

Christmas Message 2025 – Hope and Peace

Dear Parish Family,

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, born among us as a sign of God's enduring love, hope, and peace. This holy season invites us to pause, reflect, and look ahead with renewed trust in God's presence among our parish community.

This past year has truly been a blessing for our parish. We have seen our community grow—not just in numbers, but in spirit. New faces, new families, and new cultures have enriched our parish life, reminding us that the Church is at its best when it is welcoming, open, and grounded in love. I am deeply grateful for each of you who have shared your time, faith, and generosity to make our parish a home for all, regardless of culture, background, or story.

As we look to the future, may we continue to be a parish that carries Christ's hope into the world and becomes a place of peace for those who seek it. Let us walk forward together with faith, kindness, and courage, trusting that God will continue to guide and bless our journey.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

With blessings and gratitude,

Fr. Novie Lim



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JESUS
is the
REASON
for the
SEASON



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation. This land is sacred, this land is gift, this land is thousands of years old. We acknowledge the immense beauty of this land and the dreams of the Yorta-Yorta People. We pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the lessons the Yorta-Yorta people teach us about care, respect and justice for mother earth.

If you wish to assist in "further supporting the Parish" we offer different ways of giving... direct debit, credit card or planned giving envelopes. Please ring the office for more details.

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:
St Mary's Echuca: BSB Number: 083-543
Account Number: 45-782-9206

Child Safety: Through our policies and practices, we protect the right of children to feel safe and to be safe. We promote the well-being and inclusion of all children. For more information, contact the parish office and look for the Child Safety Officer Mel Slattery.

PARISH CALENDAR

24th December:	6.00pm Christmas Family Mass at St Mary's School 10.00pm Christmas Eve Mass in the Church
25th December:	9.30am Christmas Day Mass
1st January:	9.30am Mass
2nd January:	11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1st Friday Mass
25th December and 1st January the Office will be closed.	

As we approach the Christmas season, St Mary's Primary school community would like to extend their wishes for a blessed, safe and happy Christmas to you and your loved ones.

This time of year invites us to reflect on the gift of family, the blessings we share, and the hope that the birth of Jesus brings to our lives.

Christmas is a special opportunity to gather with those we cherish, to celebrate faith, and to embrace the spirit of giving and kindness. May your homes be filled with laughter, warmth, and the love of Christ.

We are deeply grateful to the Parish and parishioners for your ongoing support, partnership, and trust throughout the school year. Your engagement in our school community helps foster an environment where faith, learning, and compassion thrive.

Thank you. We look forward to continuing to nurture and grow our connections throughout the new school year. May God bless you.



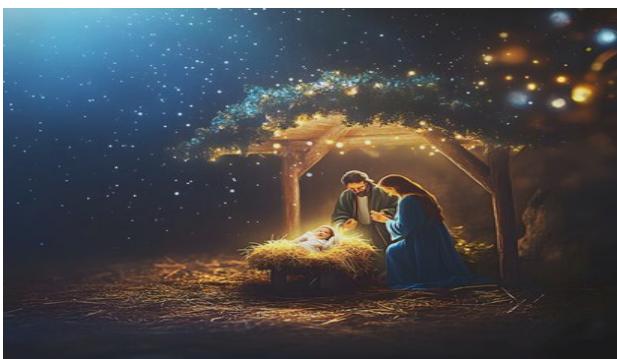
Thank you...

The St. Mary's Parish community extends its sincere thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to prepare our Christmas Masses. From the organising committee of the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass, to those involved in the 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and the Christmas Day Mass, your dedication and teamwork are deeply appreciated.

Gratitude is also extended to the liturgy team, music ministry, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and all volunteers whose time and commitment helped make our Christmas celebrations prayerful, joyful, and meaningful for the parish community.

The community would also like to thank St. Mary's Primary School for generously allowing the use of the school facilities for the Christmas Family Mass, making it possible for families and children to gather and celebrate together.

Thank you to everyone for your faith, service, and generosity. Your contributions have helped make this Christmas truly special for St. Mary's Parish.



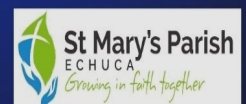
Christmas Masses 2025

24th December - Wednesday
Christmas Family Mass 6pm
(St. Mary's Primary School)

Christmas Eve - Church
Carols - 9:45pm
Mass - 10pm

25th December - Thursday
Christmas Day - Church
Carols - 9:15am
Mass - 9:30am

EMMANUEL
God with us
MATTHEW 1:23



CARITAS AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas



Caritas is inviting Australians to “be a light in the darkness” for families living through the trauma of war, displacement, poverty and natural disaster. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. The people of the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are devastated by typhoons and floods. With your support, we can bring hope to these families. Caritas is on the ground working hard to support people on the ground.

As a practical way for us to be Lights of Hope, the theme for St Mary’s Christmas Eve Family Mass 2025 is the Light of Hope in the Darkness.

Our Christmas Mass collections will support these Caritas appeals but to bring hope immediately, you can donate today via QR code or at www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/ or www.caritas.org.au/asia-storms or call 1800 024 413

Christmas Masses Roster

24th December 2025 (6pm)

Altar Servers: Georgie and Macy
Commentator: Lauren Gould
1st Reader: Alfie Lloyd
2nd Reader: Renee Gould
Lighting of Christ Candle: Cavallaro Family
Offertory Procession: Campbell Family
Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Stewart, Bec Lloyd, Kristy Serpell, Terrina Phelan, Sarah Byrne, Tim Campbell, Tharaka De Silva, Tania Dixon.
Music: Julian Acquisto, Kate McLindon



24th December 2025 (10pm)

Commentator: Chris Lee
1st Reader: Abilian Liwanag
2nd Reader: Rose Quinn
Lighting of Christ Candle:
Offertory Procession: Karunanayake Family
Eucharistic Ministers:
Set Up for Mass: Rose Quinn
Collectors:
Clicking of screens: Kajini Karunanayake
Music: Natasha Music Group and Children’s Choir

25th December 2025 (9:30am)

Commentator: Julie Moyle
1st Reader: Judi O’Farrell
2nd Reader: Kenneth Uzoh
Lighting of Christ Candle: Padilla family
Offertory Procession: Purdon family
Eucharistic Ministers: Matt Butler
Adrian Costello
Set Up for Mass: Julie Moyle
Collectors: John Moyle to find
Clicking of screens: Mozy Alves de Jesus
Music: Music Group

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Patricia Vogelee, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Murray Perrett, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Maureen McKenner, Lenny Reid, Alistair Corman, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Meaghan Broom (Byrne), Maurice O’Connor, Antonia Molluso, Carmel Murphy, Judy Cooling (Dwyer), Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Pat & Margaret McMahon

Anniversaries: Agostino Colturi, Sr Mary O’Brien CSB, Antonio Lucic and William, Clara Roberts, Howard Clark, Bishop Joe Grech, Carmel Cannard, Barry McIntyre, Teresa Pavone, Mele Clifford and Monica Murname.

Recently Deceased:

***If you have an addition to our overall prayer list or require someone to be removed from our sick list please email admin.*

First Reading*First Reading - Isaiah 9: 1-7***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**Second Reading***Titus 2:11-14***A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel*Luke 2:1-14***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken.

This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.