



# Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo ACT

Supporting and supported by Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd, Mother Teresa Primary Schools and St John Paul II College



24-25 December 2021

Christmas 2021 | Year C



*We extend a warm welcome to our Parish especially those visiting family and friends over the festive season.*

## Fr Mark's Christmas Message 2021

This year I took three months long service. It was a pleasure at first to walk away from daily responsibilities. No phones, no deadlines, no diary, no meetings. It doesn't take long to become anonymous. Part of my experience included some long walks on the north side of Sydney. Nothing spectacular but when in the groove it's good for the body and the soul.

Among different things it gave me the opportunity to venture inland over the Blue Mountains. It saw me go west as far as Hay and Booligal (Banjo Patterson wrote the poem Hay, Hell and Booligal in 1896 ) and then back across the Riverina and over the Snowy Mountains. Then back up the east coast to Sydney. As a passenger I had plenty of time to snooze and peruse the landscape.

While refreshed physically and even spiritually, mentally I was restless. As a stranger in a big world, I had a sense of not belonging anywhere. I reflect on this not belonging around this time think of how the Holy Family moved from town to town seeking a place for the birth of Jesus. It would have been far more comfortable at home than at an inn at Bethlehem.

When I did return to Parish life, once back in routine I felt I was back home. I felt reinvigorated despite the ongoing lockdown. While it may seem strange, the wilderness which provided some loneliness, lack of purpose etc, itself was an Advent – a waiting time – the time to contemplate where and what God wants of me. (Have you somewhat sensed this since restrictions have been lifted?)

After waiting patiently to move from the TV to the temple, our Church at Holy Spirit is beginning to rise up. The efforts to offer personal contact through electronic media has held us together. Yet nothing is more wholesome than when we gather together for the weekend Eucharist.

As confidence returns I would hope our numbers continue to rise. As I experienced from my three-month break, so too do I sense a freshness among our parishioners. Maybe it's an appreciation of something we can take for granted. More so, I think it is a hunger for the Eucharist.

This has been a more than average year of toil, we might too be able to more deeply honour the Birth of Christ. The things we couldn't do freely for long periods should make us appreciate the little things – a full face with no outlaw mask, a full restaurant, more numbers and friends at home and the freedom to visit loved ones!

Pray we become stronger for the experience and more sensitive to one another.

Let the Christmas season bless you all!

*Fr Mark*



### Mass times over the holiday period

#### Sunday 26 Dec

9:30am Mass

#### Monday 27 Dec

No Mass

#### Tuesday 28 Dec

No Mass

#### Wednesday 29 Dec

No Mass

#### Thursday 30 Dec

No Mass

#### Friday 31 Dec

No Mass

#### Saturday 1 January 2022

4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Vigil Mass

#### Sunday 2 January 2022

8:00am Mass

9:30am Mass

Parish Office will be closed until Tuesday 4 January 2022

### The Sermon



A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

# News & Updates

- \* **Parish Office opening hours over the holiday -**  
The Parish Office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year and will re-open on **Tuesday 4 January 2022** for reduced hours. We can be contacted via email at [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au). Alternatively, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.



- \* **No Weekday Masses -** From Tuesday 28 December—Friday 31 December. Weekday Masses will resume on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

## Children's Sacramental Program 2022



### Sacrament of Confirmation

For children in Year 6 and above wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2022. Information sessions will be held on

**Tuesday 15 February 1:00pm or 6:15pm** at the church.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated over 2 weeks **3, 4, 5 May and 10, 11, 12 May.**

### Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation

For children in Year 3 and above wishing to receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation in 2022. Information sessions will be held on

**Tuesday 21 June 1:00pm or 6:15pm** at the church.

### Celebration of First Reconciliation

Week of 22 August

### Celebration of First Eucharist

At Masses on weekends

10-11 September and 17-18 September



For more details please contact Sacramental Coordinator **Katrina Battilana**: [sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

## Offer what you have...

Charity is one of the great pillars of our faith.

Watch what happens when you give, of your time, your love, your skills or even your wealth.

God will take it and do something amazing with it.

## God's answer to human longing

'Christmas is God's answer to human longing, God's response to the centuries of prayers that lay hidden in our groaning, our sighs, our frustrations, and our religious efforts, each of them a plea, mostly silent, for a divine intervention, all of them asking God to come and rid the world of injustice and our hearts of loneliness and heartache.'

*Ron Rolheiser OMI*

Please keep the following individuals in prayer.....



### For those who are sick

Baby Aarya  
Katie Charlton  
Ronald Robles  
Patricia Lebon  
Glenn Mowbray  
Gabrielle Eagles  
Roland Zocchi  
Sophia Vamvakaris  
Graham Seymour  
Helen Morris  
Paul Mowbray  
Mark Williams  
Brian Ware  
Fr Thonn  
Margaret Ord  
Sr Marie  
Laurie Hancock  
Jasna Market-Simpson  
Nikola Market

### Recently Deceased

Noedelan Abroguena  
Loi Abroguena  
Pona Mariner  
Manuel De Sausa  
Edward Cartier

### Anniversaries

Denise Stubbs  
Luz Gomez  
Peter and Carmel Perry  
Adela Tuazon

We include those who are members of our Parish or relatives. Please email contact the parish office or click here to request prayers.

[Prayer Requests](#)





We wish you and your family a joyous and Holy Christmas.  
 May the peace of Christ live in our hearts and homes,  
 our neighbourhood and our world.  
 We thank you for your support throughout 2021.



What good is it that if Christ was born 2,000 years ago, if he is not born now in your heart?  
 Lord, we do far too much celebrating your actual coming in our hearts.

I believe in God, but do I believe in God-in-me?  
 I believe in God in heaven, but do I believe in God-on-earth?  
 I believe in God out there, but do I believe in God-with-us?  
 Lord, be born in my heart.

Come alive in me this Christmas! Amen.

*Meister Eckhart*



26 December 2021

Feast of the Holy Family | Year C

### Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Holy Family

In a changing world, where the very notion of the family is under so much pressure, it is appropriate during the Christmas season to celebrate this feast. Some may ask, however, what can the image of Holy Family of Nazareth say to the modern world and to parents struggling in this climate of change?

The women in today's readings teach us a timeless lesson about faith in action. Both Hannah and Mary knew the experience of hardship and rejection, yet in all the circumstances of their lives they put their trust in God and acted according to his word.

The second reading reminds us that the most potent image of God's love is that of the parent for the child. We are the children of God and the place where we live that out first and foremost is in our families. Samuel and Jesus learned all about self-giving from their parents.

Various aspects of family life are highlighted in the readings today They are chosen with family life in mind – the old, the young and the child – and in praise of family life with both Elkanah and Hannah, and then Mary and Joseph coming close to God in their family life. Today is a day in praise of family marriage, sexuality, birth and of prayer for families. And in the family we learn about God – more by example than by words. Most families manage well even in times of stress. Daily and ordinary love can overcome a lot else.

While praising the great efforts of parents today, and the strong family life which exists among us, we also look at contemporary problems: the stresses on the one-parent family; children unsure of the commitment of the parents; the effects of divorce on the children, and admitting that marriage breakup has a confusing or damaging effect on children; the long life of elderly who are very ill and require a lot of loving but difficult attention; the effects of addiction to drugs and alcohol; prison and crime.

Faith, prayer, Mass and the Church can bring us through a lot in bad days. Some prayer at night or in the morning, before a meal or leaving the house; Mass, and including prayer at high points of family life are ways of including prayer in family life. Family is the school of faith and the place of God in the ordinary everyday world.

**'Jesus, Mary and Joseph, help us in our family life. ' ... c/f ]n. 1:1-18**

### TODAY'S READINGS

**Readings:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52

**Entrance Antiphon:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

- Liturgy Help



# Christmas Giving



\* **Donating to St Vincent de Paul** - Christmas Appeal envelopes are available in the foyer. Please continue to support Vinnies generously.

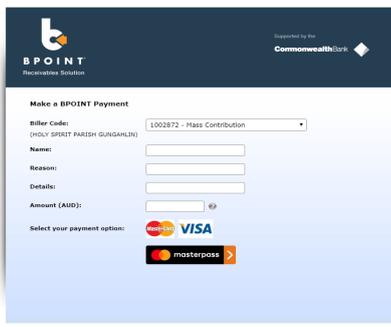


## \* **Fr Mark's Special Appeal**

A big thank you to everyone who have made a contribution to this special appeal. We received a total of \$3800 in cash donations and one offer of accommodation for a family who recently became homeless. Through your generosity we were able to help 10 extremely grateful families and bring some Christmas cheer to them. If you feel you have missed giving and would still like to, you can donate online <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/holyspirit> or normal parish bank account (BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Reference: Parish Advent Giving) or use envelopes available in the foyer and place it in the Wooden Box or collection baskets. We will distribute any funds received in late January to help additional families with back to school expenses.

## WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Secure Online Payments



### Online Mass Contribution (First and Second Collections combined)

We encourage you to continue to support our parish by making contributions to our First and Second Collections online. Follow the steps below to make a secure online donation.

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Select Biller Code 1002872 – Mass Contribution
3. Enter your payment details.

### Parish Bank Account Details

BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish

## CONNECT WITH US

**Parish Priest:** Fr Mark Croker

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Anthony (Fr Thonn) Riosa, SSS.

### Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622

Website: [www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Parish Assistant:** Theivani Evers

E: [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

P: 0472 921 518

**Parish Secretary:** Magda Baraniecki

E: [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Office Support:** Naomi Johnson

E: [officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Finance Officer/ Planned Giving:** Tony Rose

E: [gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au](mailto:gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au)

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Katrina Battilana

E: [sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Youth Minister:** Paris Morris

E: [youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Alison Weeks

E: [alisonmweeks@bigpond.com](mailto:alisonmweeks@bigpond.com)

### Parish App and Parish Facebook Page



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Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

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