



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land our parish encompasses, the Awabakal and Darkinjung People, who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Uta France, John France, Mal Melvey, Pam Melvey, Kerry Lendon, Rod Hay.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

Rosanna Suckling, Maryanne Barry, Vimal Valiyaveetil, Bridget Voigt.

OUR CHURCHES:

St John Vianney Church

60 Yambo Street Morisset

St Patrick & St Brigid Church

6 Martinsville Road Cooranbong

PARISH OFFICE:

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/

(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE BULLETIN

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member please email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door.

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday 20th December 5pm

Mass—Morisset

Sunday 21st December 9.30am

Mass—Morisset

Tuesday 23rd December 9.30am

Mass—Morisset

Wednesday 24th December 6pm

Mass—Morisset Showground

Thursday 25th December 9.30am

Mass—Morisset

Saturday 27th December 5pm

Mass—Cooranbong

Sunday 28th December 9.30am

Mass—Morisset

Dear Parish Family,

Emmanuel ...God with us!

Last Sunday as we lit our third candle, the Rose candle symbolising joy, our Jewish brothers and sisters were lighting the first candle on the Menorah as they began the Feast of Hanukkah also known as the Festival of Lights. Hannukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem about two hundred years before the birth of Jesus. After a military victory, a miracle occurred where a single day's oil miraculously burned for eight days in the Temple.... hence the Menorah has eight candles. It is a joyful celebration usually for families to gather and to celebrate, somewhat like the Jewish version of Christmas! It's been a sad week after the tragic shooting at Bondi Beach. Having worked closely with Jewish communities in the hospital, I know the important meaning of this feast day. Jesus even celebrates it in John Gospel (10:22). Amongst the tragedy we also saw the bravery of many people. Rabbi Jeffrey, a friend who was supporting those wounded and their families, sent me this which was from one of his teachers. By Sunday, the last candle will be lit on the menorah, may it be a reminder of the light that brightens our darkest moments - God with us! As we gather this weekend, we keep in our prayers those who have died, those who are injured, those who took a brave stand and for those hurting at this time.

"For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world."

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks



In this final week of Advent, we light candle number four – representing love! God's love is about to be revealed. Isaiah our Advent prophet is again the focus of our first reading. War was on the horizon and Ahaz, the king asks Isaiah for a sign, whether he should ally with a neighbouring country and wipe out the hostile neighbour or not. Isaiah speaks to the sign that of a woman will be with child in the future and that this is a reminder not to give up hope that God is with us. But alas the king refuses to believe and Israel falls.

Our Gospel focuses on the birth of Jesus with the Advent figures of Mary and Joseph. Matthew when writing the Gospel wanted to go back to where it all began and highlight that both Mary and Joseph were followers of the Law of Moses. Mary shows this with her brave yes and the first thing we learn about Joseph is he focussed his life on living according to God's law. Have you ever thought about what would have happened if Joseph didn't say yes! Let's face it, Joseph probably had reservations about being the guardian of the Son of God – it's a pretty big ask! Maybe the thought of divorcing was because he thought someone else could do a better job? The dream was to change everything, assured that God is with us Joseph moved past his fears and embraced Mary, Jesus and the will of God. A great model for all during these times of uncertainty.

As we enter this fourth week of Advent, we build on the Advent themes that from hope, peace and joy grows love. What areas of my life need God's healing love the most? How can I bring love to others this Christmas? As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we find in each other and in Jesus Christ.

This week, many families will gather with us to celebrate Christmas. The Diocese has reminded us that the Christmas story is our invitation to reach out to others and to call our community gatherings – a place to call home. It is an opportune time to invite friends, families and neighbours to be part of our family. Many people will be humbled by your invitation. This is the start of a journey, and it begins with an invitation.... who will you invite?

Happy Advent everyone!

Fr Darryl PP

WELCOME

Welcome all visitors to our Parish of St John Vianney during the summer holiday season.

The Parish of St John Vianney Morisset, was officially formed in 1947, however our Mass center of St Patrick and St Brigid at Cooranbong, dates to the 1860's. The present Cooranbong Church celebrated its centenary in August 2006, and 150 years of Catholic presence in the area was celebrated in 2011. It is documented that Saint Mary McKillop visited Cooranbong where she had a convent school. Up until 1966 St John Vianney Parish was part of the Diocese of Sydney, but now it is part of the Diocese of Maitland / Newcastle, with Bishop Michael Kennedy as Bishop.

The 9.30am Mass at Morisset is recorded each Sunday and uploaded to the Parish Website and Facebook later in the day. This allows people in nursing facilities and those away from the parish for whatever reason, to keep 'in touch' with the parish.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

A mixture of the sacred and the secular characterizes the Christmas season today. Most people are comfortable with the situation, as Silent Night alternates with Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

In the 16th century, the Puritans in England came to power and outlawed, through Parliament, any observance of Christmas, under the pain of punishment. The Puritans then lost their political power, and the celebration of Christmas returned to England. Early Immigrants to America then took their Christmas traditions and attitudes with them. By the end of the 19th century, all states in America and Australia had granted legal recognition of Christmas Day.

VIOLENCE HAS NO PLACE.

Like many church communities and organisations around Australia, our parish also condemns last Sunday's shooting at a Jewish community Hanukkah celebration in Bondi. We stand with the Jewish community across Australia, with the people of Bondi, and with other churches, as they respond to this tragedy and continue the difficult work of building solidarity, care, and unity in its aftermath. Violence of this kind has no place in our society.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED-CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

The Parish Office will be closed during the Christmas/New Year period. It will close 2pm Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December 2025 and will reopen 9am Monday 5th January 2026

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.

Christmas Eve Morisset Showground. -Ourimbah St. (Turn at MacDonalds)

Refreshments 5pm.

Carols 5.30pm

Mass 6.pm

Christmas Day St John Vianney Church 60 Yambo St

Morisset

9.30am

CHRISTMAS EVE WORKING BEE

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help set up the Morisset Showground for our Christmas Eve Mass. A working bee to help arrange the chairs and stage etc will be held on Wednesday 24th December at 10am.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS 2026.

The Saturday Vigil Mass will be held each Saturday evening 5pm at Cooranbong commencing Saturday 3rd January 2026.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how people of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context.

Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

The 2026 W.D of Prayer will be hosted by SDA Memorial Church Cooranbong, Friday 6th March 2026. The Theme is *'I Will Give You Rest: Come'* Prepared by WDP Nigeria. More details as the date draws closer.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FUND (CCF) REPORT

2025 was a strong year for the CCF, delivering \$12.2 million to the Diocese and its agencies, including \$500,000 to parishes. Funding supported school expansions at Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, St Bede's Catholic College, Chisholm, St Michaels Primary School, Nelson Bay, and St James' Primary School, Kotara South.

The Fund also supported St Nicholas Early Education with the construction of two new centres at Kotara South and Forster, helping families access quality early learning environments that reflect the values of faith, care, and community. A major highlight included the establishment of the Bishop's Flood Appeal, contributing \$150,000 in local relief. Strong governance, compliance and capital growth position the Fund well as we move into 2026.



The tragic and targeted attack on the Jewish community at Bondi Beach, as they gathered to begin their celebrations of the religious festival of Hanukkah, has shocked and saddened us all. Such hatred and violence have no place in our community.

We stand in solidarity and support for all in the Jewish community. I call for all to pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters, for those killed, those injured and all those impacted by these traumatic events.

I give deep thanks to the brave first responders and our emergency services.

While we as Christians were lighting candles on our Advent wreaths and celebrating Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the Jewish community were lighting candles to begin their celebration of Hanukkah, an occasion that should have been a joyful gathering.

As we reflect at this time - a time when in the Christian community we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth, a birth into a Jewish family - I am reminded this was God's choice for his Son and God does not do things without good reason.

Together, we must live in mutual respect.

I know our leaders and governments will do all in their power at this difficult time to ensure that all Australians, and particularly Jewish Australians, can go about their daily lives without fear.

Let us pray together for peace: O God, creator of the world, who first revealed your love and salvation for humankind in and through the Jewish community, and who have revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Amen.

With every blessing.
Bishop Michael Kennedy



LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 21 DECEMBER 2025

Christmas, a season steeped in traditions and festivity, serves as a poignant example of communities coming together to look after the vulnerable. It's a time when the spirit of generosity and compassion takes centre stage, reminding us of our shared responsibility to safeguard those in need.

Charitable initiatives during the Christmas season play a pivotal role in addressing the vulnerabilities that many individuals and families face, specifically those who may be struggling financially or emotionally. The festive atmosphere becomes a backdrop for acts of kindness, highlighting the true essence of Christ's message to love one another.

In Australia, there are over 60,000 registered charities which support many causes such as health, education, environment, animal welfare, religion, culture, reconciliation, human rights and the vulnerable. Charity volunteers number over 500,000.

It is these volunteers who become the unsung heroes of the Christmas season, dedicating their time and effort to connect with the marginalised through a spirit that transcends cultural and religious boundaries.

Individuals, too, play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and support. Many take it upon themselves to reach out to neighbours, friends, or colleagues who may be experiencing hardship.

In a world that can sometimes feel divided, Christmas becomes a unifying force, a reminder that, regardless of our differences, we are all interconnected and responsible for each other's well-being. Through these collective efforts, Christmas becomes a beacon of hope, warmth, and inclusivity for all.

The Safeguarding Team extends best wishes to all parishioners and to our wider community for a happy and holy Christmas and reminds all to help and support where able.

LAKESIDE

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

Christmas Eve	5:30pm	St Mary's Warners Bay
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	St Joseph's Toronto
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	Morisset Showground
Christmas Eve	7:00pm	Our Lady Help Boolaroo
Christmas Day	8:00am	St Michael's Booragul
Christmas Day	9:00am	St Mary's Warners Bay
Christmas Day	9:00am	St Joseph's Toronto
Christmas Day	9:30am	St John Vianney Morisset

Thank you for your Support

Dear Parishioners,

We, the members of Morisset Conference of Vinnies, want to thank you most sincerely for your generosity in responding to our recent Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your gifts of cash and food, 25 families have been given a gift of a hamper plus some extra spending power for their families this Christmas.

SJV is a relatively small parish but the parishioners have very big hearts and you have assisted so many with a "hand up" this year. May you be blessed with peace and joy this Christmas and throughout all of 2026. Blessings and thanks. Vinnies members.

MISSION & EVANGELISATION 2025.-REVIEW.

The year 2025 began as Pilgrims of Hope, with more than 1,000 people including our parishioners, joining for the Jubilee pilgrimage from Nobby's to the Cathedral. Then local pilgrimage sacred sites were launched, including Cooranbong. Many people visited Cooranbong during the year.

The focus in 2026 will be on accompaniment and renewal.

Watch:
Bishop Michael Kennedy's
Christmas message.
Scan the QR code

PLACES TO CALL IF YOU NEED HELP

LIFELINE
13 11 14

BEYOND BLUE
1300 22 4636

1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732

HEADSPACE
1800 650 890

MINDSPOT
1800 61 44 34

KIDS HELPLINE
1800 55 1800

NATIONAL DEBT HELPLINE
1800 007 007

NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE
1800 020 080

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1st Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support the priest's monthly stipend, private health insurance and superannuation contribution. Please do so at Mass in the First Plate or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, or by Electronic Funds Transfer Bank Account Name: Morisset Parish Presbytery BSB: 066739 No: 100004062 Ref: SURNAME.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2nd Collection

If you would like to make contributions to support our parish operating costs. Please do so at Mass via the Second Plate, the Tap n Go machines or by Parish Electronic Funds Transfer the details are: Account Name: Morisset Parish Church BSB:066739 Account Number: 100004064 please use one of the following Payment References PG# + SURNAME or SURNAME you can also use the Online Payments or Planned Giving button on the Parish Website Home page. Receipts can only be provided to those who are registered for planned giving.

If you would like to contribute via Direct Debit for either or both collections contact the Parish Office.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

SAINT JOHN OF KANTY (OM) - 23RD DEC
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL (S) - 24TH DEC
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DAY (S) - 25TH DEC
SAINT STEPHEN (F) - 26TH DEC
SAINT JOHN (F) - 27TH DEC
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH (F) - 28TH DEC
SAINT THOMAS BECKET (OM) - 29TH DEC
SAINT SYLVESTER I (OM) - 31ST DEC
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (S) - 1ST JAN

Please pray for all those who are sick: in hospital or at home, especially those living with a life threatening disease:

Jackie Purnell, Miriam English, Jennene Mallett, June Gillett, Bill Fenton, Jayden Sanders, Zayne Peterson, Mary Maloney, Maureen Luxford, Steve McKay, Jackie Purnell, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, Peter Martyn, Bruce Gillett.

Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.



WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>MORISSET</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Melvey K Smith	H White H White
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France D Peterson	P Robertson J France
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon D Joyce	J Parkin L Hutchinson
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Robertson K Amon	K Lendon D Bijoy
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Foo J Lawandos	M Melvey V Paulo
<u>Av</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J Vipan T Alexander	J France E Lawandos
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	K Lendon M Sloman	H White A Walker
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	XXXX H Karanja	M Shamley XXXX
<u>COUNTING</u>		D Peterson J Hutchins	J Foo K Whalen



**Pope Leo's
Prayer Intention
for December 2025**

For Christians

in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.

Our Parish supports The Diocese in its zero-tolerance approach to abuse. Every one of us must each day commit ourselves individually and collectively to safeguard each child and every vulnerable person to whom we interact with.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable person please contact the Office of Safeguarding Phone: 02 4979 1390 Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for further information: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream



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SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Sunday 21 Dec 2025

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

A short hymn might be sung.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus Christ, who will come again in glory.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together
God is always with us.
In union with the whole Church,
we await the coming of the Lord.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ
who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are the promise of salvation: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are a light in the darkness: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your coming brings grace and peace: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Heavenly Father,
the world awaits the coming of the Christ-child,
the hope of all ages, the promised one.
Make us ready to receive him
so that the light of Christ may live in our hearts
and shine in the world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Confident that God is with us, let us bring our needs before the God of all.

Reader: That the Church, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, will proclaim the coming of Christ in word and deed.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all nations will bring about conditions where peace and goodwill can flourish, so that conflict and war will be silenced.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our Jewish brothers and sisters, those killed, those injured and all who have been impacted by

the traumatic events at Bondi will feel the love and healing touch of God.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That people of different races, cultures, and religions will treat one another with respect and seek to build mutual understanding.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments may find solutions to the tragedies of gun violence.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That this community, baptised in Christ, will be drawn more deeply into the mystery of his coming.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who are sick and housebound, will be filled with Christ's healing presence, and everyone who has died will be granted eternal life with the King of Glory.

To you we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of peace, Joseph and Mary responded to your will by embracing your plan of salvation. Hear our prayers and plant within our hearts the living presence of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us and protect us now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace..

All:

Thanks be to God.

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PRAYER SERVICE

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day

Thursday 25 Dec 2025

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

A short hymn might be sung.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh who is proclaimed among the nations.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ, although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day, we gather in God's name for when two or more come together God is always with us. We worship in union with the whole Church rejoicing at the birth of the Saviour.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ who has raised us to new life.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, your light brings us faith and hope: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are the word made flesh who dwells amongst us: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the splendour of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Eternal God, today we have seen your glory for Jesus Christ is born. Emmanuel, God with us, may your light shine on us for your coming brings hope to the world. We make this prayer through the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

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

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to John.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, today a holy light has shone upon the earth. Let us bring our prayers before God the Father of all humanity.

Reader: That through the birth of God's Son, the Holy Church of God will ever acclaim God's presence among all people. In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the holy child of Bethlehem will draw us out of darkness, and into the light of God. In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those separated from loved ones this Christmas will find assurance in the love of God's family. In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That as our community celebrates the birth of our Saviour, we will bring about peace on earth and good will for all. In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That through the Virgin's Son, all who are sick will be given renewed life. In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That everyone who has died may ever share in the eternal light of Christ. In your glory:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord God, all the ends of the earth have seen your saving power. Hear our prayers this Christmas day as we joyfully proclaim the glory of your infant Son on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us and protect us now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace..

All:

Thanks be to God.

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