

## Fr Alo writes...

### “Usual Christmas”

We have been celebrating Christmas for years without any restrictions. And we call it “Normal Christmas”. While the other states in our country are still enjoying this “normality of Christmas”, we are in some parts of New South Wales having to accept that we celebrate Christmas with some restrictions. This year we won't have this luxury of the “normality” which we may call “unusual Christmas”. There are two things that obviously make this years celebration “unusual”. The first is that those who would like to come to Christmas Mass need to book for the place. Failure to book will cause you to end up not being able to be at one of the masses. This is unusual. The second is that the Premier Ms Berejiklian said that household gatherings will continue to be limited to 10 guests from this Thursday to Saturday. This is unusual and not good news for most families. For the past few years I have gone to join Fijian families for Christmas celebrations. It may not have happened this year. It is unusual for me as well. I heard a story of a 4 year old Christian boy, the son of our Primary School teacher who asked his atheist cousin about the Christmas. He asked: *“What is so special about Christmas?”* Hearing this the cousin answered: *“Receiving gifts”*. Hearing this unexpected answer the boy put his both hands to cover his head and said: *“My God, Christmas is not about receiving gifts, it is about the birth of Jesus”*.

Hearing the story of the little boy's faith and learning about some “abnormality of Christmas celebration” this year, I come to seriously reflecting on the meaning of Christmas and all the abnormality around it. And I came to realise that from the beginning of the message of the Angel Gabriel there were some “abnormalities” such as the mystery of incarnation, God wants to become human; Mary conceived through the Holy Spirit; confusion of Joseph; no booking done for the accommodation in Bethlehem caused Mary and Joseph ended up in an animal shelter where the Lord was born. So, Christmas, the birth of Jesus is already unusual one from the beginning. All the unusual scenery around it did not stop Christ from being born. It is happening today too. Every unusual and abnormality mentioned above, different understanding of the meaning of Christmas including my personal frustration for not being able to celebrate a “Big Christmas” with multitude number of my beloved parishioners, since this is my last Christmas in this parish, would stop God to be born within us, at our homes and in the larger society. Let us celebrate with great joy like the shepherds in Bethlehem.

Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



## THIS WEEK

### THURSDAY 24 DEC

6:00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass  
7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass  
9:00pm CIC Christmas Mass  
NO LATE NIGHT MASS

### FRIDAY 25 DEC

8:00am Christmas Day Family Mass  
9:30am Christmas Day Family Mass  
NO EVENING MASS

### SATURDAY 26 DEC

6:00pm Mass

### SUNDAY 27 DEC

9:30am Mass + Morning Tea  
3:30pm Indonesian Community Mass  
6:00pm Mass

### MONDAY 28 DEC

9:00am Mass

### WEDNESDAY 30 DEC

9:00am Mass

### THURSDAY 31 DEC

6:00pm Mass

### FRIDAY 1 JAN

9:00am Mass



## PARISH DIRECTORY

4 Roma Ave Kensington NSW 2033

T: 9663 1070

E: [olrkensoparish@gmail.com](mailto:olrkensoparish@gmail.com)

W: <http://olrkensington.org.au>

F: <https://www.facebook.com/OLRKenso/>

### PARISH PRIEST

**Fr Aloysius Lamere msc**

### PARISH SECRETARY

Maria Caetano

(9:30am - 2:00pm Mon to Fri)

### MASS TIMES

Sat 6pm (Vigil),

Sun 9:30am (Family), 6pm

Mon, Wed, Fri - 9am, Thurs 6pm

Indonesian Mass Sun 3:30pm

### RECONCILIATION

Mon 9:30am or by appointment

### ROSARY

First Saturday at 3.00pm Rosary Room

### INDONESIAN COMMUNITY

Fr Petrus Suroto msc - 0450 625 757

### BAPTISMS

First Sunday - 11am, bookings required

### WEDDINGS

By Appointment

### SACRAMENTS

Contact parish office

### OLR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Marie Nilon - 9663 3346

### OLSH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Jenny Fowler - 9662 4088

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Roy Rigotti - 9313 8334

John Hill - 9663 3222

Sr Pauline Richards - 0419 482 408

Nani Widarto - 0411 850 350

## RESPONSES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said to me:

You are my Son. It is I who have

begotten you this day.

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 1-7

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Today is born our Saviour,

Christ the Lord.

#### SECOND READING

Titus 2: 11-14

#### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the

world: today is born our Saviour,

Christ and the Lord.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1-14

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Word became flesh and we

have seen his glory.



## OREMUS

*Let us Pray*

### SICK

Grace Veronica, Salvatore Messina, Sr Margaret McKay rscj, Sr Mary D'Apice rscj, Amina Chahrouk, Elisabetta Nesci, Umberto Vaccarella, Xavier Stratton, Maria Zic, Rose Alessio, Joanna & family, David Lai, John Roberts, Gavin Robertson, Chris (Cindy's husband), Manuel Mouco, Eva (Nicole's mum), Paul Galea, A.L., Plutarco Cadornigara, Olga Nasser, Margaret Stocker, Lynne Chaundhuri

### PARISHIONERS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE/HOMEBOUND

Malcolm MacDonald, Nella Custorella, Rose Kelter, Jill Rees, Mario De Roit, John Borg, Gwen Smith, Laura Leonard, Sebastiano Gentile, Maria Pockaj, Frances McLaughlin, Lucienne Radzyski, Nicole Chiaradia

### BELOVED DECEASED

Marcus Manning, Peter Dalle Nogare, John Nasser, Clare Georgey

### ANNIVERSARIES

Monica Mary McCaughan, Ana Neil, Charles Munevar, Jack Moon, Alexander Balatbat, Maximo Balatbat, James Maher msc, Mollie Brereton, Fr Peter McGrath ofm, Pam Boreham, Simone Armstrong, Pierre Langy, Keira Donnelly, Maureen & John Lawlor

## PARISH ROSTER

24/25 Dec	Christmas Eve 6:00pm	Christmas Eve 7:30pm	Christmas Day 8:00am	Christmas Day 9:30am
<b>Acolyte</b>	Handojo Widjaja	Brian Koh	Danny Tjahjadi	John Allen
<b>Readers</b>	Marissa Meyn Jeff Kildea	Roy Rigotti Ross Martin	Francine Pirola Byron Pirola	Nani Widarto Ana Corpuz
26/27 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 9:30am	Sun 6:00pm	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Brian Koh	Gus Alimhamzah	John Allen	
<b>Readers</b>	Shilla Azalea Sr Pauline Richards	Roy Rigotti Ross Martin	Isabel Reyes Patricia Reyes	
<b>Comm to sick</b>	Trish Veness			
2/3 Jan	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 9:30pm	Sun 6:00pm	
<b>Acolytes</b>	John Ryan	Roel Castillo	Danny Tjahjadi	
<b>Readers</b>	John Dorahy Sr Diana Hayes	Jeff Kildea Nani Widarto	Bella Siauwidjaja Mandalena Hermawan	
<b>Comm to sick</b>	Thomas Chia	Cathy Castillo		

## RESPONSES

### CHRISTMAS DAY

#### 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.

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 52: 7-10

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power  
of God.

#### SECOND READING

Hebrews 1: 1-6

#### 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!

#### GOSPEL

John 1: 1-18

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.



## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 24 Jan - 9:30am: Fr Alo's Final Mass

Sunday 31 Jan - 9:30am: Fr Terry's Installation Mass

## NEW WEBSITE AND SOCIAL PLATFORMS TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD OF EILEEN O'CONNOR

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new website, Facebook and Instagram pages today, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the Co-Founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor.



Eileen's great courage in serving the sick poor, despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all. Visit the new website at this address:

[www.eileenconnor.com.au](http://www.eileenconnor.com.au) and follow the new Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram

page at this address: [www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/](https://www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/).

The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries. **A special Mass will also be livestreamed on this site on January 10, 2021, to be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Brigid's Church in Coogee**, marking the centenary of Eileen's death. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance at this Mass is by invitation only. As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

In keeping with NSW Health directives, attendance at all indoor Masses is now limited to a maximum of 300 people, while observing a four square metre rule.

**OLR Parish capacity has now reverted back to 125 people based on the four square metre rule.**

Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass.

## JRS APPEAL FOR FOODBANK DONATIONS

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile food bank is a huge and growing operation. JRS are feeding over 900 people each week who have been excluded from Federal Government financial support and cannot return home. Their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna, and long life milk are RUNNING LOW. If you can donate these items they have drop off spots around Sydney. In the absence of Federal Government support for people in need, we continue to need your help. Please visit: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/foodbank/> and learn how you can support people who have no other means to buy these basics for their families. This short video also shows what happens to food donations that are made: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293160638622911>.

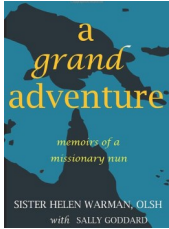


### Archbishop's Vision

On 12 December, 2020, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Star of the New

Evangelisation, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP launched the new Mission Plan for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, entitled *Go Make Disciples*. The fruit of some five years of conversation, research and discernment, this vision for the parishes, chaplaincies and other Eucharistic communities of Sydney will set our direction and priorities for some years to come. Archbishop Fisher shares, "As the Church in Sydney, we seek to live out the mission of Jesus Christ in a time of unprecedented change. Sydney's population continues to grow while the way people live, work and worship has changed... we rightly cling to those things that are perennial: one faith, one Lord, one Baptism (Ephesians 4:5). But we need new passion, expressions and methods of evangelisation and community-building in Sydney. Every pastor, every member of the faithful and all our parish communities are called to deep spiritual renewal as disciples, to being better connected with each other, and to reaching out better to others".

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP



## A GRAND ADVENTURE

A memoir written by Sister Helen Warman, a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Sister Helen spent sixty years as an educator in Catholic Missions in Papua New Guinea, primarily in Milne Bay Province (including the Trobriand Islands and Alotau) and in Port Moresby.

Sister Helen's book is available for purchase from the Parish Office for \$20. (Profits from sales will go to the "Back Door" Outreach Projects run by the OLSH Convent in Boroko, Papua New Guinea).

## SUMMER NIGHTS 2021


The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of Covid, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021. There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week): Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm) & Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm). COVID safe dinner is provided each day. For age 16-35 year olds. The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day. It will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat centre. A stage will be brought in to hold all the sessions. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. For more information and to register: [www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au).

## LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL AT HOME

CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community.


To learn more call our Home Care Team 13 18 19  
[connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)





# OF LIFE AND LOVE

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2021




**OF LIFE AND LOVE** gives particular emphasis to the spiritual and sacramental dimensions of marriage, while also paying due attention to the practical elements of relationship building.

Presentations cover the beauty of Christian marriage, openness to life, a critical understanding of 'love', and communication fundamentals.

This marriage preparation course consists of four sessions and will take place on two separate occasions during 2021.

DATES	PLACE
1. Saturday 27 February 10am - 1.30pm and Thursday evenings 4, 11, 18 March 7pm - 10pm	The Assisi Centre, 3 Keating Street Lidcombe NSW
2. Saturday 14 August 10am - 1.30pm and Thursday evenings 19, 26 August and 2 September 7.00pm - 10.00pm	Life, Marriage and Family Office 0415 600 290 or <a href="mailto:steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org">steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org</a>

**MORE INFO**



## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR ACTION – JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE AUSTRALIA

The Jesuit Refugee Service Australia would like to invite you and your community to take part in [Christmas Cards for Action](#). They are asking communities to wish their MPs a happy holiday by sending a Christmas Card for Action. They have prepared Christmas cards to send to your MP by email or mail to remind them that women, children, and men seeking asylum have been left behind during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are four cards to choose from - including one you can send to friends and family! Hediye and Rabia, both young women seeking Australia's protection, are the talented artists behind the original and intricate art work on these cards. If you would like to make a donation for these cards, it is a wonderful way to support people seeking asylum. All funds will go directly to support the people JRS serves, through specialist casework and employment support, emergency relief payment, life-saving medication and housing support. Hediye and Rabia will receive a percentage of the donations for the cards. **Join us in sharing season's greetings with a social justice twist!** For more information and how to get the cards visit: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/take-action/christmas-cards-of-action/>.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

# KIDSCURCH CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

## Happy Birthday Jesus!

### THE WORD

Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they married, Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph did not want to embarrass Mary, and decided to end the engagement. An angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, she has conceived by the Holy Spirit and will give birth to a son who shall be called Jesus and he will save his people." Joseph woke up and did as the angel told him.

Isa 9:1-5 | Ps 88 | Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 | Mt 1:1-25

### LOOK CLOSER

**Jesus is Born!** Today is a very special day for Christians. It is a time to celebrate God's goodness and love for us. The real meaning of Christmas is easily lost in our noisy, consumer culture and whirlwind of family gatherings and presents. However, it is possible to keep Christmas centred on Jesus. Check out [www.cathfamily.org](http://www.cathfamily.org) for ideas and inspiration.

**Talk about it:** What 'gift of the heart' could you make to Jesus on his birthday?

### PRAYER SPACE

Symbol: Star



Jesus,  
Star of Bethlehem,  
We invite you into our hearts  
to teach us how to love. Give  
us the gifts of wisdom and  
strength to live with you at  
the centre. Amen.

### WHY DO WE DO THAT?

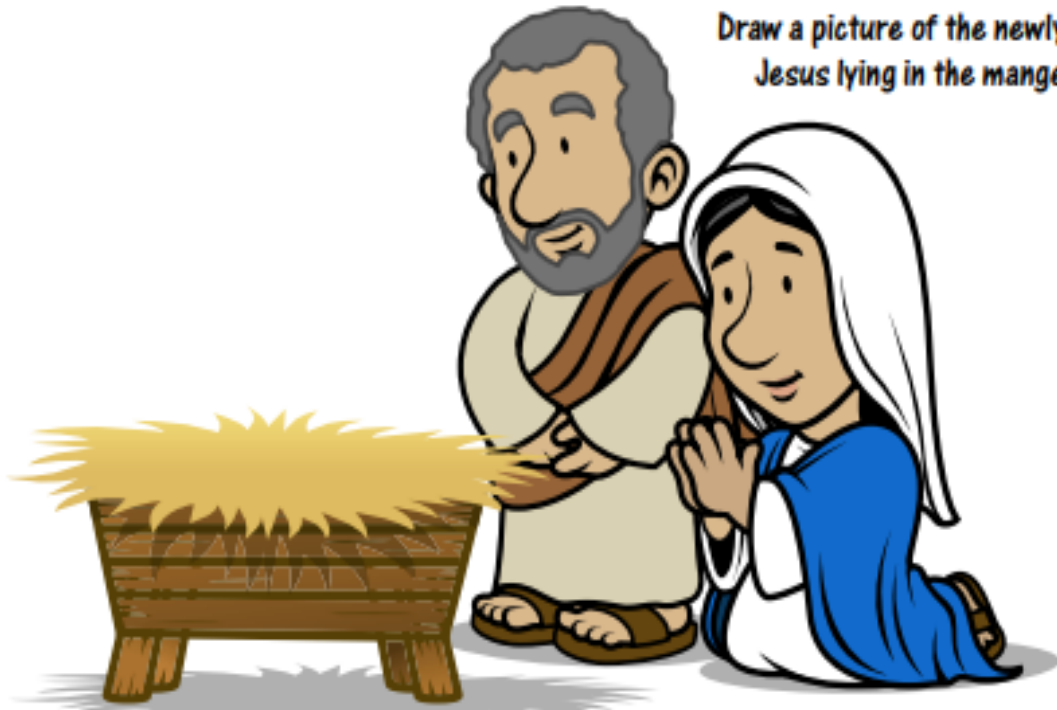
Why is Christmas on the 25th of December? In the ancient world, a pagan festival held on December 25th worshipped the sun as the divine controller of life. The Roman Emperor Aurelian established this festival in 274 AD. By choosing this day to celebrate the Birth of Christ, Christians intended to counteract pagan beliefs.



# Today is born our Saviour

The Nativity of the Lord

Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus lying in the manger.



## Gospel

Lk 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

God gives us all that we have. What are some of the gifts you have received from God?

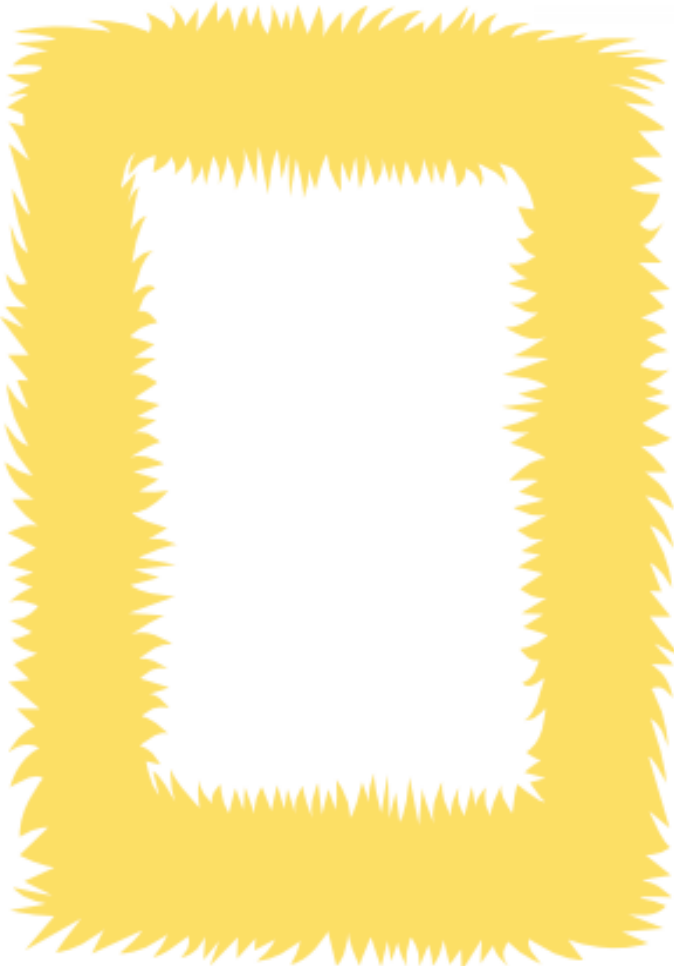


# Today is born our Saviour

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day



Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus



God gives us all that we have. What are some of the gifts you have received from God?



Join up the angels and see what they spell



## The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14



For Christmas prayers visit [cafod.org.uk/prayers](http://cafod.org.uk/prayers)