



OUR LADY OF THE PINES CHRISTMAS DAY - 25TH OF DECEMBER 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Unfortunately, this year like last year, we have all had to endure multiple lock downs, and for some of us , we will not be able to hold celebrations with families, friends, and communities together because the Covid-19 global pandemic continues to impact our lives . As a result, we are confronted with fear, uncertainty, frustration, darkness, suffering and other emotional challenges caused by the ongoing uncertainties and instabilities, just like it did with the Israelites 2000 years ago.

The number of infections continue to rise in many countries. The emergence of the new and more infectious Covid variants causing increased fear and anxiety among the people. The impact of prolonged lockdowns, social distancing and quarantine measures, growing financial insecurities, and lack of access to medical and social services are creating an increased emotional and psychological illness in the millions of people globally.

It is in this context of challenges, we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year. Christmas is a celebration of God's manifestation in this world of darkness, suffering, and death to bring healing and restoration .Christmas reminds us that Christ came into this world not only to set us free from spiritual bondage but from every form of bondage, including mental and emotional.

God is not joyful at our suffering and turmoil . Rather God wants only the very best for us, to be with him in Love, Joy, Hope and Peace. Remembering that he sent his only Son into this world to make that happen. This can only happen when we fully open ourselves up to him and to fully put our trust in him. In his mercy , he will not abandon us.

The message of Angels to shepherds in Luke 2:10 says, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." This message of great joy came not for the rich and privileged but for poor shepherds who were waiting for their redemption from social, political, economic, and religious oppressions. Let us spread the joy of Gospel this Christmas because everyone deserves to be joyful. Do not be afraid to smile!

As I conclude, my dear parishioners, I would like to call upon each one of you to continue to uphold hope and share joy. We know that hope and joy are stronger than despair and sorrow. May this season of Christmas be a time of realizing it is never too late to hope for. May the Immanuel God be with you always.

On behalf of all our Parish Council, Staff and myself, we wish you all a blessed and peace-filled Christmas and a holy New Year! I do not know what will be in store for us in 2022, but I trust that God knows what is truly best for us all.

Happy Christmas, Fr Jerald

Fr Jerald and the Parish Council, would like to wish all of you, our fellow Parishioners, a blessed and peaceful Christmas. We have so much to celebrate, and so much to be thankful for at Our Lady of the Pines Church.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to all of our Parish activities so energetically and enthusiastically in 2021, where we were permitted. May it continue, and improve.

We would also like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who put so much into the running of this parish and the preparation of our liturgies every weekend. Thank You.

We would like to wish each of you a wonderful New Year.

May each day of the New Year

Bring happiness, good cheer

And sweet surprises...

To you and all your dear ones!

Happy New Year!

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

Parish Office

Please note, during the holiday period the Parish Office will be open on the following days. Parish Office at both Our Lady of the Pines and Ss Peter and Paul's will be closed from the

23rd of December 2021 to the 5th of January 2022 inclusive.

For emergencies please call the parish mobile on 0473 873 479 or email donvalle@cam.org.au

The beauty of
Christmas
is not in the
presents but in
His presence.

Matthew 1:23