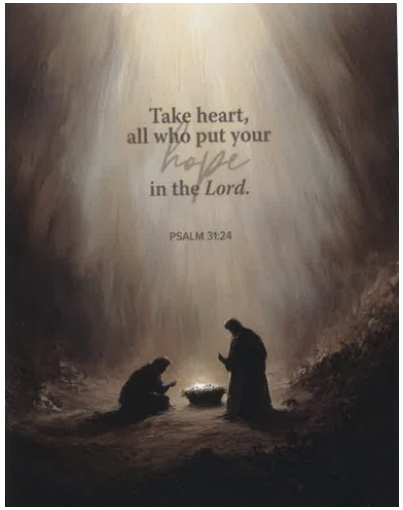
On this Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ - I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas! **As we gather to worship and adore him, may we also grow in love for one another, united by our shared faith in Jesus** (cf. Ep 4:1-6). We are God's beloved children, brothers and sisters in Christ (cf. Ep 2:19). May we come to know ever more deeply that we belong and each of us has a place in the family of the Church.



In his message for the *Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope*, the Holy Father declares, "Hope does not disappoint!" (Rm 5:5). The opening of the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica reminds us that, in Jesus, God has made a way for us. Despair and doubt do not have the final word! **As pilgrims of hope, we can walk this path joyfully, knowing that Jesus walks with us.**

May the hope we find in Jesus help us to see the gifts we have been given and respond generously to those around us whose hope has been dimmed by life's difficulties. Our light of hope grows as we share it, so let us put our light "on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light"! (Lk 8:16b). Have a happy, holy, and hope-filled Christmas.

MOST REV BRIAN G MASCORD DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG
SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 2024

Proudly servicing the Catholic community in your time of need.

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The Jubilee Prayer

"Pilgrims of Hope"

Father in heaven,
may the *faith you have given us*
in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity enkindled*
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope,*
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you, our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

Holy Family Catholic Parish

INGLEBURN & MINTO

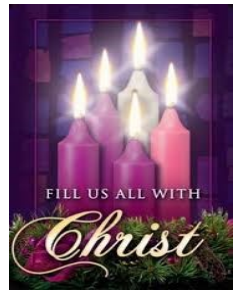
Holy Family Church
136 Oxford Rd
Ingleburn

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

The Nativity of the Lord
25 December 2024

A Christmas Message



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1).

Light is one of the many symbols of Christmas. Whether we light candles or place lights on a Christmas tree, glowing lights have a special place in our hearts during the holiday season.

For us Christians the lights we use at Christmas symbolise Jesus' coming as a baby in Bethlehem, the promised Messiah. In a song about the newborn Christ, Zechariah said that one of the purposes of the Lord's coming was to *"shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death." (Lk 1:79).*

We are therefore naturally attracted to this life-giving light, especially when we experience darkness in our lives. In that darkness, Jesus comes to us as light. He comes to make God's *"light shine in our hearts" so we can know the glory and love of the Father, (2 Cor 4:6)* and experience heavenly joy.

The joy of Christmas is not only that Jesus came, but that God's light has come to earth.

We find the confirmation of this truth in John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

This same Jesus, wondrously born in Bethlehem, gloriously raised from the dead, and the "bright Morning Star" mentioned in Revelation 22:16 is coming again. When we see Him, His face will shine "like the sun shining in all its brilliance" (Rev 1:16).

Thus, we want to be ready for His coming. If Jesus is our light, we'll want to learn to walk in His light - to live our lives with the goal of moving towards our union with God.

As we celebrate Christmas Masses as a parish family, may the light of Christ illumine your hearts and fill your hearts and your homes with the warmth of God's light and God's love.

Merry Christmas!

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

What's On In Our Parish - 2025 Calendar Dates

January

1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Holy Family 9am/7pm, Holy Trinity 6pm)
15 St Arnold Janssen SVD, Founder of the Society of the Divine Word
18 & 19 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses
26 Australia Day
29 St Joseph Freinademetz SVD, Priest and Missionary of the Society of the Divine Word

February

2 Presentation of the Lord & Word of God Sunday - morning tea after 9am Mass
4 First day Term 1 (Year 1 to Year 6)
5 First day of Term 1 (Kindergarten)
Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
15 & 16 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses

March

1 Samoan Mass - 12pm
4 Ash Wednesday (Holy Family 9am/7pm, Holy Trinity 6pm)
10 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 1 - 6.30pm
15 & 16 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses
17 St Patrick's Feast Day (Holy Family 9am Mass)
Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 2 - 6.30pm
19 St Joseph Feast Day (Holy Family 9am/7pm, Holy Trinity 6pm)
24 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 3 - 6.30pm
25 Annunciation of the Lord (Holy Family 9am Mass)
31 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 4 - 6.30pm

April

2 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
4 Sacrament of Reconciliation Liturgy (5pm)
13 Palm Sunday (Holy Family 9am Mass)
17 Holy Thursday (Holy Family 7pm Mass, Adoration to 10pm)
18 Good Friday (Holy Family 10am Stations of the Cross, 3pm Passion Of Our Lord)
19 Easter Vigil (Holy Family 7pm Mass and Sacrament of Initiation)
20 Easter Sunday (Holy Trinity 8am, Holy Family 9am)
25 ANZAC Day

May

4 Samoan Mass - 12pm
7 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
12 Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Session 1 - 6.30pm
17 & 18 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses
19 Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Session 2 - 6.30pm
24 Our Lady Help of Christians (Holy Family 9am)
26 Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Session 3 - 6.30pm

June

2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Session 4 - 6.30pm
4 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
9 Kings Birthday
14 & 15 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses
16 Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Rehearsal - 6.30pm
22 Sacrament of First Holy Communion (10.30am/12.30pm)
24 Nativity of John the Baptist (Holy Family 9am/7pm)
27 Sacred Heart of Jesus (Holy Family 9am/7pm)

July

2 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
6 Samoan Mass - 12pm
19 & 20 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses

August

6 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
8 St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) (Holy Family 9am)
15 Assumption of Mary (Holy Family 9am) Assumption of Mary & Indian Independence Day (Holy Family 6pm)
16 & 17 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses

September

3 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
7 Samoan Mass - 12pm
8 SVD Foundation Day - 150th Anniversary
20 & 21 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend
22 Sacrament of Confirmation, Session 1 - 6.30pm

October3

1 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
6 Labour Day
13 Sacrament of Confirmation, Session 2 - 6.30pm
19 Nazarena "Lord of Miracles" Mass and Procession
20 Sacrament of Confirmation, Session 3 - 6.30pm
27 Sacrament of Confirmation, Session 4 - 6.30pm

November

1 All Saints (Holy Family 9am)
2 All Souls Day
Samoan Mass - 12pm
3 Sacrament of Confirmation, Rehearsal - 6.30pm
5 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
9 Sacrament of Confirmation (10.30am/12.30pm)
15 & 16 Monthly Social Gathering Weekend

December

3 Monthly Morning Tea - 9.45am
5 Parish Christmas Carols
8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Family 9am/7pm)
24 Christmas Eve (Holy Family 5pm/10pm, Holy Trinity 7pm)
25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) (Holy Family 9am)
28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

LEGION OF MARY

7.30pm every Wednesday in the Church Meeting Room.

RESUMING IN FEBRUARY

FRIDAY WITH THE WORD OF GOD

7pm every Friday - Parish Meeting Room.

BIBLE READING

9.45am every second & fourth Wednesday of the month in the Church Meeting Room.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS MEETING

6.30pm every second and fourth Friday of the month in the Parish Meeting Room

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Every second and fourth Sunday of the month during 9am Mass

CONSIDER SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

As a parish, we need to continue to build the various parish ministry teams: those who support the community at Sunday Masses and those who extend the Mission of the parish in the wider community.

Please give some consideration to joining one of our Parish Ministries: Acolyte, Altar Servers, Lectors (Readers), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Visiting the Sick/Homebound, Legion of Mary, St Vincent de Paul, Sacramental Programs, Catechists.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the various tasks around the Church: gardening, cleaning.

If you would like to join one of the Ministries, please contact Father Henry.

Electronic parish planned giving

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: 001773

Thank you for supporting your parish.

TWO COLLECTIONS

Why do we have two collections at Mass? This is a question often asked.
Both collections are important and are used for two distinct purposes.
The money from the 1st collection goes to support the daily living expenses of our parish priest, with the left-over funds sent to the diocese to support the diocesan retirement fund.
The 2nd collection, which includes the planned giving program, is the main source of our parish income. This is the collection that keeps us going as a parish, as it is used for the day-to-day expenses of running of our parish. That is used to pay for the repairs and maintenance, wages, insurance, utilities, all church supplies, ministry expenses and the many other expenses incurred to keep our parish functioning. We thank you for your support of our weekly collections but would like to impress on you the importance of the second collection.