



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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MESSAGE FROM FR BAIYI

Welcome to our Christmas celebrations. Every year in December, we gather together to celebrate this important Christian feast. Jesus Christ has been changing this world so much that one-third of the world's population have identified themselves as his followers. Many others, as individuals or as communities, have been enormously influenced by Christian values: love, mercy, forgiveness and justice. To Christians, Jesus is our Lord and saviour. To those who are not Christians, Jesus was a great person who has had incredible influence on the world. For whatever reasons, we have every right to celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

Christmas is a time to thank God for his love for all of us. Out of love, God sent his only begotten son to us. Jesus, God's incarnate Son, has set us a fantastic example and taught us how to unconditionally love one another. Then the seed of love that was planted into our hearts at the very beginning of human history could be awakened, nurtured and grown into big trees. With more people who believe in love and practice it, this world will definitely become better.

Christmas is a time to reflect on our past lives. From time to time, human beings need to stop being busy, in order to ponder over what they have said and done in the

past and make plans for the future. When they undertake such a reflection, they will need criteria and a suitable opportunity. Jesus has offered us both with his teaching and birthday. By so doing, we may change ourselves for the better every year.

Christmas is also a time for being together and building up our community. On Christmas, we have liturgical celebrations in the Church. We come to the liturgies as a community. Through these communal celebrations, we experience and respond to God's love. We deepen our love for one another. We are building the kingdom of God among us right here on earth. After Mass, we go home and have reunions with those whom we love, enjoying food, drinks and joy together. Through this, the bond of love between all of us will be strengthened and deepened.

My dear friends, let us be grateful for this special and sacred moment. Let us celebrate this amazing feast together. **Thank you all for celebrating Christmas with us. Wish you and your loved ones a blessed, fruitful and happy Christmas.**

BORN ON THE EDGE

If you were to give just a cursory glance at a collection of 'religious' Christmas cards, or even the local nativity scene, you would undoubtedly see a varied assortment of shepherds, wise men, livestock and angels gathered around the holy family in a timber structure of some sort. Even the most casual reading of Luke's account of the birth of Christ would reveal that most of the nativity figures are missing! Our retelling of the birth of Christ tends to be an amalgamation of the Luke and Matthew versions with a bit of creative tradition thrown in for good measure.

The Luke account of the nativity carries a very specific theology that runs throughout the rest of the gospel. It is a theology that places the outcast and downtrodden at

the centre of Jesus' mission. In this account, Jesus is born outside the town because there is no room for Joseph and Mary within the safety of the inn. Like those he will minister to later in life, Jesus is born 'on the edge' - even outside the boundaries. Rather than the impressive 'Wise Men' of the Matthew infancy account, the witnesses to Jesus' birth in the Luke account are lowly shepherds. Unlike the somewhat romantic notion we may have of shepherds, in Jesus' time they are cut-throats. All they could be trusted to do was tend sheep outside of townships and away from 'civilised society'. The gospel writer's choice of these witnesses to the birth of Jesus is a very deliberate one that clearly announces the purpose and direction of Jesus's mission.

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CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

AND WHAT THEY MEAN



The Christmas Wreath - the shape of a circle reminds us of God's endless love.



The Candle - shines brightly and shows us that Jesus is the light of the world



The Star of Bethlehem - the guide which led the wise men to baby Jesus.



Presents - represent God's gift to the world.

Q & A

Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder once said "A Russian brain surgeon who was a Christian and a Russian astronaut who was not were talking about religion."



"I've been in space many times but I've never seen God or angels"



"I've operated on many clever brains but I've never seen a single thought"

How can we explain belief in God to those who don't believe in Him?

Why am I here on this earth?

Does God hear our prayers?



"I am created to do something or be something for which no one else is created. I have a place in God's counsels, in God's world, which no one else has. Whether I be rich or poor, despised or esteemed by people, God knows me and calls me by my name."

Fun fact: Pope Francis at age 8 decided he wanted to be a butcher. You never know where life will lead you.

Last Minute Christmas Recipe

By Caroline Hire | <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/1826689/no-cook-spiced-apple-chutney>

This is a great accompaniment to a cheese board or ham. Enjoy!

PREP: 15MINS
EASY (NO COOK)
MAKES ABOUT HALF A LITRE

INGREDIENTS

2 large Braeburn apples (or similar), peeled, cored and diced
1 red onion, finely chopped
125g sultana
80ml red wine vinegar
40g dark brown soft sugar
½ tsp ground ginger
¼ tsp cumin
pinch of cayenne

METHOD

Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Give them a good stir and season generously with salt and pepper.

Pour into a sterilized jar and refrigerate. Leave for 2 - 3 days, shaking once a day, before eating. Keep for up to a week more.

Sometimes he answers our prayer immediately and sometimes he gifts us with something other than what we've asked for - something that is better for us but which we may only realise in hindsight.

God misses nothing that we ask of Him. Sometimes he gives us what we ask for and sometimes he doesn't. "Trust in the Lord, because the Lord will not disappoint you! He never disappoints: he is a good friend, always at our side." (Pope Francis)

Christmas Colouring Competition



Colour in the picture for a chance to win a \$20 Gift Card. Entries to be handed in to the Parish Office by 10th January 2020. Winners will be announced on 18th January. Age group: 5 to 11 years.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Email: _____



Which football team did the Baby Jesus support?

Manger-ster United



Why is Santa so good at karate?

Because he has a black belt.

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

They keep losing their needles.



ST PETER'S PARISH

Written by a parishioner of St Peter's

When I was asked to write something about our parish the words around this article immediately came to mind. It's been that way for me since I moved to the parish 35 years ago. In fact it's become more & more so as the years have flown by. It's not **what** is St Peter's parish about it's **who**. I realised long ago that if you want to feel connected, to be a part of something, you need to get involved. And in this great little place there is abundant choice – something for everyone. In fact we have approximately 33 different groups running at the moment – everything from the Gardening Group to the Faith Enrichment group.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a wonderful journey for anyone young or old who wishes to know more about the Catholic faith or become a Catholic. In a casual atmosphere a small group gathers together to gain valuable support in discussion about faith and our Church teachings. I hope you will be encouraged to enquire about this journey, as faith is a key part of our lives. Please feel free to contact our Parish anytime.

Sacramental Ministry Our Sacramental Ministry is important in the Catholic Church as it binds us together in our faith and love for God. Every young person should be given the opportunity to get to know God and his great love for us. The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church are to strengthen our faith and deepen our relationship with God. Our School and



Parish Team have a wonderful program for children from year 3 to high school. This is a great way also for our youth to build a community of friends. So if you would like your child/young student to come on this faith journey please contact the parish office.

Youth Group Our great youth coordinator organizes regular youth events at our parish ranging from pizza nights, dinners and outings. 3 different age groups meet regularly from ages 8 to 35. Please look each week on our parish newsletter for youth updates. This is a wonderful way to grow friendships for the future.

If you would like further information on anything parish related please contact our parish office between the hours of 8.15 and 1.15 Monday to Friday.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Times subject to change

Monday and Tuesday	- 8.00am
Wednesday	- 6.30am
Friday	- 9.30am

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	- Reconciliation 5.00pm*
Saturday night	- 6.00pm
Sunday	- 9am, 6pm

** by appointment*

GEM OF A CAFÉ IN THE CBD

Photo by Nathan Dunbar on Unsplash

If you are in Brisbane's CBD while shopping or out with friends, why not try a coffee at the Cathedral Coffee Lounge? A beautiful quiet old fashioned tea house at the Lower Ground Floor, Penola Place, St Stephens, Cathedral Precinct. Elizabeth St, Brisbane.

SUPPORT SERVICES LINKS

WEBSITE: Archdiocese of Brisbane

- Click on "Centacare" for various support services
- Click on "Webcasts" and "Videos" for Live webcasts of Masses

APP- download the IOS version of Archdiocese of Brisbane mobile APP
Catholic Daily Readings App - download from the Playstore or App Store

St Vincent De Paul Helpline - Phone 1800 551 800

Life Line - Phone 131114
Crisis Care and support live and chat
<https://lifeline.org.au>

Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636

Kids Helpline 180055180

Confidential Helpline: 1800737732

Relationships Australia: 1300364277