.au

Be a stronger you – Free empowerment course for women

Catholic Care has partnered with Survivor Voice Australia to run a free six-week empowerment program for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. The program will start in February 2026 in the Blue Mountains. Contact Catholic Care to express your interest: 8843 2500.

Positions Vacant

Catholic Chaplain: Catholic Care Western Sydney & the Blue Mountains
More details at:
parracatholic.org/jobs

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course will be returning in February 2026. If you would like to become a Minister of the sick, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, Reader or Altar Server, please contact the Parish Office for the application form. Applications must be in before 23 January.

For more information on the course visit: parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course

Please note: all applications must go via the parish office

Lost Property

Missing an umbrella, water bottle, glove, rosary etc? Please look in the main entry area of the church (Narthex) near the Lost Property Sign.

For valuables, please call the parish office on 9631 8135.

Did you know?

Pope Francis emphasises that *deterioration in the human community and in the natural environment* go hand in hand. When water runs short, the poor who depend on bottled water cannot afford it. When the seas are ruined, coastal fishing villages suffer. And these poor are the *majority* of the population on earth.

What are my feelings as I read about the impact of environmental damage on the poorest people on earth?

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Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Bob Nowfel, Brendon Onorato, Benjie Santiago, Michael Scanlon, Connie Shembri, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

George Attard, Anthony & Joan Borg, John & Maria Cini, Colin Grainger, Alex Sarayer, Paul Xuereb

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.

Rita Camilleri

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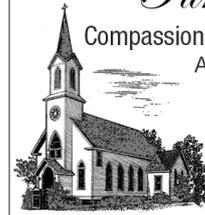
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

Safeguarding is a priority at OLOP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

ONLINE: To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

IN PERSON TRAINING: To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

Are you spending Christmas alone this year?

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon- The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on **Thursday 25 December** in and around the **St Michael's Primary School hall**, and **everyone is welcome, families and individuals**. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend.

For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day Community Lunch - Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on **Thursday 25 December from 11am**, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. **All are warmly welcome**. Registration is essential.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

25th Thursday **The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)**

26th Friday **St Stephen**, the first martyr

27th Saturday **St John**, apostle, evangelist

On sale in the Parish Office

Christmas Cards (supporting Vinnies)

\$8.00 pack of 10

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah
7:10-14

2nd Reading

Romans
1:1-7

Gospel

Matthew
1:18-24

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Sirach
3:2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading

Colossians
3:12-21

Gospel

Matthew
2:13-15, 19-23

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

PLEASE NOTE: The last Friday night rosary for the year will be 19th December, and it will resume on Friday 30th January 2026.

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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