







To be on earth the Heart of God



St John the Apostle Parish – Kippax ACT

DECEMBER 2021

Time out for reflection

Take time to be still and listen to images that carry you each day – when God is truly present

God of all seasons – right on cue you present us with the joy that comes with all seasons.

Gentle God – we feel the comfort of your longing for us.

Silent God - who waits and loves

The present God – when I can speak to you at any time.

The God of tears - suffering with us in our times of sorrow.

Lord of laughter – who knows that laughter is the gift that breaks the silence and brings connection with happy feelings.

Lord of the frightened – you bring strength and hope.

Jesus of trust - you give us freedom to choose.

Lord of wondrous patience, when we hear "Come and See" – You wait in love.

The companion God - always walking with us.

The Holy One – as we gather in the Eucharist.

God of miracles – tiny miracles each day, when you seem to say, "You see, I am with you."

God of endings – when you give me strength and courage to find closure in loss – sorrow and change.

Loving One of stories – stories we hear each day that reveal you to us in tiny ways.

The loyal Lord – continually present when we need to call on you.

The God of dawn – each day a new dawn given to make a fresh beginning.

Christmas messages of hope from our Pastors



Each year, we set aside a planning day in the parish office. It is an opportunity for spiritual reflection. The fruits of our individual reflections sets the direction or goal that each can

work toward for the year. At the beginning of 2021, we invited the Parish Pastoral Council, together with the Finance, Liturgy, and SJA Care committees to engage in a similar process. Throughout this year, each committee has tried to implement the vision and goals they have set for themselves.

As with 2020, some of our visions and goals for the parish have had to be modified, postponed, or shelved. I speak for myself when I say that, when the reality of what I have done, falls short of the vision or expectations I have set, I can judge myself with a bit of harshness. Sometimes we do not account for the energy and time that goes into ensuring that everything ticks over day after day in the life of a family or community or a parish. It is only in hindsight that we recognise and appreciate what was actually achieved in spite of the unanticipated challenges along the way.

With another year drawing to its close and as we look to the dawning of a new, this is an opportunity to express my continued gratitude to our office staff and to all parishioners who have volunteered their time, talent and possession to assist in the pastoral, social, financial, and liturgical life and ministries of our parish community. Months in lockdown gave me a few opportunities to practice my gardening and vacuuming skills, therefore, special thanks goes to those who care for, clean, and maintain our church building and its surrounding gardens and grounds. Lockdown also brought to my attention the number of parishioners who prayed for, keep an eye out for, and offered assistance, to those who felt vulnerable because of health concerns and/or isolation from family and friends. To all of you and those who I may have unintentionally left out, thank you for all you have done.

Our parish office will reopen for 2022 on 5th January. It is also the day I leave for my annual break (postponed from 2021). I will be back on deck on Australia Day.

As I often like to tell parishioners, it is not just because I need a break, more importantly, it is an opportunity for parishioners to have a break from me!

Peace and blessings to you all! Kimi MSC My dear friends, every year Christmas comes around to remind us that God gave us His only Son out of love for us. Christmas is the beginning of a classic love story. Christmas is the living promise that we are never ever alone. No matter where we are in life, no matter in what condition we find oursely matter how far we might stray, or how unfaithful w



are never ever alone. No matter where we are in life, no matter in what condition we find ourselves, no matter how far we might stray, or how unfaithful we are, God, the supreme lover, will pursue us in love! It's a love that never stops shining. What is the real Christmas message? The message of

What is the real Christmas message? The message of Christmas is that where there is hope, love, light and life, the plan and purpose of God will reach. Christmas is a great time of year. In our family, Christmas is a time to come together, share stories, exchange gifts, enjoy a wonderful meal and be grateful for what we have. It is a time of joy and anticipation. But for some, for whatever reason, Christmas can be difficult time it's up to all of us, to remember everyone who's doing it tough. I found something interesting in a conversation between two women which is helpful for us to better understand ourselves.

- **Graciella**: Mary, I'm disappointed in you. You were sent a male angel who thought the most important thing in a woman's life was to have a boy child, and you were totally submissive. How come?
- **Mary**: Well, Graciella, we can only welcome the angels we're sent. But to bear and raise any child, girl or boy, is a gift from God, don't you think? Is accepting such a gift really submission? Or might it be gratitude?
- **Graciella**: But you are a role-model, Mary. You had a duty to stand up for yourself and other women. You should have thought about your career as well.
- **Mary**: But I've become a celebrity, Graciella, haven't I? Seriously, though, doesn't God invite women and men to attend to angels, to say yes, and to be faithful? Don't you sometimes find that attractive?

Graciella: Not particularly, but I'll think about it.

I would like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy; I pray that all four of these gifts will fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. I am grateful to God. This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate "Immanuel" (God with us). Without Christ's presence among us we would be lost. Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. I will pray that you will have a happy Christmas, may it be an enjoyable, peaceful and safe time for everyone.

Yours in the Heart of Christ, Michael MSC \mathcal{CA} 17TH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from getting talkative and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it is a pity not to use it all, but you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind from the recital of endless details – give me wings to come to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to others' pains. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains – they are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. Help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible for me to be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

> Submitted by Judy Kenny with the observation that people do not change much in more than three centuries, do they?

The First Nativity Scene 1223



In the late 330s AD, Pope Julius 1 declared: December 25th, Christ born in Bethlehem, Judea.

Originally, early Christians held a Mass service for Christ (hence Christmas' name) but also debated the actual birth date of Jesus, which was never stated in the Bible.

Indeed, even the year was, and still is, debated. Many say that Jesus was born in another season, maybe in the month of September.

Another theory is that Pope Julius saw the date coincided with the winter solstice and the Jewish Hannukah, which were already times of celebration, so let the festivities be enhanced during this period.

St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and founder of the Catholic Church's Franciscan Order, began the Christmas tradition of nativity scenes also called creches or manger scenes because he wanted to help people gain a fresh sense of wonder about the miracles that the Bible records from the first Christmas. St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, began the Christmas tradition of nativity scenes because he wanted to help people gain a fresh sense of wonder about the miracles the Bible records from the first Christmas. Richard Nebesky/Getty Image

Up until Francis set up the first nativity scene in 1223, people celebrated Christmas primarily by going to Mass at church, where priests would tell the Christmas story in a language that most ordinary people did not speak: Latin. Although churches sometimes featured fancy artistic renditions of Christ as an infant, they did not present any realistic manger scenes. Francis decided that he wanted to make the extraordinary experiences of the first Christmas more accessible to ordinary people.

Francis, who was living in the town of Greccio, Italy at the time, got the Pope's permission to proceed with his plans. Then he asked his close friend John Velita to loan him some animals and straw to set up a scene there to represent Jesus Christ's birth in Bethlehem. The nativity scene could help people in the area imagine what it may have been like to be present on the first Christmas long ago.



This Christmas image is by Australian Aboriginal artist Duwun Lee, and it appears in a set of 2012 Indigenous Christmas Cards for sale here by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC)



2021 St John the Apostle Nativity

The scene, which was set up in a cave just outside Greccio, featured a wax figure of the infant Jesus, costumed people playing the roles of Mary and Joseph, and the live donkey and ox that John had loaned to Francis. Local shepherds watched over their sheep in nearby fields, just as shepherds in Bethlehem had watched over sheep on the first Christmas when the sky suddenly filled with angels who announced Christ's birth to them.

During the Mass, Francis told the Christmas story from the Bible and then delivered a sermon. He spoke to the people gathered there about the first Christmas and the miraculous impact that placing their faith in Christ, the baby born in a simple manger in Bethlehem, could make in their lives. Francis urged people to reject hatred and embrace love, with God's help.

In his biography of Francis (called the Life of St. Francis of Assisi), Saint Bonaventure described what happened that night: "The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem."

Saint Bonaventure also reported in his book that people saved the hay from the nativity presentation afterward, and when cattle later ate the hay, it: "miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles."

The first nativity scene presentation proved to be so popular that people in other areas soon set up living nativities to celebrate Christmas.

Eventually, Christians worldwide celebrated Christmas by visiting living nativity scenes and praying at nativity scenes made of statues in their town squares, churches and homes.

People also added more figures to their nativity scenes than Francis was able to feature in his original, live presentation. In addition to the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, a donkey, and an ox, later nativity scenes featured angels, shepherds, sheep, camels, and the three kings who travelled to present gifts to the infant Jesus and his parents.



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6pm Christmas Eve



Treasures from the Archives





A gift from a remarkable woman

Christmas is a time of giving and our Church Archives care for a wide range of gifted textiles, each with its own story. A few years ago, the Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission acquired a stole that had been presented to a rural parish priest in the 1920s. The stole is hand-painted with two scenes: the familiar $A\Omega$ (alpha omega) monogram and a triumphant Paschal lamb framed by wheat and grapes, the work of a local parishioner, Mary Glowrey.

Mary Glowrey was the world's first 'Doctor Sister'. After graduating in 1910 from the University of Melbourne, Dr Glowrey worked for several years at St Vincent's Hospital and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital before completing post-graduate studies in obstetrics, gynaecology, and ophthalmology. In 1915, after attending Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, she happened to read a pamphlet about the appalling death rate amongst babies in India and the urgent need for medical missionaries there. She knew then that God was calling her to a life of medical mission work in India. At about the same time, she was elected founding President of the Catholic Women's Social Guild, now known as the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga. The CWSG was an ecclesiastical movement founded in 1916 by a small group of visionary young professional women who sought to change the world through prayer and action. In 1920 Dr Glowrey left her successful medical practice in Melbourne to join the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, a Dutch order of medical missionary nuns, in Guntur, India. In religious life she took the name Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart. She had to gain special permission from Pope Pius XI to perform her medical mission work because, at that time, nuns were not permitted to practice as doctors.

In the years that followed she treated thousands of patients, often as sole practitioner and travelling to outlying villages and encampments in severely deprived areas. On a broader scale, she played a pivotal role in the education and training of local women as nurses, midwives and pharmacists. Her legacy includes the establishment of the Catholic Hospital Association of India, one of the largest providers of health care in India. Her vision of a medical college was realised in 1963 with the opening of St John's Medical College in Bangalore, seven years after her untimely death from cancer in 1957.

Through the advocacy of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria, Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart was declared a Servant of God (the first step to canonisation) in 2013. This simple stole given into the care of the Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission by its owner parish may, if Sr Mary Glowrey is canonised, be considered a secondary relic. Until then it remains a tangible reminder of the devotion, faith, and work of a remarkable woman. The Mary Glowrey Museum is situated at Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy, Melbourne.

Submitted by Margaret Ferguson

CHRISTMAS TRAVELS WITH O POST

Christmas Island 6798, Christmas Hills 7330 and Christmas Creek 4285 are easy to find.

Dig deeper and the Nativity unfolds. There's Mangerton 2500, Maryknoll 3812, and Josephville 4285.

And Shepherds Flat 3461, Wisemans Ferry 2775, Sheep Hills 3392, and Cattle Creek 4407.

Pine Clump 2824 and Hollywell 4216 join with Bell 2786 and adorn the homes of

Happy Valley 5159, Deer Park 3023 and tiny Jolly Nose 2445.

There's Plenty 7140 to eat at Baking Board 4413 and on the Dinner Plain 3898.

Tuck in at Potato Point 2545, Turkey Hill 6426, Duck Ponds 5607, Bean Creek 2469,

Cherry Gardens 5157, Applecross 6153, Banana 4702, and Figtree 2525.

Slowly step into Winegrove 2460, sip from the Punchbowl 7249, rest in Sleepy Hollow 2483

And have a very Goodnight 2736.

The Postcode Directory is filled with good cheer at this time of year.

Christmas Music of 1964

The annual seven-hundred-mile Christmas Road Trip from Adelaide to Orbost was always time of song. We had our Top 10 all-time favourites. Top of the Pops was *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*, Dad's favourite from the 1961 Australian Top 40. *By the Light of the Silvery Moon* gave rise to harmony and singing in the round. *I'm Gonna Knock on Your Door, Ring on Your Bell* had lots of hand actions. *The Grand Old Duke of York* went up and down the hills and the *Saints* were always marchin' somewhere.

Green Bottles fell from the walls, Mary's lamb became a William Goat, John Brown had a puncture in his tyre, the Old Lady swallowed hundreds of flies and the Old Man paddy wacked everything in sight.

Our musical repertoire blossomed in 1964. Santa left a portable battery-powered record player and five 45 rpm records under the Orbost Christmas Tree. Over the next three weeks the turntable worked non-stop and there were numerous visits to the hardware store to buy six more torch batteries.

The *Alley Cat Song* taught us to whistle. Nat King Cole crooned *Ramblin' Rose*. Carole King lamented *It Might as Well Rain Until September,* and Neil Sedaka sang about his *Calendar Girl.* A change of pace was provided by Walter Brennan reciting the tales of Old Rivers and *The Epic Ride of John H. Glenn.*

The player accommodated 78 rpm records and our uncle's country and western collection found its way onto the turntable. One record was left turning while we went for a swim and the needle wore through the centre of the disc!

The record player was useless in the back of a moving car and so *Michael Row the Boat Ashore* remained in top spot for the journey home to Adelaide.

While we were away, the boys next door had discovered the Rolling Stones. Would we like some Beatles records? Yes please! Well, what about their first recording – *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*, and to go with that, the EP *Requests* – four songs! *Long Tall Sally, Please Mister Postman, I Call Your Name* and *Boys* sung by Ringo Starr! A singing drummer. Unheard of...

Michael still rowed the boat ashore took time out to rest.

Beatlemania had arrived...



During 2021 we welcomed into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following children and their families.

Scott Bailie Hazel Berzins Caitlin Bird .Anna Marie Blackwell Scarlette Blewitt Evie Blewitt Jack Blewitt .Halle Bol Lucas Bulger Jay Calvert Lincoln Chamberlain Mabel Clarke Fletcher Cockburn Hudson Collis Amira Ding Mervin Ezeafurukwe Valentina Farzan Elliott Faulks Jordan Garland Liliana Givens Xerses Gonzales **Zeus** Gonzales

Eli Harrison Spencer Hayman Dominic Hmeidan Freddie Hunter Kai Knight Elias Lane Teejay Le Eila Mahina-Newman **Benjamin Markcrow** Benjamin Masterman Somkenechukwu Ojinuka Knox Oliver Kingston Oliver Leon Qashaa Logan Scheerlinck Eli Sciberras Derren Seah Annalise Stefopoulos Mina Van Dartel Ayla White Charlie Wilson

2021 Death notices

Terry O'Gorman	11 SEPTEMBER 1940 – 02 JANUARY 2021
Eamonn Kennedy	04 OCTOBER 1939 – 09 JANUARY 2021
Veronica Brennan	23 APRIL 1940 – 20 MARCH 2021
Judith Davidson	05 JUNE 1934 – 21 MARCH 2021
Marnie Dunn	09 FEBRUARY 1943 – 04 APRIL 2021
Daryl Smeaton	08 DECEMBER 1946 – 13 APRIL 2021
Denis Carey	19 APRIL 1942 – 26 APRIL 2021
Michael Wilson	24 JANUARY 1943 – 13 MAY 2021
Agneza Allars	16 FEBRUARY 1945 – 14 JUNE 2021
Tina Martino	17 JULY 1943 – 13 JULY 2021
Marie Cowman	16 JANUARY 1931 – 15 JULY 2021
Lynette Katlewski	19 NOVEMBER 1938 – 12 SEPTEMBER 202
Peter Naughton	11 DECEMBER 1936 – 13 OCTOBER 2021
Nicholas Moore	7 OCTOBER 1970 – 22 OCTOBER 2021
Isabella Christian	5 DECEMBER 1996 – 31 OCTOBER 2021

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen

2021 Memories

The best memory

- Forget each kindness that you do, as soon as you have done it.
- Forget the praise that falls to you, the moment you have won it.
- Forget the slander that you hear, before you can repeat it.
- Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer, whenever you may meet it.
- Remember every kindness done to you, whatever its measure.
- Remember praise by others won and pass it on with pleasure.
- Remember every promise made, and keep it to the letter.
- Remember those who lend you aid, and be a grateful debtor.
- Remember all the happiness that came your way in living.
- Forget each worry and distress, be hopeful and forgiving.

Remember good remember truth, remember heaven's above you And you will find through age and youth that many hearts will love you.

Submitted by Manel Seneviratna

Thanks to all those who have kept the ship of St John's afloat in 2021.

And thanks most of all to God through the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Have a happy Christmas!

God bless and love. Shane & Mum

(and love to Violet & Jean)

We are sure we are not alone in wanting to thank our parish team publicly for their inspiring leadership of our community throughout the last year. The huge extra burden forced upon them as a result of the pandemic was accepted and carried out with true Christian spirit and skill - the bookings, the filming of Mass, the organising of safe social distancing spaces, supply of sanitising equipment, the keeping abreast of the latest official instructions and informing us of these among many other tasks.

We thank you all and we pray that you are able to have a restful and peaceful break over the Christmas season.

Mary and Eric French

Memories

2021



The Story of Two Wolves

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

He continued,

"The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Cherokee Indian legend

Submitted by Kerry Yard

"I read this during the bushfires and smothering smoke in 2020 and found it helpful". I would like to thank the many stalwart parishioners who have continued to borrow from our parish library throughout the year. There have been many of you. We can promise a great display of newly donated books in the new year.

Mary French



Teaching a new dog old tricks

Max and Andi are regular visitors at St John's. Max is the old black dog who is a regular at the 6:00pm Sunday mass. The big young dog is Andi who is in training to be an assistance dog. Andi is only allowed at the weekday Masses until she learns a bit more.

Vanessa de Kauwe



2021 Memories

Jesus speaks to the Jews. John 5:31 - 47

Here is my understanding during the hours of lockdown and isolation.

Today I come before you God, a sinner forgiven and raised to a new life in the spirit. I plead for your mercy on this world you created. Save us from the pandemic of COVID19 and it's variants. May we be raised to a new life in YOU, to live in peace, a new life of thanksgiving and praise.

Amen!

Beatrice Williams



Like climbing a sand dune in a dust storm, demanding, uncertain and tough. Photo taken in 2019 in Namibia.

Elizabeth McDonald

2021 Memories

Family Group gatherings during COVID



Family Group dinner mid 2021 was Christmas in July.

COVID continued, the calendar we were to compress, Our family group commitments sadly were to be less.

However.....

In January we contemplate the year and plan what to do, February dinner at the 'Magpies', did give us a lovely view.

March was food again, more cultured this time. The library was the venue, along a literary line.

The arrangement for April was an afternoon of jazz. Curtailed since we were anxious and going for "the jab".

Come June we were restless to gather again. Christmas in July – June was Helen's chance to entertain.

Kay planned a show, 'The Governor's Table' to see. A large group just wasn't meant to be.

Then COVID cut our choices, we were all confined; Constricted to our capital with check-ins, chocolate and maybe some wine!

Gathering inside became limited, so the carport became the spot.

A barbecue with food and drinks, great company – the lot.

Any excuse to gather now, we'd missed a few. Margaret Ohlin's birthday, an outing was due.

December is routine for the Maher's to host. Drinks on their deck and all the group together – the most!

The group is very special, has been going for many years, Children grow, relationships change, there's been laughter and tears.

The friendships are precious, we change and we grow, St John's community is special – that you already know.

Helen Kennedy



St John the Apostle Parish, Kippax ACT • **DECEMBER 2021**

Down Memory Lane as we journey to 26/02/2022



Memories from Agnes Pham





Joan Breen played for the 'stars' at the Ladies night



Anne Reynolds with Fr. Dominic and Lance Murphy.jpg

Annie Leach, Jim Reynolds, Mary, Ted Kildea over 45's 40th Anniversary lunch





Therese Dawson at Ladies Evening





is produced for the St John the Apostle Catholic Community from contributions submitted by parishioners. Send submissions to **kippax@cg.org.au** • Editor: Marian England • Graphic Design: Mariana Rollgejser St John the Apostle Parish Kippax ACT • 25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

NOT FOR RESALE

		Calendar
JA	NUARY	
1	Saturday	HAPPY NEW YEAR May 2022 be filled with God's blessings 13 14 15 16 17 14 15 10 16 17 14 15 10 16 17 15 14 15 10 16 17 14 15 10 14 15 10 14 15 10 14 15 10 14 15 10 14 15 10 14 15 10 14 15 10
2	Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord 20 21 28
3	Monday	New Year Day public holiday
4	Tuesday	Parish Office closed
5	Wednesday	Parish Office re-opens Fr. Kimi on leave
6	Thursday	
7	Friday	
8	Saturday	
9	Sunday	The Baptism of the Lord
10	Monday	
11	Tuesday	
12	Wednesday	Sharon on leave
13	Thursday	
14	Friday	
15	Saturday	
16	Sunday	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
17	Monday	Pins & Needles 7:15pm – Parish Library
18	Tuesday	
19	Wednesday	
20	Thursday	Finance meeting – 11:00am
21	Friday	
22	Saturday	
23	Sunday	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
24	Monday	Sharon returns from leave Marian on leave
25	Tuesday	The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle Women's Breakfast 7:30am – Bean Origin Nettlefold St.
26	Wednesday	Australia Day – Public Holiday 1 MONTH TO SJA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
27	Thursday	Fr Kimi returns from leave Liturgy Meeting 7:30pm
28	Friday	Anointing after 9:30am mass
29	Saturday	
30	Sunday	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
31	Monday	Marian returns from leave