



The Nativity of The Lord  
Christmas Day  
25 December 2020



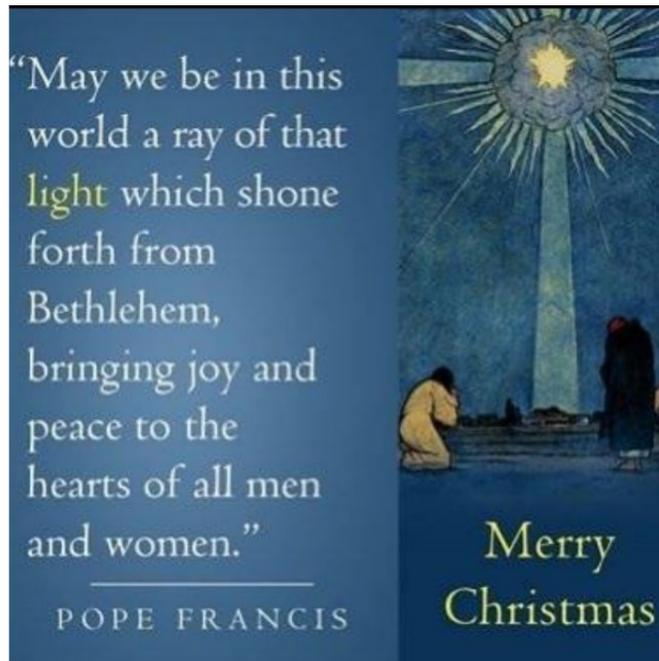
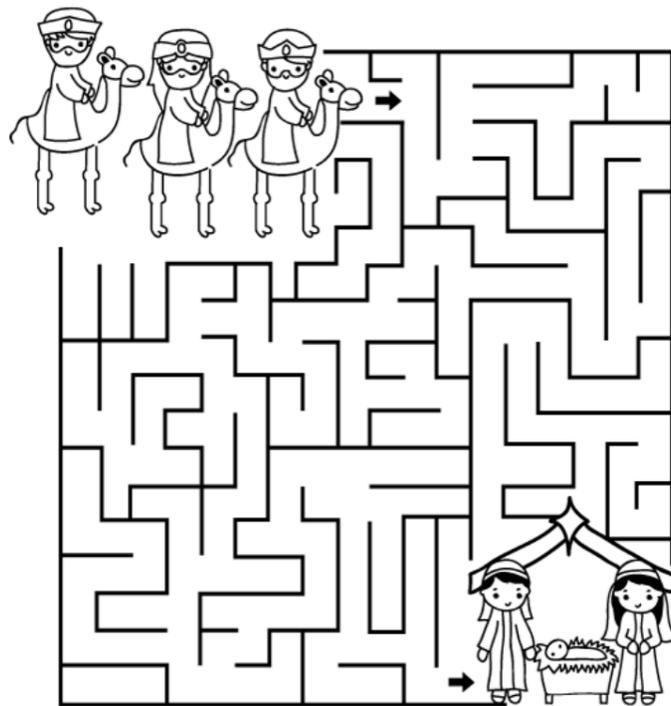
### Nativity Word Scramble

1. STRA      -----
2. MAGREN    -----
3. MYAR      -----
4. SEPHE     -----
5. DOEYKN   -----
6. AEGLN     -----
7. JPHOES    -----
8. JSSEU     -----
9. KIGSN     -----
10. STBALE   -----

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?



Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

“Still a wonderful place to pray & stay.”

**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran

**Parish Team:** Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Issanchon Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall

**Pastoral Care C-Ordinator of Sick and Elderly**  
Mrs Bathista Emmanuel

**Sacrament & Youth Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall

**Parish Church** 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147

**Office Hours Monday-Friday:** 9.00 - 3.00pm

**Postal Address:** PO Box 944, Seven Hills 1730

**Telephone:** 9622 2920

**Parish Website:** www.olol7hills.org.au

**Parish Office Email:** secretary@olol7hills.org.au

**Youth Group Email:** youthholol7h@gmail.com



## Christmas Year B 24th & 25th December, 2020

**WEEKEND MASS** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
Sunday 8am & 9.30am

**RECONCILIATION** Saturday 4.30-5.30pm

**WEEKDAY MASS** Tues - Fri, 8.00am

**PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

**SERVICE** Monday & Saturday 8am

**MARRIAGES**

Please contact Parish Office  
6 months prior to the wedding

**BAPTISMAL  
PREPARATION**

**20 January 7.30pm**  
Baptisms 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am

### Christmas Eve 6.00pm, 9.00pm

**READINGS**

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matt 1:18-25

*The Lord takes delight in you.*

*Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David*

*A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.*

**RESPONSE TO PSALM:** *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** **Alleluia, Alleluia!** Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. **Alleluia!**

**COMMUNION VERSE:** *The glory of the Lord will be revealed and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.*



WE WISH OUR PARISH COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES A VERY HOLY CHRISTMAS AND OUR PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS REMAIN WITH YOU OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS



## Christmas Midnight Mass

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

*A son is given to us*

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

*God's grace has been revealed to all people*

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

*Today a saviour has been born for you*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

**RESPONSE TO PSALM:** *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!

**COMMUNION VERSE:** *The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.*

**COMMUNION VERSE:** *Rejoice, O Daughter Zion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.*

## Christmas Day 8.00am, 9.30am

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

Gospel: John 1:1-18

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

**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.*

**RESPONSE TO PSALM:** *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!

**COMMUNION VERSE:** *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*



## Let us Pray for the Sick

Chula Abey, Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, John Bourke, Lina Cabaero, Barrie Chamberlain, Gabriel Chung, Myrna G Cruz, Paul Daniel, Lola Doyle, Ronald Gomez, Milroy Gunewardena, Anthony Janicska, Wendy & Klaus, Anslan Lawrence, Angelina Lee, Spencer Leon, Carmenu M, Gerard Marcello, Maria V, Mark McGilligan, Mary Mifsud, Blago Milicevic, Laurel Morris, Anna Mun, Patricia Oreo, Lekisha Grace Panlilio, Roger & Kimberley Payoe, Wiranjan Peiris, Salome Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Susantha Seranayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Rose Stambouliah, Denis Symon, Lourdes Tibig, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner that is unwell please contact Father Henry or the Parish Office on 9622 2920

## Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Philomena Corera, Therese Do, Marissa Gantuangco, Mary Grech, Garetan Motha, Lee Francis Pisch, Stephen Pisch, Gladys Pitel, Bungon Sangchalouy, Verna Soris.

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, Lionel Bosen, Cini Family, Leon & Mireille D'mmerez, Ivan Elisher, John Falzon, MA Fernando, Teodoro Garcia, Barbara Loria, Mangion family, Pauline Meilak, Cecilia Dagvit Mendoza, Thelma Morrissey, Anton Motha, Paula Mula, Stephen & Louis Mula, Aurora Nonato, Fr Bill O'Connor, Jesus Opulencia, Francis Paiva, Lakshman Perera, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Rohan Senanayake, Gabriel Singh, Tony Vassallo, Jim & Alison Vella.

**Remembrance:** Maria Almodavar, France Angseesing, Camen Attard, Sam & Saiviva Debattista, Bonosa, Nazario Ofelia & Dionisio Enfesta, Maria Fusco, Pauline Meilak, Lourda Motha, Mary and Muscat family, Roseline Ratnam.

*May their souls, and the souls of all the Faithful Departed, rest in peace. Amen*

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:** In using the Christmas offering envelopes we are offering financial support to the priests of our diocese. The money collected in the first collection goes to the Diocese of Parramatta for the support of the clergy, those active in fulltime Ministry, those who are experiencing sickness and those who are retired. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS

What a year for us to remember. Anyway, let us praise and thank God for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Christmas, knowing that a lot of people all over the world won't have the opportunity. May the child Jesus keep you and your families safe under his protection and confident in his love.. Have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year, Fr Henry.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and many blessings and a warm welcome for 2021. During January, the office hours will be reduced due to the holiday period. If you require assistance, please call 9622 2920 and leave a voicemail message. These messages are checked daily and we will endeavour to assist you as soon as possible. Thank You.

## The Origins of Christmas

The earliest known celebration of Christ's birth dates from the third century in Egypt. In the city of Rome, a feast of Christmas was celebrated on December 25 from at least the year 336. No one knows with certainty why the feast was celebrated when it was, but two main theories have been advanced. The first theory is that Christians place a celebration of Christmas in the same day as the pagan winter solstice celebration of "the unconquered sun". By asserting the Christian symbolism of Christ as the light of the world, the feast successfully competed with and eventually replaced its pagan predecessor. Another theory was built around a presumed convergence of redemption with the order of creation. The solstices and equinoxes of the solar year provided the bases for reconstruction the date of Jesus' birth. In this view, John the Baptist was conceived at the autumn equinox and born at the summer solstice. Because Luke 1:26 indicated that the conception of Jesus took place six months after that of John, Jesus must have been conceived at the spring equinox (March 25) and born on December 25. Neither of these theories settles the historical questions. We don't know the day on which Jesus was born. We don't know for certain why Christians in the west began to celebrate his birth on December 25 (Christians in the East celebrated it on January 6). In the sixth century, Dionysius Exiguus, a learned scholar, was engaged by Pope John I to determine the year of Jesus' birth. Using the best data at hand, Dionysius computed that Jesus was born 753 years after the founding of Rome. For various reasons, scholars today believe he fixed the date four to six years too late. The most devastating argument against Dionysius' reckoning concerns Herod the Great. The two stories of the birth of Jesus (from Matthew and Luke) do not agree on many details. Whenever the two do agree, the detail gains importance. One of those points of agreement is that Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great. Modern dating of Herod, though, places his death around 4 BC. That is why it is generally thought that Jesus was born, paradoxically in the period of time we call "before Christ". These efforts teach us the limits of our knowledge, but they also teach us that the celebration of Christmas is more about who Jesus is and what he means for us, than it is about the date when he was born. The effect of his birth on human history is undeniable. It is good to celebrate the beginning of the amazing story of his life on earth, no matter when that moment occurred. However, it would be good to us at all, were it not for our faith in his presence today, in our midst.

## Christmas Traditions

There is no proof that the 25th December is the actual Christmas Day. Christians in the fourth and fifth centuries took over a Roman custom of a party around the time of the winter solstice; in fact in different areas they picked different days: December 25, January 6, January 13. The important thing is not the actual date, but the wish to celebrate the fact of Christ's birth as a human person, like us in all things but sin.

**Cards** - They originated only in Victorian England, late last century as a way of exchanging greetings.

**The Christmas Tree** Again it is not even a Christian tradition. It is an adaptation of a Germanic custom of using lights on a pine tree, virtually the only tree left green and in leaf during the northern European winter. In our usage now, we decorate the tree to remind us Christ is the light of the world—the incarnation in the unbelievable mystery whereby the human race is given another chance to live in paradise where the tree of life is planted.

**Christmas Carols** These were originally medieval dances, but now they are so often the haunting reminder, so evocative of family memories and places. The carols were originally religious, now less so in the commercial ones, such as "White Christmas" "Rudolph," and "Jingle Bells" At least they urge us to reflect the first Christmas was a silent night, a holy night, and all the faithful do come to adore Christ the Lord.

**Christmas Presents** The customs of exchanging gifts traces its origins to the story of the Three Wise Men and their gifts. It is now so dangerously over-commercialized that we need to stop and reflect on what is the Gift that God has first given us: life and life in its fullness. Gifts are given now because the memory of Christ's birth becomes the mirror of the generosity of God in his gift of life to all creation.

**Decorations and Streamers** Whether in the family home or the shops, in the city square, the mall, the main street; these decorations are a public tribute that this is special. Rarely does public life acknowledge any religious sentiments, so it is one more way of saying Christmas is a unique time.

**The Crib** What began as a personal painting on the wall by St Francis of Assisi in his monastery of Greccio in Italy has become a loving tradition. It is the visual reminder, whether in simple figures or an elaborate reconstruction of a whole village complete with animals and village characters, the well that pumps water, and so on. It is a trigger to the memory of what happened and why it is important. The simple facts of Matthew and Luke are transformed into the reflections of John—that to all who believe in him, he has given the power to become the children of God because the Word was made flesh. God became human.

## BISHOP VINCENT'S 2020 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Bishop Vincent's 2020 Christmas message can be viewed online



**Bishop Vincent's 2020 Christmas Message (adults)** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLi8IZtSXdo>

**God's Plan for Mary (adults)** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGreLI-tBEM>

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**ADVENTures with Mum and Dad (children, young parents and families)** -- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHLfn\\_Sr1sU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHLfn_Sr1sU)

**Christmas Through the Eyes of Kindergarten (children and families)** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrXS7vUpl8A>

**Come All Ye Faithful (children, families and adults)** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9bV84OaQxU>