



# Historic Parish of St Augustine, Yass

Established: 1838

Bowning, Breadalbane, Dalton, Gunning, Gurrundah, Murrumbateman, Wee Jasper and Yass

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## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – YEAR A

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019



### MASS DURING THE NIGHT

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

### MASS DURING THE DAY

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

#### 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!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This will be a difficult Christmas for many this year, as animals need to be fed and dams start to empty. There are those confronted by fire, many having lost homes and the thousands of exhausted men and women fighting the fires and grieving at the deaths of those they work with. For others, Christmas can be a lonely time.

No matter what our given circumstances, every single human being is invited to share in the hope, peace and love of a God who comes to save us. Too many will miss the true spirit of Christmas without encountering the greatest gift humanity has been offered, Jesus the Saviour. One of the greatest problems today is the pride and arrogance of people, unable to embrace in faith, the Way, the Truth and the Life, through lack of poverty of spirit.

Faith is the precious gift which bridges the gap between heaven and earth. Pray for the gift of faith and pray for those who have lost or neglected the gift.

As this will be my last Christmas serving this communion of communities, I express gratitude for the wonderful people I have been called to serve. It is important a younger priest with greater energy take my place. God hasn't finished with me yet and I am acutely aware of my human frailty and ask forgiveness for those I have hurt in any way.

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas,

*Mick Burke*



### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer on Christmas Day. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts--a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal.

We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth.

We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people.

May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth.

We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ.

Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts*



Catholic Archdiocese of  
Canberra and Goulburn

## Christmas Message December 2019

The Christmas Season gives us a great opportunity to reflect more deeply on the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ in the humble manger in Bethlehem.

Like all newly born babies, Jesus is totally defenceless. By defenceless I mean that he is totally dependent on his parents. Mary and Joseph look after him in every way as any loving and caring parents would for their new born babe.

At the end of the life of Jesus we find Him again being totally defenceless on the Calvary Cross. Now as an adult, taking the sins of the world on Himself, he goes from the wooden manger to the wooden cross and is totally dependent on God, our Heavenly Father, to raise him up at the Resurrection.

Also, during the life of Jesus, from birth to death, he is often heard expressing his total dependence on his Heavenly Father, who He calls "Abba."

Let us unite with the defencelessness of Jesus at this Christmas time. Let us therefore become totally dependent, like the new born babe Jesus, on the Lord while facing the challenges of our daily life.

We become defenceless when we listen really carefully to others rather than talking. As we gather with our family and friends over Christmas time, let us be conscious of listening and building bridges by becoming vulnerable and defenceless in the face of everyday family challenges.

At the same time, many of those on the periphery of life find they are totally defenceless regarding their need of the basic necessities of life, things you and I take for granted at Christmas time. Let us be extra sensitive to their needs.

Happy Christmas to you all and may God bless you and your families.

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn  
December 2019*

## ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2019 is conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

This year, the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will be used to support:

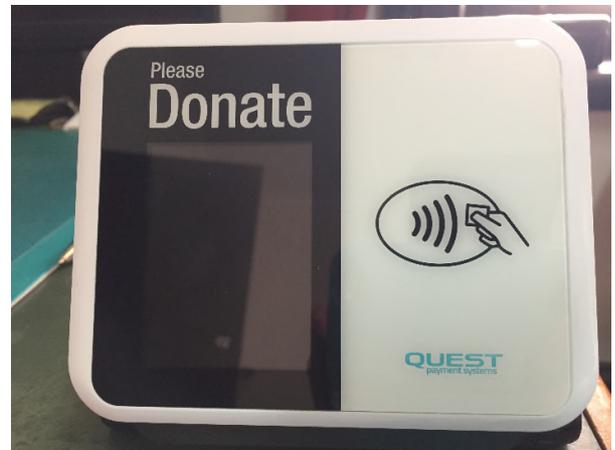
- Our support will continue for the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in bringing hope and opportunity to those in need in Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Jordan, Sri Lanka and Tonga.
- Contributions will be made to support Diocesan projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria.
- Other international endeavours will include support towards: Enabling the rebuilding of houses in the flood affected communities of Kozhikode and Malappuram within Thamarassery Diocese, India; Projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India; And further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.
- Assistance will also be given to Bush Fire affected Dioceses in Northern NSW towards their recovery endeavours.

An article with detail on this year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal is also in the December edition of the Catholic Voice.

## Boas festa do natal no ksolok tinan Foun



*These are some of the people who work for Yass/Gunning Belun in Timor Leste, at our office in Tasitulo, Dili.*



We have on trial a 'tap and go' eftpos machine, set for our Church Working Account at ten dollars. The Church Working Account is for ongoing maintenance, salaries of office staff, insurance and utilities. About 90 percent of transactions are now payed by credit card and many people no longer use cash.

If you want to contribute more than ten dollars, you will need to tap again to arrive at the amount you want to give.

The Christian has a deep, silent, hidden peace which the world sees not....The Christian is cheerful, easy, kind, gentle, courteous, candid, unassuming, has no pretence....

*John Henry Newman*