



# Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

(Canonically Established: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006)

## OUR PARISH VISION

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

## CHRISTMAS 2023 / New Year 2024 (Year B)



### A Christmas Message from Fr Richard Rosse, PP



Friday 22nd December 2023

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. The birth of the Son of God brings us joy because it represents the light which removes all darkness, especially the darkness of sin.

Sunday 24 December | 6pm, 8:30pm & 12 midnight (with carols sung half-an-hour before)

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

This year has certainly had its own set of challenges throughout the world. We remember the situation in the Middle East with the war which is raging there. We keep in mind that the situation in Ukraine is still not resolved. We know also that many parts of the world are ravaged by war. On our own shores we remember the tragedies of floods experienced by people living in Cairns. 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. We remember also particularly all those families which for the first time will have an empty seat at the table. In my own family, we lost three great aunts and one great

uncle since January, and we will feel the pain and loss of our loved ones.

Furthermore, we, disciples of Jesus, believe firmly that tragedies and evil are not the final word. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is an apt 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.

While in no way diminishing the seriousness of the pain of loss, I thought that it would be good to think about our achievements as a parish community this year. This year, we have completed our tenth Alpha. Through Alpha, many people have gone deeper in their faith and have joined ministries as a way to serve God. Through our two catholic primary schools and the Society of Christian Doctrine, more than 300 of our younger parishioners have either celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation or Confirmation or received Holy Communion for the first time. At the Easter Vigil, we have helped three parishioners complete their christian initiation.

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

Website: [www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au](http://www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au)

Facebook: @St.Catherine.Siena.CarolineSprings.Australia



### *"The words of Prophet Isaiah"*

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

Dear friends,

We hear these words from the ancient prophet Isaiah (52:7):

*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation . . .*

These are beautiful words—old words, first spoken in old days, yet so sorely needed in our day!

Amid this time of conflict, suffering and exile, Isaiah speaks to us words of peace and the good news about the Prince of Peace.

Our hearts ache for reconciliation of peoples; respect for our shared humanity; care for our crying planet. Our world and its people seem to be groaning and railing against pathways to true peace.

Yet we experience the hope of God through simple words of joy, mercy and peace.

The shepherds experienced this. So did the Magi. Mary and Joseph knew it intimately.

God knew we needed his Son to come amongst us, to show us the way ahead.

As we come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this year, might we be attentive to the broken people across the world who are held captive by the tragedy of war and old hatreds.

Might we also remember those exiled in other ways—bereft of knowing God; lost and searching for identity and purpose.

We too can be the messengers whose footfalls bring light into the world, announcing mercy, bringing joy, offering Good News.

God has come among us, simply, humbly and hopefully in a little child, his Son, our Brother.

May the peace that comes through this child, the Prince of Peace, be with you this Christmas.

And with every footstep, may you take His message, and life, out into the world.

Happy Christmas to you all!

Watch video here: <https://youtu.be/YIwy8WAAuOU>

## 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**

Sunday 31 December

9:00am, 10:30am & 12pm (*Feast of the Holy Family*)

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, The HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday 1 January (*Public Holiday*)

9:30am (*No Evening Services*)

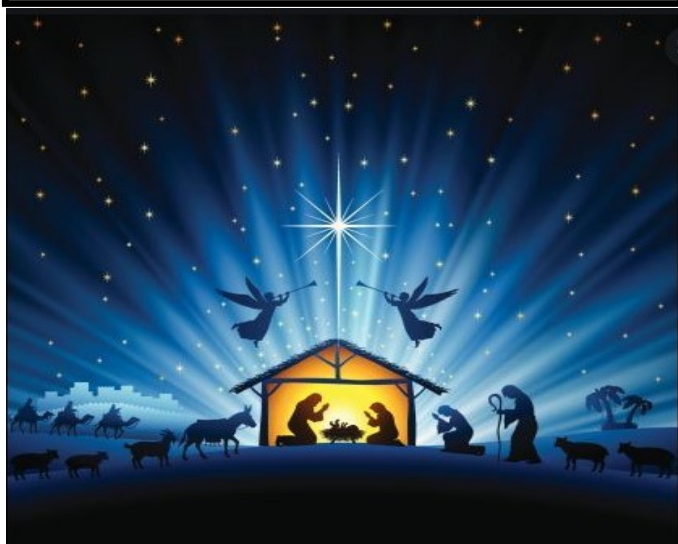
### **1st FRIDAY MASS on 5 JANUARY 2024**

Please note that due to the holiday season there will be no 1st Friday Mass on 5 January. The next 1st Friday Mass will be on 2 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, 8:30pm & 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:

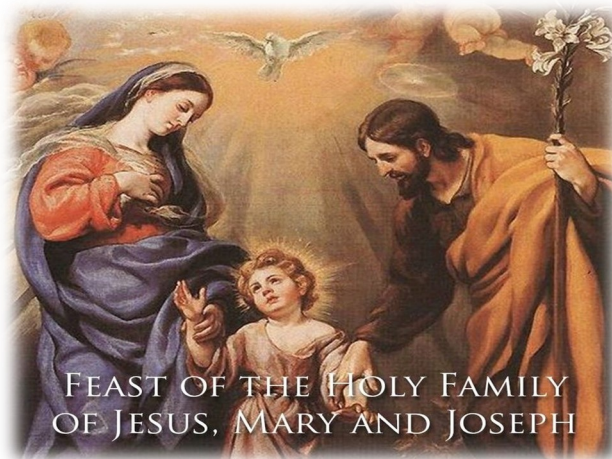
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*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



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

30/31 December 2023

### THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

#### Readings

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Psalm 104;  
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

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

We were privileged to host John Pridmore for a three-day mission. We have run three Leadership Summits with ministry coordinators and, together with members of their ministries, they were privileged to hear from Ron Huntley himself. The last event of the year has been a resounding success, and I am referring here to our Carols by Candlelight. These are the main events and you and I know that there are many more smaller events which also need to be celebrated.

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. 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 2nd 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 2023. They will resume the weekend following Australia Day.

My dear people, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024.

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 'Richard Rosse'.

Fr Richard Rosse PP



# SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st

NEW YEAR'S DAY (1 January 2024)  
**MARY MOTHER OF GOD**  
Monday - 9:30am (No Evening Services)

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



8 January 2024 (Monday)  
**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
Mass - 9:30am

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

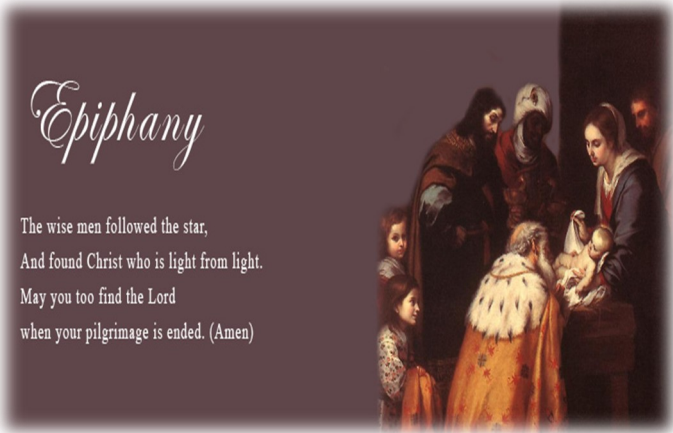
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

**Alleluia!**

### Readings

Is 55:1-11; Psalm - Is 12:2-6; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11



## 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)

6/7 January 2024  
**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

13/14 January 2024  
**2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**  
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!**


*We have found the Messiah:  
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.*

**Alleluia!**

### Readings

1 Sam 3:3-10,19; Psalm 39; 1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20;  
Jn 1:35-42

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE



Please note that the Parish Office is closed over the Christmas and New Year period commencing from 1:30pm on Friday 22 December. The Office will re-open on **Tuesday, 2 January** in a limited capacity. Normal office operation will resume from 5 February 2023 onward.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.