

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.

29 December 2024
The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, Joseph



Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading from the letter to the Colossians 3:12-21

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:41-52

GOSPEL : Luke 2: 41-52

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual.



When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord

Pope launches 2025 Jubilee Year with opening of Holy Door

In the quiet of Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, launching what he called a "Jubilee of Hope." As the doors opened, the bells of the basilica began to peal.

After the reading of a brief passage from the Gospel of John in which Jesus describes himself as "the door," Pope Francis briefly left the atrium of the basilica. Three minutes later, the pope returned. He was pushed in his wheelchair up the ramp to the Holy Door. In silence, he raised himself from the chair to knock five times, and aides inside slowly opened the door, which had been framed in a garland of green pine branches, decorated with red roses and gold pinecones.

Opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica has been a fixture of the Catholic Church's celebration of jubilee years since the Holy Year 1450, the Vatican said. Pope Francis chose "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for the Holy Year 2025, which began Dec. 24 and will run through Jan. 6, 2026.

The rite of opening the decorated bronze door began inside the basilica with the reading in different languages of biblical passages prophesying the birth of the saviour "who brings his kingdom of peace into our world," as the lector explained. Then, to emphasize how the birth of Jesus "proclaims the dawn of hope in our world," the Gospel of St. Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus was proclaimed.

Introduced with a blare of trumpets, the choir sang, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." "The steps we now take are the steps of the whole church, a pilgrim in the world and a witness of peace," the pope told the assembled cardinals, bishops, ecumenical guests and lay faithful in the atrium of the basilica.

"Holding fast to Christ, the rock of our salvation, enlightened by his word and renewed by his grace," the pope continued, "may we cross the threshold of this holy temple and so enter into a season of mercy and forgiveness in which every man and woman may encounter and embrace the path of hope, which does not disappoint."

Echoing the biblical jubilee themes of reconciliation and forgiveness, Pope Francis prayed that the Holy Spirit would soften hardened hearts so that "enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries may join hands and people seek to meet together."

"Grant that the church may bear faithful witness to your love and may shine forth as a vital sign of the blessed hope of your kingdom," he prayed.

Normally the Holy Door, to the right of the basilica's center doors, remains sealed with bricks, a symbolic reminder of the barrier of sin between people and God.



The 16 panels on the bronze doors illustrate key moments in salvation history, including the fall of Adam & Eve, the annunciation of Jesus' birth, Christ presented as the shepherd rescuing a lost sheep, the crucifixion and the risen Jesus appearing to the disciples.

Ten children from 10 different countries, holding hands with their parents, crossed the threshold after the pope and the altar servers, but before the cardinals and bishops. Then 54 people from 27 nations -- including the United States and Canada, Australia, Tanzania and Togo, Venezuela and Vietnam -- passed through. Many of them wore the traditional dress of their nations or ethnic groups.

Following the rite, Francis celebrated a 7:30 Christmas Eve vigil Mass inside St. Peter's Basilica. The Vatican press office said 6,000 people were inside and, as the pope opened the Holy Door, some 25,000 people were in the square. Dozens of priests went outside to distribute Communion to them during the Mass.

"The infinitely great has made himself tiny; divine light has shone amid the darkness of our world; the glory of heaven has appeared on earth -- how? -- as a little child," the pope said in his homily at the Mass. "If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive, and it embraces our lives forever! Hope does not disappoint."

Adding to his prepared text, the pope told people, "There is much desolation in the world right now. Think of the wars, of the children gunned down, of the bombs falling on schools and hospitals," references that he has applied to both Russia's war on Ukraine and Israel's actions in Gaza.

Hope is not indifferent but requires courage, he said. It means not being afraid to "speak out against evil and the injustices perpetrated at the expense of the poor."

Christian hope, "while inviting us to wait patiently for the kingdom to grow and spread," he said, "also requires of us, even now, to be bold in our anticipation of the fulfillment of the Lord's promise, to be responsible and not only, but to be compassionate."

"Tonight, God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you," the pope said in his homily. To receive that gift of hope, all that is needed is to set out, like the shepherds of Bethlehem did, to meet Jesus.


"For Christians hope is not a 'happy ending' which we passively await -- it's not the happy ending of a film -- but rather, a promise, the Lord's promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs," Pope Francis said.

The offer of hope requires a response, he said. God asks people not to "wallow in mediocrity or laziness," but to notice when things are wrong and try to change them.

"Hope calls us to become pilgrims in search of truth, dreamers who never tire, women and men open to being challenged by God's dream, which is the dream of a new world where peace and justice reign," Pope Francis said.

The Holy Year, he said, "calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation: A jubilee for our mother Earth, disfigured by profiteering; a time of jubilee for the poorer countries burdened beneath unfair debts; a time of jubilee for all those who are in bondage to forms of slavery old and new."

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat: Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30—10.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am		Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass: First Sat at 9am	Reconciliation: Sat 11am

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnappalam, Peter Presdee, Matthew Johnson, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart. Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika,
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed:

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young; Resse Mangalabnan
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Contact Us

Office Hours: **Tuesday-Friday**
 9.30am-12.30pm
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Parish Priest:
 Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

 Parish Associate:
 Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Please Note: The Parish office is closed and will re-open on Tuesday 7 January 2025.
 If you need to contact Fr Shane during this time please call 0434 705 176.

