



For all things give thanks.  
1 THESS 5:18

# The Light That Cannot Be Overcome

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL  
FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT BONDI

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a heart full of sadness that I write to you in the wake of the tragic events that have unfolded in Bondi on Sunday afternoon. In this season of Advent, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, this terrible event weighs heavily on us all. We find ourselves burdened with grief and questions in the face of this senseless loss of life and the pain inflicted on so many. The killings that took place last Sunday in Bondi are a painful reminder of the reality of violence, hatred and fear, all of which were directed at our Jewish brothers and sisters here in Australia and therefore directed at all of us. Pope Leo XIV has cried out "Enough of these forms of antisemitic violence". This is a cry that we all should be making as people of faith, a people of peace and a people who are called to honour the dignity of every human being. A people who are called to love.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear the Gospel proclaim the story of Mary and Joseph, who, amidst their own fears and uncertainties, trusted in the promises of God. The angel's words to Joseph, "Do not be afraid" (Matthew 1:20), echo across the centuries to us now. These words are a reminder that God is ever with us, even in the darkest of moments, Emmanuel, God with us, dwells among us, bringing light into our shadows and hope into our despair.

Advent is a season of waiting, yearning, and hoping. It is a time when we are reminded that God, entered into a violent broken world, not with a display of aggression, but rather with the vulnerability of a child. In Jesus the wisdom of the world is subverted, and we find not only the answer to our eternal longing but the courage to choose hope amidst the challenges of the here and now.

In this time of grief, we are called to reject further division and hate, and to embody the forgiveness and love that Advent heralds. Just as Mary's quiet "yes" to God changed the course of history, we are invited to say "yes" to being instruments of peace, healing,

and reconciliation. Let us open our hearts to those who are most affected by this tragedy, those who are grieving, those who are injured, and even those whose actions have caused such harm. As a community of faith, we are called to be a sign of God's mercy, to stand in solidarity with the suffering, and to proclaim through our actions that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ (John 1:5).

As we approach Christmas, let us draw strength from the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and Reconciliation, where we encounter Christ, the source of all hope and consolation. Let us bring our grief, our questions, and our fears to God, trusting in God's infinite mercy and love. Let us also take comfort in the knowledge that God is always close to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18).

I encourage you to spend time in prayer with your families and in your parish communities during this final week of Advent. As we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, may its light remind us of the enduring hope we have in the coming of Christ, who is the Prince of Peace. May we, like Mary and Joseph, trust in God's plan and allow His love to guide us through this difficult time.

As your shepherd, I assure you of my continued prayers for you. I ask that you pray for me, for one another, for our Jewish brothers and sisters, and for peace in our world. Let us walk together in faith, hope, and love, as we look forward to the joy of Christ's birth and the promise of His abiding presence among us. The presence of love.

Yours in Christ

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

4th Sunday of Advent 2025

2512v1



# Holy Family Catholic Parish

INGLEBURN & MINTO

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A  
21 December 2025

**Holy Family Church**  
136 Oxford Rd, Ingleburn

**Holy Trinity Church**  
57 Guernsey Ave, Minto

**Parish Office:** 136 Oxford Rd  
(PO Box 111) Ingleburn NSW 2565  
**Website:** www.hfi.org.au  
**Email:** ingleburn@dow.org.au  
**Hours:** 8.45am-2.45pm Tues-Thurs  
**Phone:**(02) 9059 4134

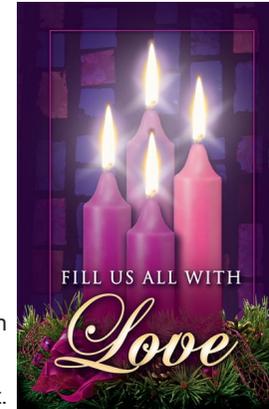
## Reflection by Father Henry

The sign God revealed to us on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent is highly significant. God's choice of the Messiah was from the house of David. However, Mary's child belongs to all nations. So, we all form part of the nations. This is through God's love and invitation to share in Christ's heritage. Hence, Christ is coming for the sake of all of us.

In the first reading of this Sunday, God gave us the most significant and definitive signs about the Messiah: "A maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, which means God is with us!" It is important to note that this sign was given to king Ahaz only after he humbled himself by refusing to put God to the test.

Both the second reading and the gospel of today are narratives about the birth and life of Christ. They remind us that the signs that God gave to us through the prophets (that is, the signs which are the foundation of our hope this season) are not empty words. Instead, they are genuine and fulfilled in Christ.

In today's gospel, Matthew narrates "how Jesus was born." Like Paul, Matthew, in his infancy narrative, traced Jesus' lineage back to the dynasty of king David. This is to assure us, as Paul did, that Jesus is the promised Messiah. In this narrative, Matthew highlighted the significant and central role played by Mary and Joseph. They were God's instruments for fulfilling His mission of salvation for us. This teaches us that God is active in our history and lives and comes to us through human agents.



## PLEASE NOTE

Our Parish Secretary will be on leave from 19 December 2025 to 12 January 2026. If you require anything urgently, please contact Father Henry.

During January there will be **NO**:  
Tuesday night Rosary or Adoration - Mass will remain as normal at 7pm.  
Youth & Young Adult Meeting.  
Bible Sharing.  
Bible Reading.

SERVICE TIMES			
<b>Holy Family</b>	Mass	Wed - Fri	9am
		Tue	7pm
		First Friday of each month	6.30pm
		Sat	5pm Vigil
		Sun	9am and 5pm
	Adoration	Tues	7.30pm
	Benediction	First Friday of each month	9.30am
<b>Holy Trinity</b>	Reconciliation	Tue Sat	6.30pm - 7pm 9am - 10am
	Rosary	Mon	7pm
	Reconciliation	Wed	5.45pm - 6pm
	Mass	Wed	6pm
		Sun	8am

### Proudly servicing the Catholic community in your time of need.

As a family-owned business with years of experience in delivering that personal touch to funerals, Kenneally's know how to take care of the finer details to make your loved one's farewell the way it should be.

Servicing Greater Sydney & the Macarthur area  
Call 02 4620 8822  
or 02 9708 6972  
kenneallyfunerals.com.au



## What's On In Our Parish

### December

27 & 28 Patronal Feast Day Social Gathering Weekend

### January

16 Bible Study, 7pm

17 & 18 Social Gathering Weekend

30 Bible Study, 7pm

### February

1 Samoan Mass with Father Feleki

## PARISH GROUPS & MEETINGS

### LEGION OF MARY

6.30pm every Wednesday in the Church Meeting Room.

### BIBLE STUDY

7pm 1st & 3rd Friday in the Parish Meeting Room.

### CHILDRENS LITURGY

Every Sunday during 9am Mass.

### BIBLE READING

Has concluded for 2025. Will recommence in 2026.

### BIBLE SHARING

Has concluded for 2025. Will recommence in February 2026 at 7pm 2nd & 4th Friday in the Parish Meeting Room.

### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Has concluded for 2025. Will recommence in 2026.

## Liturgical Dates

### December

25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

26 St Stephen, *Apostle and Evangelist*

27 St John, *Apostle and Evangelist*

28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### January

1 Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God

2 Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, *Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

15 St Arnold Janssen SVD

17 St Anthony, *Abbot*

21 St Agnes, *Virgin and Martyr*

24 St Francis De Sales, *Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

25 The Conversion of Saint Paul The Apostle

26 Australia Day

27 Sts Timothy and Titus, *Bishops*

28 St Thomas Aquinas, *Priest and Doctor of the Church*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 December

Patronal Feast Day - Social Gathering Weekend

### Wednesday 31 December

Mass at 9am and 7pm at Holy Family Ingleburn

Mass at 6pm at Holy Trinity Minto

### Thursday 1 January

Mass at 9am and 7pm Holy Family Ingleburn

**Visiting the Sick and Homebound:** There are an increasing number of people who, whether due to age or ill health, are not able to attend Church, but would like to receive Holy Communion. If you, or someone you know, is in this situation, please contact the Parish Office so that a visit can be arranged.

The **Piety Stall** is open after each weekend Mass, offering a wide range of Bibles, prayer books, rosary beads, and gifts for Confirmation, Holy Communion and Baptism, other religious items are available. All profits support the work of the Ingleburn Chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

### Volunteers Needed for Church Upkeep

We are looking for friendly volunteers to help with various tasks around the church - gardening, lawn maintenance, and general cleaning both inside and outside. If you are handy and willing to assist with small repairs or maintenance projects, we would greatly appreciate your help. Your time and effort make a real difference. Thank you for considering lending a hand. Please leave your details with the Parish Office.

### Christmas Pageant 2025

This year we would like to do a Christmas Pageant in a fun and imaginative way of retelling the Christmas Story through music. We are looking for boys and girls to partake in the pageant that will be performed at the Christmas Vigil. We are also looking for parents to help prepare the children for the pageant. Please write your contact details on the sign up sheet in the Church foyer or contact Henry or Emma on 0452 341 041.

## 2025 Christmas Schedule

### Advent Reconciliation Times

Tuesday 16 December 6pm-7pm & 8pm for as long as required

Saturday 20 December 9am-11am

Tuesday 23 December 5pm-7pm

### The Nativity of the Lord

**Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December**

5pm Holy Family Church Ingleburn

7pm Holy Trinity Church Minto

10pm Holy Family Church Ingleburn

**Christmas Day - Thursday 25 December**

9am Holy Family Church Ingleburn

### Christmas Octave

9am Friday 26 December Holy Family Church Ingleburn

9am Saturday 27 December Holy Family Church Ingleburn

9am Monday 29 December Holy Family Church Ingleburn

7pm Tuesday 30 December Holy Family Church Ingleburn

9am Wednesday 31 December Holy Family Church Ingleburn

6pm Wednesday 31 December Holy Trinity Church Minto

7pm Wednesday 31 December Holy Family Church Ingleburn

9am Thursday 1 January Holy Family Church Ingleburn

7pm Thursday 1 January Holy Family Church Ingleburn

### Feast of the Holy Family

**Saturday 27 December**

5pm Holy Family Church Ingleburn

**Sunday 28 December**

8am Holy Trinity Church Minto

9am Holy Family Church Ingleburn

5pm Holy Family Church Ingleburn

Celebrate Christmas  
with Us



Holy Family  
Catholic Parish  
INGLEBURN & MINTO  
136 Oxford Road, Ingleburn

**We pray ...** For world leaders and policy makers to work to foster peace and justice in all nations. For those feeling overwhelmed and challenged in mind, body, soul and spirit. For those who have nobody to pray for them. For all the forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**For the sick and homebound:** *May the saving power of the risen Lord bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies and send strength to their carers. Amen.* For our sick relatives, friends and parishioners and all who have nobody to pray for them; Maria Elizabeth Tuason, Emerlida Castillo, Rebecca Velasco, Susitina Unasa, Josephine Flores Ferrer.

**For our recently dearly departed:** *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.*

Maria Paz Maracha, Juanita Sibi, Agustin F. Llenado, John Payne, Mary Kathleen and Graeme Hunter, .For the parents and 8 siblings and loved ones of Mrs Belen H. Bernardo, Walter Glynn.

**For those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:** *Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace. Amen.*

For those who have nobody to pray for them; For all of our family members and friends; Anthony William Eskett, Jacob Pullan, Domingo Diola, Eladio Vellarosa, Julie Concepcion, Eugenia Vellarosa, Arther Giannetti.

**Other intentions:** We keep in our prayers all Year 12 students who received their HSC and ATAR results. May the peace of Christ calm their hearts, and may they know their worth comes from God, not from any mark or rank. Lord, please continue to bless, guide and protect them as they look toward the future. Amen.

For all students and their teachers at the conclusion of this academic year - may you all have a safe, refreshing holiday break. Best wishes to all Year 6 students - may you transition smoothly into your secondary education journey. A heartfelt farewell to the families and teachers leaving Holy Family Parish Primary School. May the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph - guide and protect you and God will richly bless you in all that lies ahead. Thanksgiving from Lynette Chacon for Andrew Chacon.

### Parish Planned Giving

*Thank you for supporting your parish.*

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

Acct name: Ingleburn Presbytery

BSB: 066711

Account number: 001978

#### Second collection

Acct name: Ingleburn Parish

BSB: 066711

Account number: 001773



Holy Family  
Feast Day

At ALL Masses on  
27 and 28 December  
we will celebrate our  
Patronal Feast Day

*Please bring a plate of finger food to share.*

EVERYONE  
WELCOME

Macarthur  
Combined Churches  
FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday, 25 December 2025

10:30am- Morning Tea

12:00- Lunch Served

2:00pm- Santa departs

CAMPBELLTOWN CIVIC HALL

<https://macarthurchristmaslunch.org.au/>