



For all things give thanks.  
1 THESS 5:18

# Reconnect this Christmas

An Invitation from Bishop Brian Mascord

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Peace be with you. As you continue to prepare this Advent for the joy of Christmas, I pray that you and your family are well. May Jesus be present in your conversations, your homes, and your lives.

It has been my earnest desire and prayer that this year would see us come back together. Indeed, I saw this year as being an important time of reconnection and so it has been heartening to see many of us able to return in person to the sacraments and parish community life.

During the pandemic, we were physically separated from one another. For many of us, the effects of that separation still linger. Perhaps we are a little slower to embrace a friend or more reluctant to share a meal together. We have seen echoes of this in broader society as well. Our towns and suburbs sometimes feel more like a collection of strangers than friends or neighbours. **We are apart together. But we don't have to be.**

The radical message of Christmas has always been the mystery of Emmanuel - God with us (cf. Matthew 1:23). It is not God with us in a palace or five-star hotel or a world where all is well. No, rather it is God with us where we are - in a humble stable, the mess of our lives. It is through Jesus that we are no longer strangers but become members of the household of God - his family - joined together and growing into a holy temple in the Lord (cf. Ephesians 2:19-21). He is our unity. He is the one who truly draws us together to be a people of peace.

So, when we gather at the table of the Lord this weekend, and every weekend, it is not who is present that should be our only focus, but also who is missing. Perhaps it's part of our family that is missing - our sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, mother or father, husband or wife. Perhaps it's a neighbour, colleague, or friend - maybe they never knew there was a seat for them in the first place.

When the prophet Isaiah was called to serve the Lord, he heard God say, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (cf. Isaiah 6:8) And so I say to you, whom shall God send to your family? To your neighbours, friends, and work colleagues? Someone else? Each of us has at least one person in our life who is disconnected from faith. **Will you invite them to be with you, with us, this Christmas?** With Isaiah, I ask you to respond to my call, by saying, "Here I am. Send me."

May this Christmas be a blessed time of reconnection and new connection. May we have the courage to invite and share our story of faith with those not at the table. And may God give you and your family all the grace you need to live out your mission to be faithful disciples who love God and your neighbours.

Yours in Christ

*+Brian Mascord*

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD**  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

6 December 2022

**MOST REV BRIAN G MASCORD DD**  
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**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A**

**18 December 2022**

## REFLECTION

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent Year A challenge us to look beyond our own understanding and have faith. The first reading foretells that a virgin will give birth. The psalm praises the wonders of God. The second reading speaks of the promises of God through the ages and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the gospel we hear how an angel appeared to Joseph and he did as the angel told him.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "... The virgin shall be with child ... and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

## READINGS THIS WEEKEND

**First reading:** Is 7:10-14

*The virgin will conceive.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 23:1-6. R. see w 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second reading:** Rom 1:1-7

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mt 1:18-24

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

**Communion Antiphon:** Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel

READERS	17 & 18 December 4th Sunday of Advent	
<b>Vigil</b>	Nancy Mathias	Adriaan Mathias
<b>Sunday 9am</b>	Lomana Teofilo	Alex Teofilo
<b>Sunday 5pm</b>	Angeles Palad	Julianne Duka

CHRISTMAS ROSTER	First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading	Prayers of the Faithful
<b>Christmas Eve 5pm</b>	Regi Rego	Chrisanne Marisol	Yolanda Diola	Gemma Nolan
<b>Christmas Eve 10pm</b>	Karen Watson	Mia Banga	Christina Okwuofu	Rebecca Banga
<b>Christmas Day 9am</b>	Annie Day	Victoria Day	Anthony Day	Anthony Day

## What's On

- 17 Dec Church Cleaning - "Team B"
- 19 Dec Last day of Term 4
- 30 Dec Patronal Feast Day: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- 7 Jan Church cleaning - Team "A"
- 12 Feb Parish and School 2023 Welcome Mass - 9am



**We pray ...** For those who are affected by the floods, earthquakes and those affected by war: that God will grant peace, justice and healing to all involved during these times.

For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**For the sick and homebound:** Noal Bornstein, Phil Clarke, Dawn O'Donoghue, Ann Marie Praud.

*May the saving power of the risen Lord bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies and send strength to their carers.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Josephine Ooi, Marian D'Cruz, Jennifer Malone, Lorraine Morrison, Margaret Rose, Michael Brezinski, Joyce O'Keefe, Giuseppe Occhiuto, Gerald Barbara, Jeanette Morand, Angelita Z Molano.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

**For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Carmela Catalano, Edgee LeClerc, Fr Peter Caruana, Giuseppe Lanzafame, Mee St Guillaume, Sr Patricia Murphy OLN.  
*Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.*

**Visiting the Sick and Homebound:** Please contact the parish office if you or a family member would like to be visited or receive Holy Communion.

## Readers Rosters

A new weekend readers roster is being prepared. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please write your name and preferred mass reading time on the signup sheet in the Church foyer.

**With joyful hearts, during November we welcomed the newly Baptised to our Holy Family parish community:**

Penelope Sillato, Aylah Manyu, Sebastian Iannuzzelli, Stephanie Sinha Chowdhury, Cooper Haigh, Harlow Haigh.



**An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council**

An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient, and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time.

You can continue to contribute financially to the Parish via the two collections at the weekend Masses, but if you prefer, the Holy Family Parish bank account details are:

### First collection

Account name: Ingleburn Presbytery  
BSB: 066711  
Account number: 001978

### Second collection

Account name: Ingleburn Parish  
BSB: 066711  
Account number: 00177

## St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal

The Ingleburn St Vincent de Paul Members invite you to help local struggling families again this Christmas.

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/holy-family-parish-ingleburn-st-vincent-de-paul-fundraising-page>



Any monies donated through this link get allocated directly to the Ingleburn St Vincent de Paul Conference.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and your receipt will be automatically processed and sent via email.

Thanking you so much for your support,  
Holy Family Parish, Ingleburn  
St Vincent de Paul Members



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

*Thank You!*

★ To all those involved in the preparation of our Parish Christmas Carols in particular Father Henry, Mr Peter Novakovich, Mr Andrew Fricott, the choirs who so willingly shared their skills and talents, and of course, all of the parishioners, family and friends who attended.

★ To our cleaning teams, flower arrangers and those involved in the preparation of the Nativity scene and church decorations.

## CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

### Holy Family

Tuesday, 20 December: 7.30pm - 9pm

Friday, 23 December: 6pm - 8pm

Saturday, 24 December: 8am - 10am

### Holy Trinity

Wednesday, 21 December:

6.30pm - 7.30pm

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Eve - 24 December

Holy Family - 5pm

Holy Trinity - 7pm

Holy Family - 10pm

### Christmas Day - 25 December

Holy Family - 9am

## THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Holy Family

Monday, 26 December: 9am

Tuesday, 27 December: 7pm

Wednesday, 28 December: 9am

Thursday, 29 December: 9am

Friday, 30 December: 9am

### Holy Trinity

Wednesday, 28 December: 6pm