

## St Mary's Parish: Maclean, Yamba Iluka



### NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: 25TH DECEMBER 2025

#### *The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-15)*

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.'

#### *Bishop Greg's Christmas Message 2025*

December is always a month in which Jews and Christians rejoice in the Festival of Light. For Jewish communities, it is the feast of Hanukkah, and for us it is Christmas. As such, both communities greet each other with *Happy Hanukkah* or *Merry Christmas*. This year, it is different. On Sunday, 14 December 2025, the terrible Bondi Massacre occurred as Jewish people were celebrating the first day of Hanukkah. This was a heinous attack on the Jewish people in Australia.

I join with so many other religious and community leaders in rejecting what is happening in Australia. This is not the Australia that I was born in.

Christmas is a time in which we remember the love of God made manifest in a small baby born into poverty. I pray, that as we celebrate Christmas, this child may bring peace to anguished hearts and friendship between peoples. Let us not allow hatred and evil to overcome goodness and love.

In wishing you a *Merry Christmas*, I ask you to reach out to all in need and, in particular, to all who may be suffering as a consequence of the Bondi Massacre. **Bishop Greg Homeming OCD**

***Merry Christmas! Our celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ reminds us that God loves us and does everything to bring us into communion of love with him. He sent his own Son, became like us, to be with us, and to reconcile with him. May we welcome anew Jesus Christ who now lives and reigns with God the Father in the Holy Spirit and is always with us as our Saviour. Fr Roland***



## ENTRANCE HYMN

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

**Priest:** Christ have mercy. **All: Christ have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

**Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly king, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**All: 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.

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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## 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

*John 1:1-18*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All: And with your spirit.*

*Priest:* A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

*All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.

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.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## HOMILY

(SIT)

## NICENE CREED

(STAND)

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow at these words:) "and by the Holy Spirit was*

*incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: Let us pray to the Lord

*All: Lord, hear our prayer*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

(SIT)

*Priest:* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (STAND)

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All: And with your spirit.*

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

*All: We lift them up to the Lord.*

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All: It is right and just.*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: (PLEASE KNEEL)

**Memorial Acclamation:** *We proclaim your death, O Lord and profess your resurrection until you come again.*

*Priest:* Through him, with him and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

*All: Amen.*



**Priest:** 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 not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

**Priest:** Deliver us Lord we pray from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All:** *For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.*

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**All:** *Amen.*

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All:** *And with your spirit.*

**Priest:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace. (*A sign of peace is expressed.*)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## KNEEL

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All:** *Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*At the time for communion, non-Catholics are welcome to receive a blessing by coming forward with arms folded on the chest and of course Catholics who are properly disposed can come forward to receive the Body of the Lord, or, if not, to receive a blessing.*

**Minister:** The Body of Christ. *Amen.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Priest:** Let us pray. Grant, O merciful God, that, just

as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All:** *Amen.*

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** *And with your spirit.*

**Priest:** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Priest:** Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

## HYMN

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## ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Prayers for the Sick:** Janice Faye Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Tony Murphy, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Margaret Donges, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Graham Courte, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Matt Mohorovic, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Cathedral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Fotka Mijic, Donna Ellis, Fran Eckersley, Anita Gooley. **Anniversary:** Anthony Ricaplaza, Ron Crittenden, Norman Young, Pat Shortt, Colin Campbell, Les Sinderberry. **Pray for:** Gordon & Kym Eckersley, Ruben Rollon, Edith Young, Mary Shortt, Anmary Wood, John Drum, Kristen Rooke, Marcus Sims. All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

## MASS TIMES:

**Sunday Masses:** Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

**Weekday Masses:** Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Thursday, 10:00am: Iluka; Friday, 12:00nn, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

**Baptisms:** Yamba: 4:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 12:30pm (SUN)

**Sacraments:** For information regarding Sacraments including Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation, First Holy Communion and RCIA, please contact the Parish Office: [office@stmarysparish.org.au](mailto:office@stmarysparish.org.au)