

**25 December 2022
Christmas Day**

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us,
and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power
rests upon his
shoulder, and his name
will be called
Messenger of great
counsel.

First Reading

from the prophet
Isaiah 52:7-10

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

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

Second Reading from
the letter to the
Hebrews 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!

Holy Gospel according
to John 1:1-18

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the
earth have seen the
salvation of our God

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

Christmas Greetings

An extract from Bishop Brian's Christmas message:

Jesus—born in a manger—tells us that, “A God who became so small could only be mercy and love” (St Therese of Lisieux). Jesus, truly God and truly man, became one of us so that we might be drawn into the very life of God (cf. St Irenaeus, Adv. haeres III, 19, 1). Jesus, born to die on the cross, is the saviour of the World (cf Jn 3:16).

But perhaps even more mysterious still, Jesus teaches us who we are. Indeed, this day is a great celebration because the incarnation, God becoming flesh, bears witness to the truth as St Pope John Paul II said in his Christmas Day message in 1978: “Every human being [is] somebody unique and unrepeatable... Somebody thought of and chosen from eternity, some[one] called and identified by their own name.” You are known and loved by God. Christmas is a testament to that fact.

Many people in our community, often beset by disconnection and isolation, question not only their situation, but their worth; their very existence. Christmas speaks to this pain. Christmas says to us: if God humbled himself to become one of us, how can you be “so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God?” (Peter Chrysologus,).

So today, let us allow Christmas to speak to our hearts the truth of who Jesus is and who we are. In Jesus, we see God's glory and the dignity of humanity. We see the gift of God with us—Emmanuel.

Bishop Brian Mascord

To all who are part of the OLMC family, I wish you, and all your loved ones, the blessings and joy of this festive season.

May we continue to flourish in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas to you all

Fr Shane



Contact us

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Mass times

Sunday Mass times

Weekday Mass times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am

Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm

Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm

Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online: for all of the online Mass options-
please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

**ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries: every Saturday
at 9:30-10:30am.**

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Kevin Cloran, Robert Yap, Les Portikiewicz, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Norly Tuyor, Lydia Fajardo, Lily Pereira, Marita Waugh, Danilo Mercado, John McDermott,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Angelito Bateria, Guiseppe Cuomo, Angela Tomarchio .

For special intentions: Isidoro Alconaba

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

Bulletin Notices

Fundraising News:The fundraising team is selling raffle tickets after Mass during December. The prizes will be for some hampers. Tickets will cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The raffle will be drawn after the pageant on Christmas eve.

The Family Fun Night that was postponed in October will be held on Saturday 11 February 2023 at 7pm in the parish hall. Tickets will be available for purchase during January and all those who purchased tickets previously will be contacted to confirm they are able to attend the new date.

Summer School of Evangelisation—8-15 January 2023: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre: Summer school is a week long, live in life changing retreat featuring live music, incredible worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill and learn...and more... in the midst of a community of 150+ young people age 16-35. Register by 15 December to receive early bird registration. More info & bookings at summerschool.org.au.

The Journey, 25 December Weekly Podcast: Fr Fr Rob Galeas' Gospel reflection on contemplating the Bethlehem crib scene. Mother Hilda says follow St Joseph's way when dealing with life's pains. Plus, extra Christmas season reflections from Fr Sean Cullen and Ken Bryant.

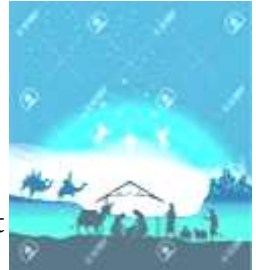
The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.



Holy Gospel according to John 1:1-18

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

Mary 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. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.



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. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Gospel Reflection by Diane Bergant

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.