



St Mary MacKillop Parish

Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenelg, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Minerva, Penshurst and Torrayoukyan.

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight

25 December 2019

First Reading Is 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the
spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts
will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) *Today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all
the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth
be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord
for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with
his truth. (R.)

Second Reading Ti 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and
taught us that what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God, and all our
worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained
and live good and religious lives here in this
present world, while we are waiting in hope for
the blessing which will come with the Appearing
of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ
Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to
set us free from all wickedness and to purify
a people so that it could be his very own and
would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Good News and great joy to all
the world:*

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of
the whole world to be taken. This census - the
first - took place while Quirinus 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.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

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 figurines 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 that gospel. It is
a theology that places the outcast and
down-trodden 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 were
regarded as little better than thieves
and cut-throats. All they could be
trusted to do was tend sheep outside
of townships and away from 'civilised'
society. They held one of the lowest
positions in Jewish 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' mission.

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Saint Mary MacKillop Parish

Christmas Offering



1st Collection / Christmas Offerings

It is a Catholic tradition to include in our Christmas gifts an offering that contributes to the support of our priests. Their annual stipend is drawn from the First Collections which needs "topping up" with your generous Christmas Offerings.

(Envelopes can be returned by placing on either collection plate or to Parish Office.)

Thank you for your generosity.

2nd Collection - Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's Appeal. In anticipation I thank all parishioners for their generosity in the support of the 2019 Christmas Appeal

Paul Bird CSsR

Collections will be held in all Parishes during
Christmas Eve/Day Masses.

Farewell & Thank you

Fr Doan Nguyen

Sunday 29th December

after 10.30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share for light lunch after Mass.

Prayer Vigil New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve, there will be a vigil of prayer, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, St Mary's Church from 8pm till 12.30am to celebrate St Mary's Patronal Feast The Mother of God: to pray for the welfare of our parish; to pray for peace; to pray in thanksgiving for the blessings of the past year and for our own intentions. Pop in and pay a visit if you have a few minutes to spare. There will be someone present throughout the evening.



St Mary MacKillop Parish Office will be closed between Christmas & New Year
Wed 25th - Wed 1st.

May your Christmas be blessed with
Love, Peace & Joy.

Prayer

While all the world,
Lord God,
lay wrapped in deepest silence,
and night had reached its midpoint,
your all-powerful Word came down.
As year by year the beauty
of this night returns,
growing old with the aged
and renewed
in the wonder of children,
Glory to you, our God,
in the highest heaven,
peace on earth
and in the depths of every heart.

AMEN.

2019

Marriages

Taylor (Barber)
& Nicholas Perkins
7th December



Hannah
(Ronaldson)
&
Rob Burke
5th October.



Amelia (Murphy)
& Nathan
Fradley
2nd November.



Baptisms

Lexi Turner, Jax Hollard, Wren Hollard, Aylah Coote,
Connor Wensley, Aliza Wensley, Nathaniel Wensley ,
Giuliana Causer, Caleb Reid, Guy Haley,
Obie Sherlock, Molly Sherlock, Harry Wilkie, Rhian Carreon, Chantz Ezard, Erin
Houlihan, Gemma Houlihan, Shakiah Willis,
Mason Sheldrake, Layla Sheldrake, Harry Onderwater,
Heidi Onderwater, Lola Uzkuraitis, Katherine Stephens-Wilkie, Benjamin Wilkie,
Harper Colliton, Thomas Roache,
Fletcher Douglas, Macey Douglas, Theodore Stevenson,
Sophie McLean, Sarah Dunn, Liam McInnes.

Deaths

Alex Philip, John Goggin, Ann Eales, Frank Waight, Raymond
O'Brien, Kees Onderwater, Roger Edge, Giuseppe Gatti,
Kathleen Torney, Christopher McDonald, Eileen Hutchins,
Naomi Phillips, Judith Page, Gladys Ryan, Alfred Roberts,
Joan Holyoak, Dawn Trigger, Gaby Borbiro, Shirley Thomas,
Dawn Barker, Teresa Hurley.



A Christmas Message 2019

St Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border

**A very warm WELCOME to Parishioners,
your Families and Visitors alike!**

A special welcome to those of other faiths, or maybe of no faith.

We are honoured by your presence.

May every one of you be richly blessed in these days of Christmas.
May your hearts and families be filled with the loving kindness of our God,
as expressed in the story of the birth in Bethlehem,
and may this same love be born anew within you.

To those of you, who for whatever reason,
no longer are active members of our parish family:

May God stir afresh in your hearts the desire
to be a contributing part of our church family
and so rebuild our church as a humble and listening faith community,
built on the example and spirit of Jesus
who inspires us to love and serve one another.

We pray and hope for the day
when we can welcome you back to our weekly Eucharist
and the activities which flow from there.

Thus, will our faith community be the stronger,
and Christ be ever more present.

**A heartfelt THANK YOU to all those
who contribute in countless ways to making
our parish the Spirit-filled community it is.**

A Merry Christmas and lasting peace to you all.

St Mary's Pastoral Team:

**Noreen McLeish, Carolyn Stanhope, Kymhan Watson,
Maria Patience, Trish Irving, John Hockey, Fr John McKinnon,
Fr Doan & Fr Paddy Mugavin.**