

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



### NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: VIGIL MASS, 24 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****(STAND)**

**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.**

**Priest:** Let us pray. O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**FIRST READING:***Isaiah 62:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the

dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be names 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

**The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,/ who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,/ who find their joy every day in your name,/ who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R)
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father,/ my God, the rock who saves me."/ I will keep my love for him always;/ for him my covenant shall endure.' (R)

**SECOND READING***Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; the by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

**The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (STAND)

*Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Matthew 1: 1-25

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

*All: And with your spirit.*

**Priest:** A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

*All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham ... This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

**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)

**Priest:** As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

*All: 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, a blessing.*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Priest:** Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. 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 Catheral, 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, 12:00pm, 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)