



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"The Light of 'Love' has come to earth. It's time for us to pause to see this Light and feel its warmth and celebrate its cause".

All the readings for all the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery. God not only authors life and pours out grace in the midst of it, he chooses to join us in our lives by becoming one of us. Jesus enters into life that we might do the same. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now ~ grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt ~ Jesus has lived it himself, and he longs to live it with you. Choose life with Jesus! Let Him be born again in your heart. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank all of our parishioners for your commitment to our parish this past year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all who worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful. Thanks to all who were involved in decorating our church and setting up for the different liturgies, this season and throughout the liturgical year. And a special thank you to the devoted members of the various ministry's in our parish and especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes.

Maybe the Christmas message this year should be a challenge for all of us to become more involved? It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. After all, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas. Christmas belongs to believers, to those who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. This is why He came. God will fill us with His peace if there is room in our lives for Him.

This Christmas, my prayer is that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. May all my dear parishioners be over shadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus.

I wish you all a Holy and Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year .

With All God's Blessings

Fr Jerald.

Did you know

Luke's Gospel is sometimes referred to as the 'gospel of joy' because this theme of rejoicing and joy is often repeated.

- Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire from 27 bc to ad 14. He was the great nephew of Julius Caesar.
- A Roman census was usually undertaken for purposes of taxation but also at times for other ends, such as conscription or forced labour.
- A problem of timing exists within this text. Most scholars agree that Jesus was born about 6 bc in the reign of Herod the Great. However, Quirinius was not appointed as governor of Syria until about eleven years later. After his appointment, he did in fact supervise a census of the region.
- Luke goes to great pains in this text to situate Jesus' birth in the historical world of the time.

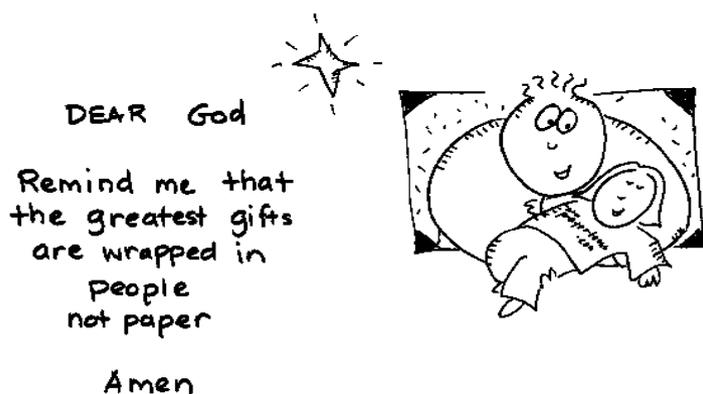
MAKING CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for group discussion and personal prayer

'I have good news of great joy.' What is your greatest joy at this point in your life?

What difference does the birth of this child make to you?

Share together your reminiscences of past Christmases. What have been the most important parts of celebrating this special feast? Has there been a shift or a new understanding of the meaning of Christmas since you began your journey?



Parish Office

Please note, during the holiday period the Parish Office will be open on the following days.

23rd to the 27th of Dec 19 —Closed

30th Dec 19- Open at Ss Peter and Paul's

31st Dec 19 - Closed

2nd January 20 - Open at Ss Peter and Paul's

3rd January 20 - Open at Ss Peter and Paul's

6th January 20 - Normal office hours resumes at both SSPP and OLOP except for Tuesdays, which will be shut until the end of January.

Fr Jerald, the Parish Council, Finance Committee Cheryl and Liza would like to wish all of you, our fellow Parishioners, a blessed and peaceful Christmas. We have so much to celebrate, and so much to be thankful for at Ss Peter and Paul's Church.

We would like to wish each of you a wonderful New Year.

May each day of the New Year

Bring happiness, good cheer

And sweet surprises...

To you and all your dear ones!

Happy New Year!

