



Welcome to

Willunga Catholic Parish

Mary of Galilee, Aldinga; St Peter's, Normanville; St Joseph's, Willunga

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - YEAR A

Vol 21 : No 05

WILLUNGA CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE

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PARISH OFFICE

If you need to contact the Office, please ring 0447 421 948 or 0488 287 552 if there is no-one in the Office to take your call.

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

- Fr Josy Sebastian (Parish Priest - 8382 1717; emergency 0452 524 169)
- Fr Dominick Okwadha (A/Priest - 8382 1717; 0421 074 212; okwadha@yahoo.com)
- Fr Tom Gleeson (Resident Priest - 8557 1072)
- Sr Margaret Ann (Parish worker - 0488 287 552, maconnelly@goodsams.org.au)
- Gael Maloney (Parish Office and Newsletter - articles due Wednesday - 0447 421 948, bahl002@bigpond.com)
- Bob Daly (Parish Finance Officer - 0416 156 213, dalybc@iinet.net.au)

MASS CENTRES

- Mary of Galilee, cnr Quinliven and How Roads, ALDINGA - Galilee
- St Peter's, Cape Jervis Road, NORMANVILLE
- St Joseph's, St Judes St, WILLUNGA

MASS TIMES

- SATURDAY EVENING 5.30pm
Aldinga Beach (Mary of Galilee)
- FIRST, THIRD, FIFTH SUNDAYS
8.30am Willunga (St Joseph's)
10.30am Normanville (St Peter's)
- SECOND, FOURTH SUNDAYS
8.30am Normanville (St Peter's)
10.30am Willunga (St Joseph's)



(These readings are those for during the morning on Christmas Day)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:1-6

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

SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

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.

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!

GOSPEL

Jn 1 1-18

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.

(Continued page 4)



Bulletin Board

REGULAR MASS TIMES

(resumes beginning of December)

Mon	No Masses - Willunga Parish 9.00am - Noarlunga
Tue	9.15am - Aldinga
Wed	9.00am - Willunga
Thur	9.00am - Willunga
Fri	9.00am - Willunga 12.00noon - Normanville
1st Fri	9.00am - Willunga 12.00 noon - Normanville

WEEKEND MASSES

(Times on front page of this bulletin)

Christmas

MASSES

• Christmas Eve (Sat 24 Dec) •

4.00pm	St Peter's, Normanville
6.30pm	Mary of Galilee, Aldinga
7.00pm	St Joseph's, Willunga (family)
12midnight	St Joseph's, Willunga

• Christmas Day (Sun 25 Dec) •

9.00am	St Joseph's, Willunga
9.00am	St Peter's, Normanville

PRIEST ROSTER - WEEKENDS

(Often this roster changes if something unforeseen crops up)

24 Dec	4.00pm - N/ville, Fr Dominick 6.30pm - Aldinga, Fr Dominick 7.00pm - Willunga, Fr Tom
25 Dec	12am - Willunga, Fr Dominick 9.00am - N/ville, Fr Josy 9.00am - Willunga, Fr Tom
31 Dec	5.30pm - Aldinga, Fr Dominick
01 Jan	8.30am - Willunga, Fr Dominick 10.30am - N/ville, Fr Tom

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.

THANKS FROM SHARON

Dear parishioners,
As I move on from Cardijn College Galilee at the end of this year I just want to pass on my gratitude to you all.

Thank you very much for your welcome and support over my many years at Galilee.

I have very fond memories of the partnerships formed, sharing of faith, the challenges and collaborations.

I feel gifted and inspired by your faith, dedication and sheer hard work.

*Thank you very much
Sharon Doyle*

FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS

Wednesday, December 28

The regular 9.00am Mass at Willunga will have a special focus on our current Abortion issue.

We pray for the precious lives of the unborn. We pray for more supportive alternatives for mothers facing the dilemma. We pray for the comfort of mothers (and fathers) before and after birth. We pray for changes in the law, which will **allow abortion to birth**.

Nothing will happen without prayers from faithful people. Please give up one hour to pray for change.

Chris McWilliams

MIDNIGHT MASS FOR NEW YEAR

Willunga Parishioners are invited to Midnight Mass to be celebrated at St Luke's Church, Noarlunga Downs, for the beginning of 2023.

There will be Exposition of the Blessed sacrament on Saturday night, 31December (New Year's Eve) at 11.00pm followed by Mass at midnight to celebrate the beginning of the new year.

All parishioners are welcome.

DEFYING DARKNESS WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

In the days of apartheid in South Africa, one of the ways people expressed their opposition and their belief that someday it would be overcome, was to light a candle and put it in a window where it could be seen by anyone passing by. A lit candle, publicly displayed, made a prophetic statement. It didn't take long for the government to react. Placing a lit candle in your window became a criminal offense, equivalent to carrying an illegal firearm. The irony wasn't lost on children. They joked, "Our government is afraid of lit candles!"

And well they should be! To light a candle for a moral or religious reason (be it for protest, for Hanukkah, for Advent, or for Christmas) is to make a prophetic statement of faith and, in essence, make a public prayer. Admittedly, this can be hard to read inside the glow of the millions of Christmas tree lights that we see everywhere. Why do we put up all

these lights at Christmas? A cynical answer suggests that this is done for purely commercial purposes. As well, for many of us, these lights are simply a question of aesthetics, color, and celebration, mostly devoid of any religious meaning. However, even here, there is still something deeper going on. Why do we put up lights at Christmas? Why do we light our homes and our streets with colorful lights at this time of year?

No doubt, we do it for color, for celebration, and for commercial reasons; but we also do it because, more deeply, it expresses a faith, however inchoately this might still be felt, that in Christ a final victory has been won and light has forever conquered darkness. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."

Our Christmas lights are, in the end, an expression of faith and in essence a public prayer. Nevertheless, we might still ask, to what end? What difference can this possibly make? Putting up lights as a symbol of faith can seem like a very insignificant and naïve thing to do in the face of the seeming overwhelming darkness of our world. We look at our world and we see millions suffering from the war, millions of refugees on borders around the world, and hundreds of millions suffering from food shortages. As well, when we know that thousands of people every day are dying from domestic violence, drug violence, and gang violence, and when we see tension everywhere within our governments, our churches, our neighborhoods, and our families, we might ask ourselves, what difference do our little string of lights, or indeed all the Christmas lights in the world, make?

Well, in the words of the late Jesuit Michael Buckley, *prayer is most*

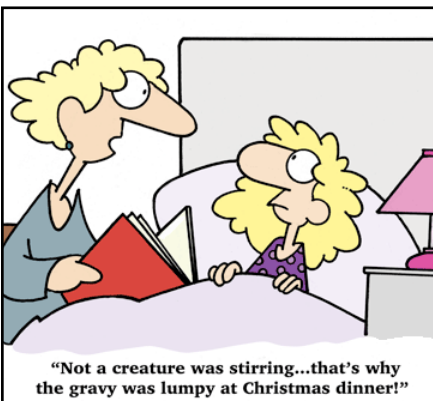


needed, just when it is deemed most useless.

These are words to hang onto. Given the magnitude of our world's problems, given the magnitude of the darkness that threatens us, now more than ever, it is imperative that we express our faith publicly, as a prayer. Now, more than ever, we need to show publicly that we still believe faith works, that we still believe in the power of prayer, and that we still believe that, in Christ, the power of darkness has been forever overcome.

This is expressed wonderfully in a poem John Shea inscribed inside his Christmas card this year.

*Our Christmas trees want to talk to us
The greater darkness of December
can take its toll and strengthen what
afflicts us. Our Christmas trees beg to
differ. Their branches are full, leafy,
strung with lights. The brightness is
defiant. We want a perfect world. But
that is not always what we get. We
may experience catastrophic
weather; a pandemic; threatened*



"Not a creature was stirring...that's why the gravy was lumpy at Christmas dinner!"

health; overstressed work, dipping finances, struggling relationships, and society and world either slightly or wildly insane. Our Christmas trees glow. Their lights whisper; "Give all the things that afflict you their due, but do not give them your soul. You are more than the surrounding darkness."

While struggling to overcome apartheid in South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was sometimes confronted by military personnel who came into his church while he was preaching, flashing their guns to intimidate him. He would smile at them and say, "I'm glad you have come to join the winning side!" In saying this, he wasn't talking about the apartheid struggle; he was talking about the forever victory that Christ has won for us. The most important of all battles has already been won, and our faith puts us on the winning side. Our Christmas lights express this, however consciously unaware of it we may be.

Karl Rahner once wrote that, at Christmas, God gives us sacred permission to be happy. Christmas also assures us that we have more than sufficient grounds to be happy, regardless of what might still be happening in our lives and in our world. We can be defiant in the face of everything that demands we be downcast. Our Christmas lights express that defiance.

Ronald Rolheiser

You can read, or download, Ron Rolheiser's weekly columns from his website at: www.ronrolheiser.com

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Veronica Shortland, Muriel Smith, Janet Burbidge, Arthur and Carol Jones, Bill and Janet McIver, Rainer Maack, Adrian Andrews, Heidi Kunzelmann

Anniversaries: Sarah and Christopher Lane, Anne and Ian Haese

DATES

- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Masses
4.00pm Normanville
6.30pm Aldinga
7.00pm Willunga,
12.00 midnight Willunga
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Masses
9.00am Normanville
9.00am Willunga
- 25 Dec Aboriginal Catholic
Ministry Appeal
- 1 Jan New Year's Day
- 2 Jan New Year's Day holiday
- 21 Jan Tour Down Under - Port
Willunga - Willunga 11.00am
- 2.30pm
- 22 Jan Lunar New Year (Chinese
year of the Rabbit)
- 26 Jan Australia Day holiday
- 30 Jan First school day - 2023
- 22 Feb Ash Wednesday
- 26 Feb First Sunday of Lent
- 13 Mar Adelaide Cup Day
- 14 Apr Last day School term 1
- 6 Apr Thursday of Lord's supper
- 7 Apr Good Friday
- 8 Apr Holy Saturday
- 9 Apr Easter Sunday
- 10 Apr Easter Monday
- 25 Apr ANZAC Day
- 1 May First day School term 2
- 12 Jun King's birthday
- 7 Jul Last day School term 2
- 24 Jul First day School term 3
- 29 Sep Last day School term 3
- 2 Oct Labour Day
- 16 Oct First day School term 4
- 15 Dec Last day School term 4

ROSTERS

ALDINGA

Welcomer
Commentator
Readers

Eucharistic Minister

Saturday 24 December

Christina Tiedge
Tricia Dundon
Michelle Cormack
Brian Younie
Bob Daly

Saturday 31 December

Kate Manders
David Manders
Christina Tiedge
Brianna McIver
Brigid Grimwood

NORMANVILLE

Welcomer
Commentator
Reader
Altar/Cleaning

Sunday, 25 December

Peter Lloyd
Ann Henriksen
Chris Symes
Jim and Patsy Fitzpatrick

Sunday, 01 January

Peter Lloyd
Chris Symes
Mary Kennedy
Jim and Patsy Fitzpatrick

WILLUNGA

Welcomer
Commentator
Reader
Eucharistic Minister
Flowers
Church Linen

Sunday, 25 December

Tony Harding
Marie Andrews
Vanda Farrall
Wayne Best
Michael Hynes
Wayne Best

Sunday, 01 January

Brian Crosbie
Gael Maloney
Norman Lee
Chris Dzamko
Michael Hynes
Margaret Guley



"Some people call him Santa Claus, some call him Kris Kringle, some call him Saint Nicholas. Obviously, a victim of identity theft!"

COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS

(Current from 22/12/22)



- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 please follow the instructions as per SA Health in terms of contact tracing and isolating yourself as per government health protocols. Please stay home and do not attend church services until you have fully recovered.
- Wearing of face-masks in Church is strongly recommended.
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are requested to stay home and not attend services.
- Hand sanitiser is available at church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands. Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches.
- Procession of gifts has resumed.
- Collection plates are to be passed around with minimum contact

DID YOU KNOW?

- Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire from 27 bc to ad 14. He was the great nephew of Julius Caesar.
- A Roman census was usually undertaken for purposes of taxation but also at times for other ends, such as conscription or forced labour.
- A problem of timing exists within this text. Most scholars agree that Jesus was born about 6BC in the reign of Herod the Great. However, Quirinius was not appointed as governor of Syria until about eleven years later. After his appointment, he did in fact supervise a census of the region.

CHRISTMAS READINGS

- **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
- **Night:** Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
- **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
- **Day:** Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

(Continued from page 1)

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.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

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.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR JOSY

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem which is God's entry into human history giving up the splendor of heaven. In this 'mystery' and 'miracle' of the Incarnation God revealed the depths of his love for humankind. "God so loved the world that he gave His only Son so that whosoever believes in him may not

perish but may have eternal life" (John3:16). Though we are exchanging our "Merry Christmas" greetings, and carols fill the air telling us "this is the season to be jolly," Christmas provides something far greater than merriment, joviality, or an easy joy. Christmas points the way to something sober and enduring. To celebrate Christmas is not simply to recall a past event in a stable which we sweetly depicted on Christmas cards. To celebrate Christmas is to open ourselves to what is happening within us: in virtue of our baptism, Jesus continues to be born and grow to maturity in us. Our participation in the Incarnation, therefore, is a profound and all demanding fact of life to be patiently and courageously lived by each one of us in the varying and sometimes difficult, circumstances of life.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing everyone a blessed and salvific Christmas! May Christ, who was born in a manger, for the salvation of the entire Human Race, grant you and your loved ones health and every blessing from above!

Fr Josy

WEEKDAY READINGS

(26 December - 01 January)

- **Monday, 26:** St Stephen (Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22)
- **Tuesday, 27:** St John (Is 7:10-14; Jn 20:2-8:)
- **Wednesday, 28:** The Holy Innocents, (1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18)
- **Thursday, 29:** 5th day in Octave of the Nativity (1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35)
- **Friday, 30:** The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23)
- **Saturday, 31:** 7th day in Octave of the Nativity (1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18)
- **Sunday 01:** MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD (Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8556 2132 or 0488 287 552.