

A guest to keep around



THE nativity story talks about there being “no room” for Mary and Joseph in their own hometown.

Many of you may be feeling the same as relatives and friends drop in at this busy time of year?

While sometimes we may groan we usually do make room for the people we treasure.

I hope and pray that you will also have the chance to make room for the God who came among us to reveal that there is plenty of room in his heart for each of us?

If we make room for God in our hearts and our

lives it is no surprise that God will take up residence. However, unlike fish and family (who can go off after three days), God is a guest we want to keep around – because the gifts he brings are the gifts of life.

This Christmas may you make room in your life for God.

If you do, be prepared to be given the gifts of peace, hope, love and joy.

Every blessing,

Father Michael Armstrong
Rector, Anglican Parish of Wagga

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES WAGGA WAGGA PARISHES

KOORINGAL SACRED HEART MASSES

Vigil (24 Dec) - 6pm Mater Dei Multipurpose Hall

Vigil (24 Dec) - 8pm Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Day - Sacred Heart Church 8.30am & 10am

SOUTH WAGGA

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASSES

Vigil (24 Dec (on Henschke Oval)

Outdoor Children's Mass) - 7pm

Vigil (24 Dec) - 9pm Our Lady of Fatima Church

Midnight Mass(24 Dec): Malabar Rite

Christmas Day - Our Lady of Fatima 10.30am
St Patricks Uranquinty 8.30am

THE ROCK MASSES

Tue 24th (Carols) 6:15pm

Vigil Mass (24th Dec)

St Mary's Church - 7pm

Christmas Day:
Yerong Creek 8:30am
Mangoplah 10am

ST MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL MASSES

Vigil (24 Dec) 6pm & 8pm & Midnight with carols commencing 11.30pm
Christmas Day - 8am & 10am & 5.30pm

Carmel Vigil (24 Dec) - 9pm
Christmas Day 9.30am

Mt. Erin Chapel

24 Dec - Midnight Latin Mass

Vianney College

Christmas Day - 9am

WEST WAGGA HOLY TRINITY MASSES

Vigil 24 Dec - Holy Trinity Hall 6.45pm

Christmas Day: - San Isidore Church 8am
Holy Trinity Church 9am
Collingullie 9.30am
Home of Compassion 10.30am

Come to Bethlehem
Dec 22, 23, 24 - 8-9.30pm

RM2018010

Find joy, peace and hope in your life

Do you look forward to getting out of bed each morning? Do you even look forward to tomorrow?

The answers to these questions indicate the level of hope in your life.

When we lose hope, we don't want to face the day. At its extreme level, losing hope is what leads us to question life itself. Only God can give us that inner peace. This is the true "Peace of Christmas". When you have this sort of peace, you can then experience real joy in your life. Joy is far more than being happy. Happiness tends to depend on the "world" around you.

If things around you are good and peaceful, then it is easy to be happy. On the other hand, joy is an inner happiness when things around you are not so good or peaceful.

Joy is all about the relationship between you, your creator and your saviour in a way that reflects that inner peace. This joy can help you rise above the situation around you.

As you experience this true inner peace and inner joy, you will always overflow with hope in your life. However, this can be so hard for you when things are unpleasant.

You can't do it on your own.

So, this Christmas, how about letting "the God of hope" and "the power of the Holy Spirit" bring true peace, joy and hope into your life?

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Gary Kenney
Pastor, Lutheran Primary School

YOU know, we chose the names of our children with great care.

Perhaps she's named after a celebrity; or a much loved family member.

We hope that he will grow up to be like that person with his name.

When God decided to send His Son into the world, He had many Bible names to choose from.

Like Abraham, the founder of God's people.

There is Moses, the great law-giver.

Perhaps David the shepherd boy who became king.

Or Isaiah the prophet.

But the name God chose is perhaps surprising.

It was the name of a great general, a soldier, a battle-hardened warrior.

The angel said to Joseph.

Matthew 1v21: "She will give birth to a Son,

and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

The word 'Jesus' is the same name as 'Joshua', the great general who saved God's people and led them into the promised land.

And that's what Jesus came to do, to rescue God's people, those, anyone in the world who comes to Him, admitting that we are what we are, sinners.

And then we're forgiven, and right with God, and ready for heaven. Saved! Rescued!

Now that's something to celebrate this Christmas.

Reverend Andrew Campbell
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Your local Anglican Church welcomes you to celebrate Christmas

Koorlingal

St Alban's, 270 Lake Albert Rd, Koorlingal

ph 02 6926 3361

web www.stalbanskoorlingal.com

Christmas Eve 24th December

7:00pm Outdoor Family Service, includes Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25th December

9:00am Family Service

Turvey Park

St Paul's, Cnr Fernleigh Rd & Mitchelmore Street, Turvey Park

ph 02 6925 1707

web www.stpaulstp.org.au

Christmas Eve 24th December

7:00pm Family Service

11:00pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25th December

9:00am Holy Communion

Wagga Wagga

St John's, 6 Church Street, Wagga Wagga

St Luke's, Cnr Docker & Shaw Streets, Sth Wagga Wagga

ph 02 69377522

web www.anglicanwaggawagga.com.au

Christmas Eve 24th December

6:00pm Family Service @ St John's - includes Holy Communion and well known carols.

9:00pm Holy Communion @ St John's - includes incense, bells, choir.

Christmas Day 25th December

7:30am Holy Communion @ St Luke's

9:00am Holy Communion @ St John's

RM2022827

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

WAGGA WAGGA BAPTIST CHURCH 9.00AM

WAGGA WAGGA BAPTIST CHURCH

Ph: 6931 7322
154 - 156 Tarcutta Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
www.wwbc.org.au

"to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others"

Come to Bethlehem

Walk through the city of Bethlehem with all its people, animals & atmosphere

Great for all families - all ages

See what Christmas is all about



Sunday 22, Monday 23 & Christmas eve 8pm - 9.30pm

Holy Trinity Primary School

Bardia Street, Ashmont

Phone: 6931 3601

www.westwaggaparish.com

RM2024168

Liberate yourself this year Baby of light

IN THE Gospel of Luke we read that Mary gave birth to her first child, a son.

She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a feeding box, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

Is this Luke's way of saying that we humans find it hard to make room for the word of God in our lives and to show hospitality to God especially in the holiday season?

Christine Pohl in her Book *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* argues that most contemporary expressions of hospitality are linked to entertainment and the hospitality industry.

To that end "effective hosts" seek to create an experience which leaves a lasting impression.

When we seek to entertain people at Christmas, the emphasis is on creating the right atmosphere and projecting the right image.

How does the table look?

Are there enough presents under the tree? Is the turkey cooked to the Master Chef standard?

This Christmas why not liberate yourself from the need to entertain by asking yourself.

"How can I extend myself for my guest without having all my own house in order?"

"Is it my pride that prevents me from saying 'Come in - as we live.'"

There is a genuine hospitality implicit in Mary and Joseph's simple response to the shepherds who suddenly show up immediately following the birth of Jesus.

If there was no room in the village inn, then it is highly unlikely that Mary and Joseph would have offered the visiting shepherds a comfortable chair and some home cooking to go with their hot cup of tea.

And yet Luke tells us that the encounter left a lasting impression on both the host and guests alike.

All the shepherds returned to their fields and flocks, glorifying God, while Mary herself treasured the shepherds' story in her heart and thought about them often.

May the peace of the Christ child be God's gift to you and your family this Christmas time, and always.

Wagga Uniting Church



YOU don't have to look far to see that our world is broken in many ways – personally, nationally, globally, relationally, environmentally, socially.

Without God in the picture it lands on our human shoulders to do our best to fix things – to make life as good as possible for as many people as possible.

It is a hopeless task because the deepest roots of our brokenness reside in the human heart and we don't have the tools to do the repairs.

To fix our world by ourselves is like trying to pull ourselves up off the ground by pulling on our own shoe laces.

It's not going to work.

The beauty and hope of the message of Christmas is that a window was opened from heaven and through this window light has streamed into our dark world.

This light was a

person.

He came as a baby. The difference with this baby is that he was God's son, born of a virgin, not contaminated by the brokenness of humanity.

He was sent from heaven with love to bring healing to all that is broken in this world.

No greater gift could ever be given or conceived of.

It is a message that carries power only if it is true.

And that it is true is what's amazing.

This baby Jesus was born in humble circumstances, lived and taught in such a way that common people came to him gladly (and by the way, religious people were disgusted by him).

Human brokenness and darkness ultimately killed him. But the light could not be extinguished and death could not prevail – God raised him to life on the third day.



Christ was broken to bring healing to us.

This baby of light suffered the darkness of death that the brightness of heaven would flood our dark world.

He is the ultimate gift to our world – there is nothing like it and never will be.

David Strong
Wagga Wagga Baptist Church

Come to Bethlehem

OVER the last ten years, Holy Trinity Catholic Parish has hosted *Come to Bethlehem*.

Around 30,000 people have been through this remake of the tiny City of David since 2003.

This City of the Jewish King, David, is a cultural centre that unites the three great faiths of the world: Judaism, the Chosen People of God (Exodus 6:7); the Christians where Jesus Christ was actually born (Mt 2:1); and their Islamic sisters and brothers in whose territory Bethlehem is situated today.

Why does Holy Trinity Parish remake this religious town each year?

Because Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world was first prophesied as coming from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

The Anointed of God, Christ was sent forth from the Most Holy Trinity so much did God love the world and every one in it (Jn 3:16).

For all are his children; all are blest in Jesus, the wee babe of the Bethlehem stable.

Born from Miriam, the Mother of Jesus (Quran 253). The Mother of God's own Son, the Word made flesh (Lk 1:30-32).

And true to God's word, Jesus was actually born there, approximately 2013 years ago.

Christmas is a national holy day.

And Jesus is its solitary reason.

Bethlehem was a lowly town and God humbled himself in Jesus as a babe for us all (Mt 11:29).

He was cradled in a feed box from the first moments of his nativity.

A manger from which animals had eaten, in a town whose very name announces the popular food of all, bread.

Jesus came as the 'Word made flesh' (Jn 1:14) who nourishes all as he is the Food of life, everlasting life (John 6:35). He nourishes all who care to read about Him in their holy books.

He invites all to be nourished by Him still (Jn 6:53); as of old (Psalm 78:25).

This Christmas, this nativity of Jesus; nourish your faith on the most basic message announced in Bethlehem by God's holy Angels, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all peoples of good will' (Lk 2:14). Jesus brings inner peace.

This we can spread to our neighbours.

But it is only sustained by God's graced love.

Let your faith feed you this Christmas, and in that nourishment from Heaven love your God, and your neighbour as yourself.

Blessed be the Bread of Life; born in the House of Bread.

In Bethlehem where Jesus chose to be born. Come and see this wondrous thing, the Angels spoke about (Lk 2:12).

Come let us adore!

Father Gerard Ryan CCS
West Wagga Catholic Parish

LUTHERAN CHURCH

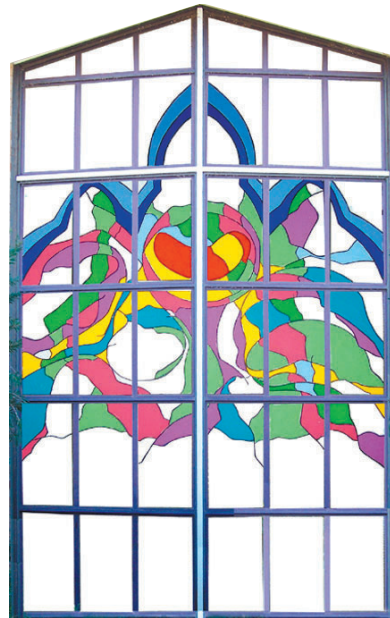
9 ATHOL STREET

Christmas Eve Services

7.30pm: Worship with Holy Communion (Pastor Mark Lieschke)

Christmas Day 9.00am: Worship

Lutheran Church of Australia



RM2023139

LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Family Christmas Eve Worship with Communion - 7pm

Family Christmas Day Celebration with Communion - 10am

Both Services will be held at the Bannister Room / Riverina Conservatorium of Music - CSU South Campus

For more information please ring Pastor John Guilfoyle 6931 5673

"Living Water is a member church of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ"

RM2022863

CHRISTMAS SERVICES UNITING CHURCH WAGGA WAGGA

Christmas Eve, 24th December Pilgrim Uniting, 75 Coleman Street Service at 11:00pm

Christmas Day, 25th December Wesley Uniting, 17 Johnston Street Service at 9:30am



RM2022832



Wagga Wagga Presbyterian Churches

St. Aidan's Services (Coleman Street)

Christmas Eve: 7.00 pm - Carols in the Garden
Christmas Day: 9.00 am - Christmas Celebration

Information: Rev. Sandy McMillan 6925 1228

St. Andrew's Services (Cross Street)

Christmas Eve: 6.30 pm - Family service of carols and Bible readings
Christmas Day: 9.00 am - Christmas Celebration

Information: Rev. Andrew Campbell 6921 2317

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