



Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

(Canonically Established: 18th January 2006)

OUR PARISH VISION

“A welcoming and dynamic faith-filled Catholic Community, living and sharing the Gospel, to set the world ablaze.”

CHRISTMAS 2022 / New Year 2023 (Year A)



A Christmas Message from Fr Richard Rosse, PP



Friday 23rd December 2022

My dear people,

The time we have been waiting for since the start of Advent is here; the Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord is almost upon us. The birth of Jesus is the decisive event in the history of salvation and of humanity. Our Lord will live a life very similar to ours with its joys and sorrows but the end of his life is very different from ours. At that time, he will accept the will of the Father for him after his agony in the garden and goes through what is required for our freedom from slavery to sin. This birth of the Son of God brings us joy because it represents the light which removes all darkness, especially the darkness of sin.

We celebrate Christmas on Sunday with a different mindset from the one last year. We acknowledge that COVID is not over yet but we go about our lives in a normal way, always mindful of the necessary precautions. The same will be with us at our parish this weekend. I am truly delighted that there is no maximum number of people who can come to Mass at Christmas this year. What that means for us is that five Masses are enough to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend Mass this year. Fr Joel and I are very much looking forward to see all of you at the Christmas Masses. A quick reminder that the Mass schedule is as follows:

Saturday 24 December | 6pm, 8pm & 12 midnight (with carols sung half-an-hour before)

Sunday 25 December | 9am & 10:30am only (No 12pm Mass or evening services)

This year has certainly not been without its own number of challenges. We remember sadly the invasion of Ukraine in February, the different floods in NSW, our own floods here in Victoria, the effects of which are still being felt by a large number of people. These events are terrible tragedies for they totally upset the livelihoods of people. That upset is certainly accentuated when these events lead to the loss of lives. We remember the need to pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died this year and to pray for strength and courage for those who remain.

Furthermore, we, disciples of Jesus, believe firmly that tragedies and evil are not the final word. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is a stark reminder that one day this child will suffer and die for us so that every tear will be wiped away. Once the tears are wiped and time starts diminishing the pain, we know that God will provide the strength and courage required to continue with our own pilgrimage. This certainty accompanies us in all parts of our lives, be it at our work or in our family and indeed in everything that makes up our lives.

It is important to find the strength to celebrate the birth of Jesus because, despite all the challenges of this year, we still have each other and you and I know that we need that right now. The birth of Jesus reminds us that there is always hope in the midst of the greatest tragedies because it is his birth

continued on page 3

For the latest updates, please visit our Parish Website and other social media platforms

Website: www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au

Facebook: [@St.Catherine.Siena.CarolineSprings.Australia](https://www.facebook.com/St.Catherine.Siena.CarolineSprings.Australia)

Twitter: [@CS_Catholics](https://twitter.com/CS_Catholics) | YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/carolinespringsparish>



'Standing barefoot with Jesus'!

A Christmas message from Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Friends,

I recently heard an Advent prayer that has a striking line in it, describing Jesus' birth. It said: [Jesus], when the soles of your feet touch the ground, . . . you become one of us, to be at one with us. The image of God's bare feet touching the earth is such an evocative one.

Especially at this time of year, we know only too well what it feels like to do the 'great Aussie dance' across a hot beach or prickly lawn! But of course, this image is far more than a physical reminder. For Christmas is the divinity of God born into our humanity. Through the Incarnation, God comes to us, withholding nothing of himself from us.

Barefooted—taking on our flesh, our human condition—in order to touch, and to be touched, in the particularities of our lives: this is Emmanuel—God with us. Christmas is God placing an exclamation mark on his words, 'I am with you!'

Our God, whose name is Jesus, has walked with us through the tough years of the pandemic and is touching the ground now where healing and renewal is needed. The Son of God is walking through the streets of Ukraine and Myanmar, Ethiopia and Lebanon, with feet bloodied from war, conflict and repression, yet still taking the steps needed towards peace and liberation. He has seen and felt both the joy of our existence and the suffering of those who are lost or vulnerable. He has awakened us to an attentiveness for our global humanity, and a care for our common home.

So I wonder if, this Christmas and for the year ahead, it is time to remove the 'shoes' that keep us from standing barefoot with Jesus—to feel the sacred ground of our lives with God?

Might we come before him 'barefoot' in our frailties, yet alive in the wonder of our humanity—made in his image—ready and willing to live as the people of God he has created us to be—fraternally, lovingly, caringly; generous, forgiving and hopeful.

May Jesus, the barefooted child of the living God, fill you and your loved ones with abundant joy and peace.
Happy Christmas!

Watch video here: <https://youtu.be/ZEbtojdjTcc>

The Season of Christmas

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment").



It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him, He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him... including the fact that he was born to die for us.

In Summary

Colour: *White*

Duration: *At least 2 weeks*

Start: *Christmas Day (Vigil)*

Finish: *Baptism of the Lord*

Themes: *Rejoicing, celebration, salvation*

Special Considerations: *Christmas manger or nativity scene*

MASSES on NEW YEAR'S EVE AND DAY

Saturday 31 December

9:30am (Normal weekday Mass)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, The HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday 31 December - 6:00pm

Sunday 1 January - 9:00am, 10:30am & 12pm

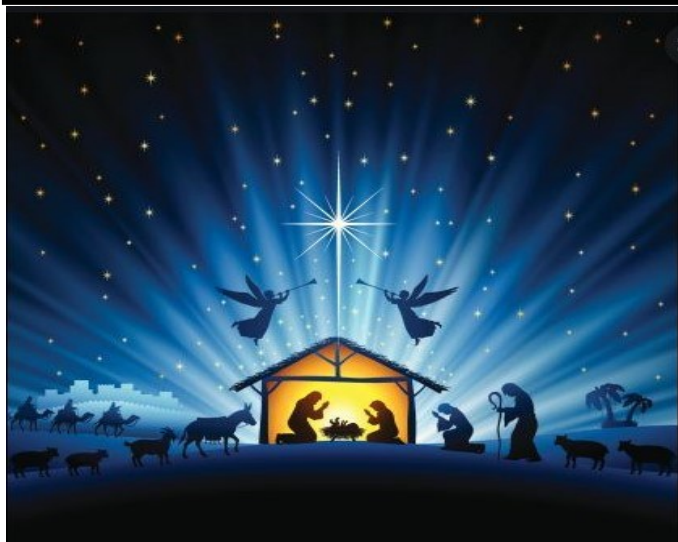
1st FRIDAY MASS on 6 JANUARY 2023

Please note that due to the holiday season there will be no 1st Friday Mass on 6 January. The next 1st Friday Mass will be on 3 February.

IMPORTANT: CHILD SAFETY

It is the Archdiocese Child Safety Policy that every child has to be under the care of a parent at all times within our premises. As such, we advise that from now on, any child who goes to the toilet has to be accompanied by an adult, preferably by a parent.

READINGS



24/25 December

CHRISTMAS VIGIL & MIDNIGHT MASSES 6:00pm, 8:00pm & 12:00am

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES 9:00am & 10:30am (NO 12:00pm Mass)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving
power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations
and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come
upon the earth.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18



30 December 2022 (Friday) THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Mass: 9:30am

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his
ways.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 127;
Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Continued from page 1... Fr Richard's Christmas message

that brings about our salvation. We think of hope as the theological virtue through which we believe that God will be faithful to his promises; that he will reward our efforts both here on earth and most importantly for ever with him, in heaven. So, my dear people, I truly wish you and your loved ones, near and far, a very Merry Christmas. May the celebration of the birth of Jesus bring you joy and peace.

Also, as we come to the end of the year I would like to sincerely thank, from the bottom of my heart, all the people who contribute to making our parish the wonderful community it is. I thank the office staff, the coordinators of ministries, and everyone involved in all the ministries. I would also like to thank the members of the Leadership Team and the Evangelisation Team. Most importantly, all of you, the disciples of Jesus Christ here at St Catherine of Siena Caroline Springs. Thank you for your support and your love, which I treasure immensely.

Please be advised that the parish office will be closed from noon today and will re-open on 3rd January. For the month of January, the office will operate at a slower pace and will close at 1:30pm. As such, this is the last of my weekly messages to you for 2022. They will resume the weekend following Australia Day.

My dear people, again, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2023 from Fr Joel and me.

We continue turning to our patron saint and we ask for her intercession.

St Catherine of Siena, Pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr Richard Rosse'.

Fr Richard Rosse PP



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st

NEW YEAR'S DAY (1 January 2023)

MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday - 6:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

May God bless us in his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Readings

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66; Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21



9 January 2023 (Monday)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Mass - 9:30am

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 28; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

15 January 2023

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday - 6:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

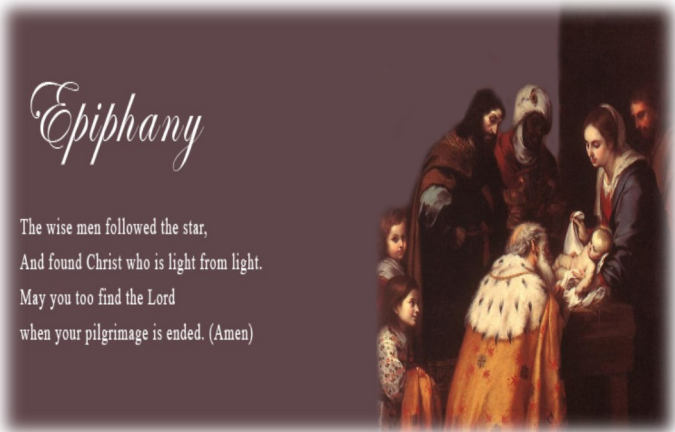
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



Epiphany

The wise men followed the star,
And found Christ who is light from light.
May you too find the Lord
when your pilgrimage is ended. (Amen)

8 January 2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday - 6:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE



Please note that the Parish Office is closed over the Christmas and New Year period commencing from 1:30pm on Friday 23 December. The Office will re-open on **Tuesday, 3 January** in a limited capacity.

Normal office operation will resume from 6 February 2023 onward.