

SACRED HEART
SANDRINGHAM

CHRISTMAS 2016



Detail of '*The Flight into Egypt*' by Caravaggio

The oldest Christmas tree to be decorated standing in a parlour as we know the tradition today is described in a fragment of a 1605 travel diary left us by an unidentified visitor to Strasbourg. The writer tells of fir trees set up and hung with paper roses of many different colours and with apples, flat wafers, gilded candies and sugar. In early Christian art the rose was a symbol for the Virgin Mary, and the flat wafers are obviously related to the "host," the communion symbol for Christ. A tree decorated with such wafers or cookies with religious designs became known as a *Christbaum*. By the seventeenth century, then the age age-old, winter-defying evergreen was a common sight in Christian homes honouring the Christ Child each Christmas.

Phillip V. Snyder

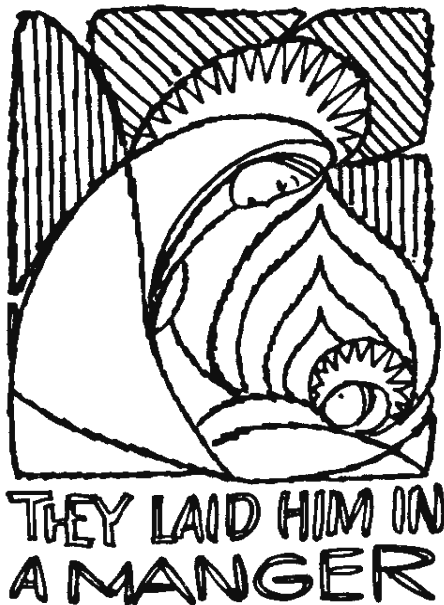


GRACE AT CHRISTMAS DINNER

by Robert Louis Stevenson

"**We** thank you for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
for the work, the health, the food
and bright skies which make our lives delightful for our friends in all parts of
the earth."





WITHIN OUR KEEP

What is this stillness in the stable?
What glow is here within our hearts?
Who lies so small between us?

Far more seems given us in this bed
than infant pounds and length —
how weight, how measure possibilities?

Although just now our baby sleeps,
his waking eyes reveal an inner light —
some holy mystery within our keep.

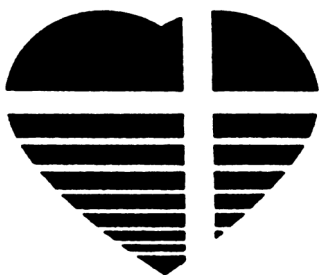
We bow.

We love.

We are silent.

Christmas calls a community back to its origins by remembering Jesus' own beginnings as a human child, a prophet of God's reign, a judgement on the world and its projects. What the parish celebrates during this season is not primarily a birthday, but the beginning of a decisive new phase in the tempestuous history of God's hunger for human companions. The social concerns of the season are thus rooted in Jesus' proclamation of God's reign: the renunciation of patterns that oppress others (holding, climbing, commanding) and the formation of a new human community that voluntarily embraces those renunciations. It is an *adult* Christ that the community encounters during the Advent and Christmas cycles of Sundays and feasts: a Risen Lord who invites a sinful people to become church. Christmas does not ask us to pretend we were back in Bethlehem, kneeling before a crib; it asks us to recognize that the wood of the crib became the wood of the cross.

Nathan Mitchell



Sacred Heart Parish Sandringham

Parish Priest : Fr Frank O'Loughlin
Mass Times : Sunday - 9am & 11am; 6pm Sat evening
Enquiries : Parish Office - Tel 9598 1511
Email - domecc.sand@bigpond.com
Website - www.sandringhamcatholic.org.au

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 7pm & 9pm

Carols at 8.30pm

Christmas Day 10am

Mon	Dec 26	Mass 5pm (Church)
Tues	Dec 27	Mass 5pm
Wed	Dec 28	Mass 9.30am
Thurs	Dec 29	Mass 9.30am
Friday	Dec 30	Comm Serv 9.30am

Sunday Masses throughout January
are as usual :6pm Saturday eve,
9 & 11am Sunday.

Post Christmas timetables available
in the foyer and on our website



*'The Adoration of the Shepherds'
by Georges de La Tour*

THE SICK : Julia Oppendsano, Martin Donaldson, Alex McKimm, Judith Ellis, Judy Wyatt, Summer Hall, John Lo Piccolo, Tim O'Hanlon, Ray Clark, Dan Ficher, Helen Francis

ANNIVERSARIES : John Monaghan, Pamela Holdsworth, Adele McKeown, Bernadette Brady, Marie Murphy, Linda MacDonald, Bill Dunn, Fr Joe Finn, Phyllis McCarthy, Brenda Mannion, Barney Spottiswood, Anne Thornton, Jenni North, Carl Sholtz, David Fisher