

St Michael's Church - Meadowbank  
**The Parish Bulletin**

The Nativity of the Lord Yr C/1

*Have a Blessed and Joyful Christmas!*



• **Mass during the Night** •

**Entrance Antiphon:**

*Ps 2:7*

**Let us all rejoice in the Lord,  
 for our Saviour has been born  
 in the world.**

**Today true peace has come  
 down to us from heaven.**

**1st Reading:** *Isaiah 9:1-7*

A Son is Given to us.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*Psalm 95(96):1-13*

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

**2nd Reading:**

*Titus 2:11-14*

God's Grace has been revealed to  
 the whole human race.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I bring you news of great joy:  
 today a saviour has been born  
 to us, Christ the Lord.**

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** *Luke 2:1-14*

Today a Saviour has been born to  
 you.

**Communion Antiphon:**

*Cf. Jn 1:14*

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

**Gospel for Christmas Night Masses**

*(Luke 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.'

**Gospel for Christmas Day**

*(John 1:1-5,9-14)*



In the beginning was the Word: and 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.

**Acknowledgement of the land**

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoiria nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

**Parish Directory**

**Parish Administrator:** Fr James McCarthy

Email: [pp@stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au](mailto:pp@stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au)

**Parish address & contact number:**

45 Maxim St, Meadowbank, NSW 2114

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**Office hours: Office Closed between Christmas and New Year**

**Secretaries:** Lou Temprosa (Tue-Wed)

Marilyn Vallejo (Thu-Fri)

**Bulletin Editor:** Meynardo Talisayon

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Please submit requests for publication by 12 noon Wednesday.

**Acolytes:** Arthur Lee

**Readers & Special Ministers of**

**Communion:**

Sue Metzmacher

(Weekdays & Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

**Music Ministry**

**Coordinators for 6pm Saturday Masses:**

1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)

2nd Saturday - David Foong

3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira

**Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:**

1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

4th SUN 10 am - Muntia Gouw

1st SUN 10am - Peter & Jenchris

3rd, 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2nd SUN 10am - David Foong

**Children Liturgy** - Elsa Manu

**Sacramental Coordinators:** Marisa

Squadrito & Liz Mulcare

**Ushers/Collectors** - Michael Wixted

**Altar Society** - Marie Bennett

**Liturgy Committee** - Sue Metzmacher

**Finance Committee** - Stephen Topple

**St Vincent de Paul Society** - Jim Lemcke

**Catechists** - Judith Orrock

**Parish Safeguarding Support Officer -**

Lou Temprosa

**St Michael's Primary School**

**School Principal** - Brian Story

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**Welcome to St Michael's Church - Meadowbank!**

A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

**REFLECTION AND CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR JAMES**

When Jesus Christ was born, he came to restore and renew beauty and dignity to all of creation. This is what makes the angels rejoice and cry out at Christmas "Glory to God in the Highest." The song of the angels on Christmas night is an expression of joy over the fact that Heaven and Earth, God, the angels, humanity, animals, plant life and the rocks are once more united and made whole in the intended purpose of existence. All of Creation is an image of God, and in every experience of life, we are also experiencing God's closeness and presence.

In the cave, the place of the stable at Bethlehem, Heaven and Earth are united. At every celebration of Mass, Heaven and Earth are also united with the original Christmas - Christ's Mass. During every Mass, a light shines both from the cave at Bethlehem and from the cave of the Easter tomb, and it shines and reflects the light of God like a star in the night sky shining upon generations of humanity. During the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass, with the humility of the shepherds and the adoration of the Magi, we set out to visit the Christ Child in the cave at Bethlehem!

When the date for the celebration of Christmas was first established, the Church was focussed around Europe, and they chose to celebrate Christmas on the darkest day of the year, because Christ is the light that comes to the darkness of the world. In Australia, we celebrate Christmas in the midst of summer, during the time of an abundance of light. An Australian Christmas can be an experience of the radiance of God in and through all of creation and all existence. God's light shines not only in the darkness, but it shines in and upon everything.

When the moment came for Jesus to be born, there was no room for him within the society of his time, no space for people to believe or to accept Jesus. And so Jesus was rejected by his extended relatives, and due to the evil of Herod, Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to flee Bethlehem and became refugees, who eventually were persecuted and suffered for their identity.

The same is true today. There is little room for Jesus within our society except perhaps at Christmas, and even then, the true message of Christmas seems to be lost in the midst of consumerism, social activism and children's fictional stories. Faith is a choice, and Christian values and the Church in Australia will decline if every Christian does not choose to make truth, faith and a personal relationship with God a priority on a daily and hourly basis.

For many people, the excuse is that we have become so busy and occupied that there is no regular time for God, prayer or community. Professions, shift-work, sport, entertainment, family and friends all seem to take a higher place than consciously including the presence of Jesus in everything we do. Some claim that the Church is out of touch or irrelevant to the current experience of life, and Christians are trying our best to heal the wounds from the past and to be relevant to the current experiences of darkness and degradation in society today. Despite negativity or scepticism from many circles, there is no other organisation who does anything like what the Catholic Church has done and continues to do with the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit: education, health, protecting the rights of every person, protection of creation, advocating for the poor, enslaved and marginalised, working for peace, developing a spiritual life, helping people to be free and fully alive, and so on.

Let us pray that the gift of faith and the gift of a deep love for God and for all of creation will inspire all people who hear the announcement of Christmas. May the humility and simplicity of the birth of Jesus renew our world with a deep joy, commitment and devotion for God's presence in the New Year.

**On behalf of our whole parish team, I wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas and all heaven's blessings on you and your families and loved ones.**



## ***Contributions/ Donations to the Parish***

During 2018, the Catholic Church in Australia has attracted considerable media attention in relation to the finances of the Catholic Church. The Church is committed to the National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has already earmarked income from certain investments to contribute for this purpose.

It is very important for parishioners to know that donations given for parish purposes will be used for parish purposes. The Catholic Church is much more than our buildings – we are principally our people and the works of the Church.

Thank you for your generosity and support. The Parish Financial Report is available from our website and we are transparent with our income and expenditure. Our weekly collection target to reach our budget currently stands at:

**1st Collection (assists clergy): \$1441**

**2nd Collection (parish costs): \$2043**

### **DIRECT TRANSFER GIVING**

Please consider using a direct recurring automatic transfer for Sunday offerings, especially when on holidays. It is a safe, secure process that each person can easily setup via their own online banking to give to the parish on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

**Parish First Collection:** BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292002; Account Name: St Michael's Pastoral Revenue

**Parish Second Collection Details:** BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292000; Account Name: St Michael's Church Account

Please use your envelope number (if you have one) as a reference for the transaction. Contact Parish Office for more information.

## ***Christmas Offering Envelopes***

Please consider making an offering at Christmas to assist with priests in special ministries, including those undertaking further studies, those who are sick/ recovering from illnesses, and those who work with migrant communities. Please place your offering on any collection over the next few weeks.

## ***Are you new to the Parish?***

Welcome. It is great to have you here. Please make our parish your home. Feel welcome to share experiences and ministries from your previous parish with our community. Please complete a parish registration & census form at the office. Consider volunteering and joining the parish planned giving.

## ***Important Dates for 2019***

**1 January** - New Year's Mass at 11am.

**30 January** - School Year Begins

**Various dates in February:** Plenary discernment sessions in the Parish

**14 February** - Opening School Mass

**6 March** - Ash Wednesday

**7 March** - Parish Alpha Program (for adults) begins.

**20 March** - Parent Meeting for First Holy Communion (Yr 3 students)

**14 April** - Palm Sunday

**21 April** - Easter Sunday

**4 June** - Parent Meeting for Confirmation (Yr 6- Yr 8 students)

**22/23/29/30 June** - First Holy Communion

**25 August** - Confirmation for Northern Deanery at St Mary's Cathedral

**3 September** - Parent Meeting for Reconciliation Program (Yr 2 students)

**21-28 September** - Novena of St Michael the Archangel

**29 September** - Parish Feast of St Michael the Archangel.

**27-28 November** - First Reconciliation.

**Sacraments:** Baptisms are scheduled throughout the year. Weddings are by arrangement. Please contact the office for more information.

## ***Download Parish Calendar***

View and download the Parish Calendar from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis. If you use a google calendar, it is easy to include the calendar in your own calendar by simply hitting the + button on the homepage:

**[www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au)**



**St Michael's Church,  
Meadowbank**

*This bulletin is also available from the FB*

**Coming in March 2019**

**“DO I HAVE A PURPOSE?”**

**“IS THIS IT?”**

**“IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?”**

**“WHAT AM I DOING HERE?”**

**“IS THERE A GOD?”**

**Alpha**

**FIND OUT  
ABOUT THE  
ALPHA COURSE**

**NEXT WEEKEND**

**Roster: 29 / 30 December 2018**

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
<b>6:00PM Vigil</b>	Jim Lemcke	Carol Maher Brian Maher	1 Mark Pereira 2 Gemma Martin 3 Henaa Jawher 4 Liz Paricka 5 David Doring 6 Joseph J K
<b>8:00AM</b>	Stephen Topple	Mel Talisayon Nick Radice	Violet Moussa Nora Gardner
<b>10:00AM</b>	JJoel Tabuso	Charlene Harrison Jeremy Billings	1 Joel Tabuso 2 Lala Tabuso 3 Felicity Donnelly 4 Felissa Tan 5 Gloria Divine 6 Joan D'Souza



**Prayer to St Michael the**

**Archangel.** Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast

into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE WEEK**

**Wed 26 SAINT STEPHEN**, the first martyr Feast

**Thu 27 SAINT JOHN**, Apostle, Evangelist Feast

**Fri 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS**, Martyrs Feast

**Sat 29 Saint Thomas Becket**, Bishop, Martyr

**Sun 30 THE HOLY FAMILY**

**St Vincent de Paul** thanks everyone who helped deliver Christmas hampers this week. You made Christmas a lot brighter for all the recipients. Blessings for Christmas and New Year.

**The Piety Stall** Christmas Blessings to all from all the volunteers at the Piety Stall. Store will reopen in February.

**Pray for the Plenary Council 2020**

Across Australia, Catholics are gathering to pray, talk and listen to one another about our experiences of faith and the Church, in the hope of discovering new and faithful ways of living the Gospel.

**There will be discernment and listening sessions held at St Michael's Meadowbank in February 2019.**

Please respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit, by engaging in the preparatory phase of the Plenary Council with open and humble hearts, listening to what the Spirit is saying to each one of us as we share our experiences of faith and our hopes for the future..

**Please consider participating in the discernment sessions held in the Parish in the new Year.**

**Protection of Children.**

St Michael's is committed to making our parish environment a safe and enriching place for children. A copy of Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Policy on the care, well-being and protection of children and young persons is available in the Parish office and from our Parish Website.

**Have a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year - Thank You**

Fr James and the Parish staff thank all the parishioners for their contributions and participation throughout 2018. We especially thank everyone who has prepared our liturgies for Christmas: altar society, musicians, readers, acolytes, servers, collectors, and many more.

**Celebrations between Christmas & New Year**

*(24 December 2018 - 2 January 2019)*

**MONDAY 24 DECEMBER**

**5pm: Children's Christmas Mass with Pageant**

**8pm: Parish Christmas Mass** (followed by drinks and cake in the hall - Fr John Alt to celebrate the Mass.)

**TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS)**

**12am: Midnight Mass** (carols from 11.30pm)

**9.15am: Christmas Morning Mass** (Carols from 9am)

**WEDNESDAY 26 DECEMBER (Boxing Day)**

**9.15am: Mass for St Stephen's Day** (Fr Alt to celebrate)

**THURSDAY 27 / FRIDAY 28 DECEMBER**

**9.15am: Weekday Communion Service**

**10.30am (Thursday) Funeral of Ron Taffa** (Denistone)

**SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER**

**9.15am: Weekday Communion Service**

**6pm: Saturday Vigil Mass**

**SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER: (HOLY FAMILY)**

**8am & 10am Mass**

**MONDAY 31 DECEMBER**

**9.15am Mass**

**TUESDAY 1 JANUARY (New Year's Day)**

**11AM Mass**

**WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY**

**9.15am Mass**