



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

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St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala

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Parish Priest – Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS



Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve/Day) ~ Cycle A

24/25 December 2025

A Christmas Message ...

Hello, my name is Brian Boyle, I'm the Administrator of the Sandhurst Diocese, in the period in which we were waiting for the appointment of our new bishop, and I'd like to offer this reflection for Christmas 2025. Recently, I had the good fortune to be in Spain again, on annual holidays. This was my third visit to Spain, and probably, my last visit. I went in through Barcelona, the great city in Catalonia in the north of Spain, and I particularly went there to see the Church of **Sagrada Familia**, or what we would call the 'Holy Family'.

I first saw the Church about 25 years ago, and this was the third time I've been back. So, it was wonderful to see the progress that has been made on the building of this Church during this time. The Church is the work of the great Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi; and in fact, most of Barcelona has many of the projects and architectural works of Gaudi in the city, but **Sagrada Familia** would have to be his masterpiece. It was begun in the 1890s, and by the time that Gaudí himself died in 1926 – in rather tragic circumstances – only part of the Church had been completed.

But now, nearly 100 years after Gaudi's death. They are getting very close to completing his masterpiece in Barcelona. If you go into the church, you would imagine it would look like most other churches, but it does not. Instead of pillars, there are what look like trees, and you have this sense of entering an enormous sacred forest, full of all these icons and images that he's put there. I'm sure that, in time, once it's completed, **Sagrada Familia** will take its place with many of the other great Christian churches of the world; places like **Hagia Sophia** in Istanbul, or St Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Church invites you to see things that are familiar, statues, crucifixes, representations, divine images, all of which we are familiar with, but the way in which Gaudi presents these, and arranges these, and even depicts these, is really very different and very unique. It's an exquisite feast of the human senses and an exquisite feast of the human imagination. The Church takes as its theme – like most Christian churches – Incarnation; God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus himself. So, the eastern door is called the 'Nativity' door, and all the statues depict the event of Jesus' birth. The western door on the other side of the Church is called the 'Death' door, it represents the crucifixion and death of Jesus and his resurrection.

Interestingly, the chief engineer in charge of the final section of the building of **Sagrada Familia** is an Australian. He's been working on the project for several decades and, bit by bit, he's worked his way up through the hierarchy to become now the chief engineer of the final part of **Sagrada Familia**, begun well over a hundred years ago.

He was in Melbourne about ten years ago and gave a talk at RMIT on the building of SG and many people, like me, went along to hear what he had to say. It was a most engrossing and fascinating talk. After he finished, he invited questions. And of course, one of the people in the room asked the question which represented the elephant in the room. She got up and said, "Why are you building a Church when people don't believe in God anymore?" And immediately, with respect but obviously with great conviction, he said to her: "Oh, Madam, we don't build for the present, we build for the future. And even if this century is one of disbelief, it doesn't mean the next century is going to be the same." In other words, he saw the **Sagrada Familia** as a great monument of faith in this present age; an age when people are very indifferent to religious values, when the Divine is banished from the market square and religion and faith have very little opportunity to present what they want in the public square itself.

Again, this year, 2025, dear friends, we focus on the Christ Child, depicted in this crib in Sacred Heart Cathedral, depicted in many other churches in the same way. We see again the poverty, the obscurity in which this child was born, a fringe dweller greeted by outsiders like shepherds, deliberately identifying with the poor of the world.

The child comes again, this year 2025, into a fractured and violent world. Again, with his message of hope, of love, and of healing.

The story of the birth of Jesus is the story that love always wins out, despite evidence to the contrary. That light will ultimately triumph over darkness. God does not give up on us.

Let us return again to the church of **Sagrada Familia** in Barcelona. Anywhere you stand in Barcelona, you can see the church on the skyline. It's quite an impressive monument; it's a symbol of the constant presence of the divine in this great city of Barcelona, a symbol that God continues to dwell among us as one of us, born again in the Christ Child 2025.

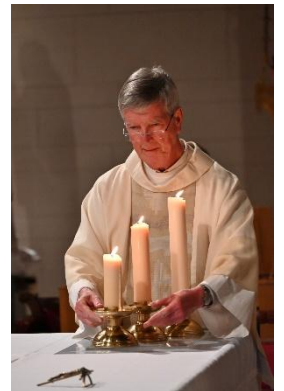
So dear friends, I wish all of you, your families, and your friends, a most blessed and peaceful Christmas 2025.

Thank you.

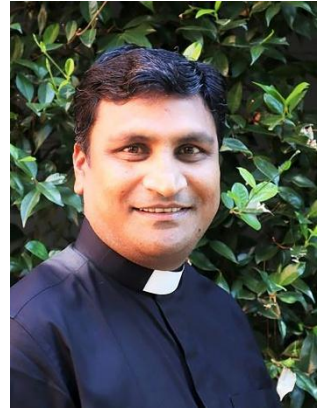
Brian

Very Rev. Dr Brian Boyle

Administrator, Diocese of Sandhurst



Christmas Message 2025



“Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” [Luke 2:15]

Each one of us has a ‘Bethlehem’ story, the place or moment where Jesus is so real and alive for us. This is our own Christmas story, our own Bethlehem.

But what does Christmas mean to us? To know this is to find our own Bethlehem.

For some, it is writing and sending Christmas cards and messages out to their loved ones. For some, it means Christmas shopping for parties and for presents. While for others, it is enjoying time with family and friends at Christmas dinners.

But Christmas is not just about giving a space in our minds and hearts for our brothers and sisters.

It is first and foremost giving a space to someone who makes us brothers and sisters in the first place- Jesus Christ, the reason for this season.

For the shepherds in the nativity story, it is not just listening to ‘the news of great joy’ but going out to see for themselves this wonderful news.

For the wise men from the East, it is not just to remain pondering on the beauty of the stars, but going out to seek the newborn king of the Jews to pay him rightful homage.

For Joseph, it is not just a dream. He has to get up and work to make that dream a reality.

For Mary, it is receiving the divine message with humility, being obedient to God’s will and treasuring these things in her heart.

In other words, Christmas is looking up to Christ.

Furthermore, Christmas is celebrating Christ not just as Emmanuel (God-with-us), but as God-within-us.

So, Christmas is also doing something for Christ and on behalf of Christ for others.

If Christ is God-within-us, we are to be God’s presence and present to one another.

As a present to one another, what kind of present are we? Are we a present that is worth treasuring in somebody’s heart?

As a Christmas message to one another, what message would we bring? Is it a message of joy, peace, hope, love?

Christmas is also a time of thanksgiving to God. Let us thank God for his amazing gift for us, the gift that never loses its value and significance to us- his only Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

As a way of gratitude to God, let us think of the many figures of the newborn Christ around us today. He is present in the last, the least and the lost. We need to be Christ-in-action for them.

As Mary and Joseph struggled to find an inn, there are many today who are homeless, because of the lack of affordable housing, or because of natural disasters, like floods, fire, earthquake, or those in war-torn countries.

Let us support them with our prayers and in any way we can.

Like the child in the manger who is helpless, vulnerable and voiceless, there are many of our brothers and sisters who need our help, who need our personal care in their vulnerabilities and who need us to speak on their behalf, for they are not being heard or their voice is considered unimportant. Let us stay with Jesus for he knows so well the language of the helpless, the needy and the poor.

Finally, let us pray for ourselves that during this Christmas, we may find our true Bethlehem, by experiencing God’s personal care and love for us, by ourselves- being the presence of Christ and present that brings peace, joy, hope and love to others, especially to those in need.

Thanks to all of you in the parish who together journeyed and helped us get through another year in our Christian journey towards our eternal Bethlehem.

I wish you all a blessed and a Solemn Christmas celebration.

And may we look back the past year with gratitude, celebrate the new year with joy and enthusiasm and look to the future with hope and optimism. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026 ONE AND ALL!**

Fr. Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

"I pray that each of you, and your families, may experience a blessed Advent in preparation for the coming of the newborn Jesus, Son of God and Savior of the world," Pope Leo said.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Noreen Gallardo, Shane Boyd, Millie Perry, Matt Carver, Olive McElroy, Frances Corso, Philip Bowman, Kady Mitchell-Treacy.

Recently Deceased: Maxine S. Villegas.

Anniversaries: Guiseppina Quattrochhi. Teresa Cosgriff, Dudley Cosgriff Joy Shortis, Felisa Baric, Thomas Bourke.

(Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)

ROSTERS

Saturday 27 December at 6pm

Commentator – M Tesoro

Lector – C Anderson

Special Minister – A O'Meara

Sunday 28 December 8.30am

Commentator – R Chapman

Lector – L Sorbello

Special Minister – M DiPetta

Sunday 4 January 8.30am

Commentator – J Chant

Lector – N Watt

Special Minister – A Brunt

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

PARISH SECRETARY

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

PARISH PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

PRINCIPALS

St Augustine's College –

Tim Campbell – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary –

Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

MASS TIMES

KYABRAM

Week Day: Tuesday Rosary 4pm, Mass 4.15pm & Thursday 9.15am

Saturday: 2nd and 4th weekend of month: 6pm EDT (5pm EST)

Sunday: 8.30am

TONGALA: First Sunday of month 11.30am

MERRIGUM: Third Sunday of month 12 noon

RECONCILIATION - Second Saturday of month at 5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Augustine's Church.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM FR UDAY

Fr Uday wishes all parishioners a grace filled Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2025. May God bless and fill our families with His love and graces.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Kyabram Catholic Parish would like to wish all parishioners, teachers, staff and students a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and safe New Year and an enjoyable break over the school holidays.

ST VINNIES LEAVING COLLECTION

A leaving collection for St Vinnies will be taken up at all Christmas Masses.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Travelling over Christmas? Check Christmas Mass times for parishes of the Diocese on our website.

www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We wish all the teachers, staff, students and families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable break over the school holidays. Office hours will be limited over the school and public holidays so please contact the office with any bulletin notices or anniversary names well in advance.

GLUTEN FREE

Please note that gluten free hosts are available to parishioners who are gluten intolerant. Please see the sacristans Annette or Marg or Fr before Mass. For further queries contact Mary at the parish office 5852 1026.

MONTHLY WORKING BEE

The next working bee will be Saturday 3rd January at 9.30am.

MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Wed 24th December – 8pm Mass after 7.30pm Carols

Thu 25th December – 8.30am Christmas Mass

Sat 27th December - 6pm Mass

Sun 28th December - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 30th December - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Liturgy

Thu 1st January - No Mass

Sun 4th January - 8.30am Mass

Sun 4th January - 11.30am Mass Tongala

Weekly Masses

Tue 6th January - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 8th January - No Mass

Sat 10th January – 6pm Mass

DAY MASS

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful on the mountains, / are the feet of one who brings good news, / who heralds peace, brings happiness, / proclaims salvation, / and tells Zion, / 'Your God is king!' / Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, / they shout for joy together, / for they see the Lord face to face, / as he returns to Zion. / Break into shouts of joy together, / you ruins of Jerusalem; / for the Lord is consoling his people, / redeeming Jerusalem. / The Lord bares his holy arm / in the sight of all the nations, / and all the ends of the earth shall see / the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97: 1-6, R. v. 3
R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. R.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation: / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. R.

A SERVICE OF THE

SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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GOSPEL

In 1:1-18
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man, but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, through the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**TODAY IS BORN
OUR SAVIOUR,
CHRIST THE LORD!**



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / A

THE SAVING WORD

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

MASS DURING THE NIGHT / DAY MASS

25 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2: 11

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

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

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

3. 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.

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

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2: 10-11

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

GOSPEL

Lk 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 turn 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.