

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"May the forgiving spirit of Him
to whom we dedicate this season
prevail again on earth.

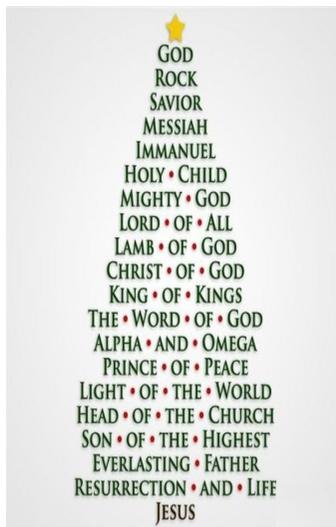
May hunger disappear
and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom,
worshipping as they see fit,
loving others.

May the sanctity of the home
be ever preserved.

May peace,
everlasting peace,
reign supreme."

Soundings, Vol. 2, # 12



We warmly invite you to our Weekend Masses.

Saturday - 6.00pm - St. Joseph's Church

Sunday - 9.00am & 6.00pm - Our Lady of the Bay Church



***GROWING IN FAITH, INCLUSIVITY & OUTREACH,
THROUGH OPENNESS.***

Christmas Eve (Night)

First Reading: Is 9:1-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Christmas Day

First Reading: Is 52:7-10

Responsorial Psalm:

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading Heb:1:1-6

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn:1:1-5. 9-14

Communion Antiphon

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



Parish Priests
Fr Jaybee Bonghanoy MSP
Presbytery:
97512515

Deacons
Barry Cruickshank 0409 116 809
Greg Dudley 9754 8665

We extend a very warm welcome to all who have joined us for our Christmas Masses. Whether you are a visitor to our Parish, a new arrival in our Community or a long term resident, we are delighted you are with us.

(If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit or call the parish office. We reopen on Friday and look forward to meeting you.)

We wholeheartedly thank the many parishioners who give of their time and talent to the various committees, activities and celebrations in our Parish. You are the heartbeat of our Parish, the Light of Christ to all you visit in the homes, hospitals and hospice; you help make our Liturgies faith-filled celebrations and most importantly are there for one another in our many joys and sorrows. Thank you!



*Wishing all our parishioners
and visitors
every blessing for Christmas
and the New Year!
From the Parish Team*

Message to the Parish from Fr Mario Debattista OFM

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS who minister in the Holy Land and the people whom they serve thank you for your prayerful support and for your generosity.

The friars wish you the love and peace of Jesus Christ at Christmas and God's blessing throughout the year.

The Holy Land Friars remember their benefactors and friends in Christmas Masses at Bethlehem.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

CANDY MAKER'S WITNESS Anonymous

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white hard candy. White to symbolise the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolise the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Saviour. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the Cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane—a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear."

May this symbol again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus and his great love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominate force in the universe today.



The Magi – or three wise men – travelled far distances and made great sacrifices to bring gifts to Jesus. This year, before you pack away your nativity set, select one of the wise men bearing his gift for Jesus and set this statue in a place that you will see every day – maybe on your desk, your dresser or your kitchen counter. When you see this gift bearer let it be a reminder to ask Jesus what gifts He would like you to give for Him each day throughout the year.

And if someone asks why you still have a Christmas decoration out, you can simply say that this little statue is reminding you to be more generous.