

SACRED HEART SANDRINGHAM



*Madonna of Tenderness - Andrea Montegna
Galleria d'Arte, Padua*

CHRISTMAS 2019

Christmas Prayer

“What good is that Christ was born 2000 years ago, if he is not born now in your heart? I believe in God, but do I believe in God-in-me? I believe in God in heaven, but do I believe in God-on-earth? I believe in God out there, but do I believe in God-with us?”

Christmas A Living Reality :

The Mystery of the Holy Night, which historically happened two thousand years ago, must be lived as a spiritual event in the ‘today’ of the liturgy. The Word who found a dwelling in Mary’s womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas. (Pope John Paul II)

Gift of Wonder

Each year God asks us to shed one more coat of awareness, one more dream state and come alive to the vision of God’s plan for each of us and the world at large.

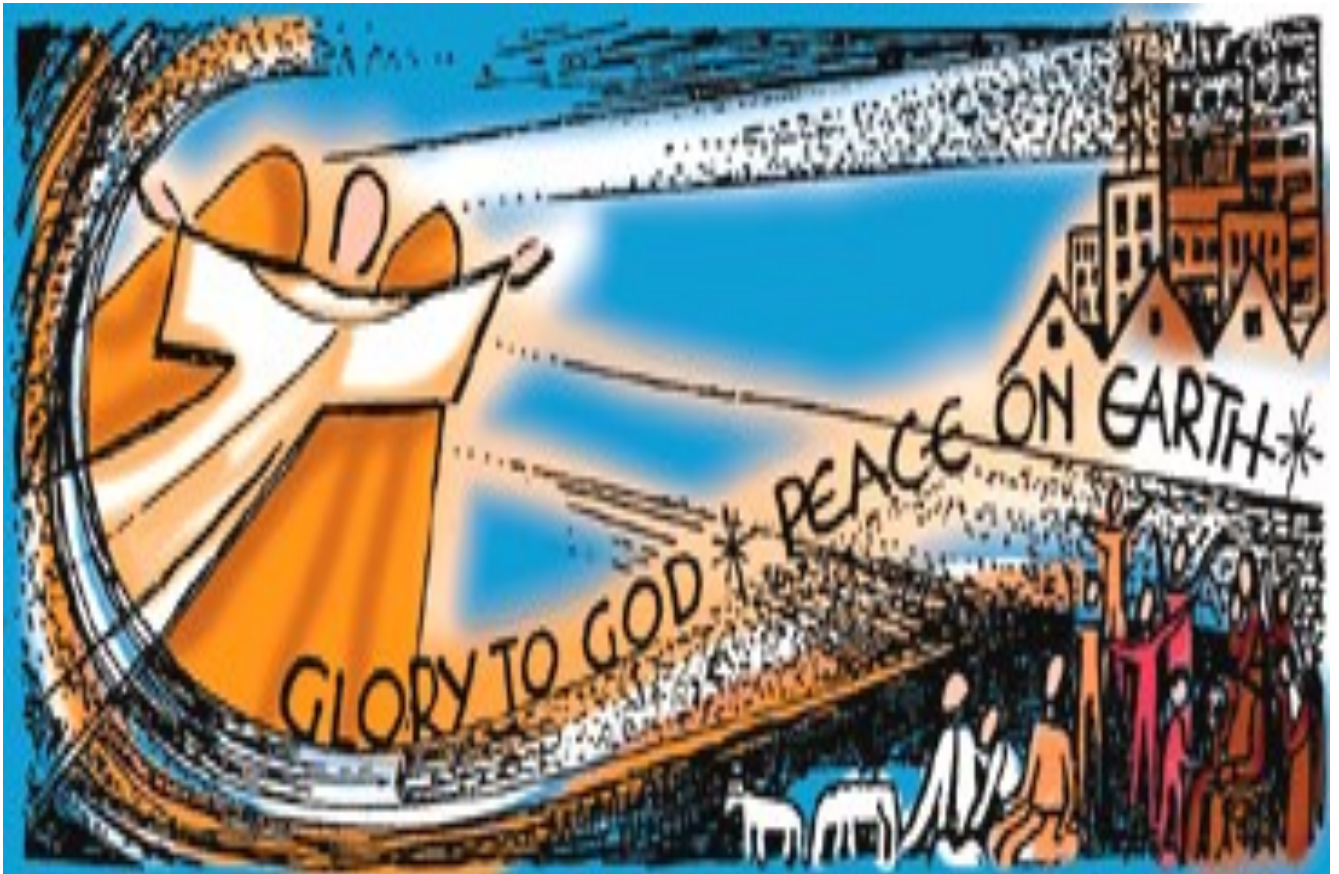
The older we get the harder this is to do. As children we had a sense of wonder. Our eyes were wide open and drinking in the fascinating gifts we beheld. Our thirsty souls could not have enough of the wonders of creation. Then, somehow, we are too old to dream. We tired of the abundance of the world, or at least grew weary of keeping up with the feast of life, and stepped away from the banquet of life.

The natural gift of wonder God gave us as children was meant to be kept alive. Instead we let wonder go to sleep. We entered the typical dream state of most humans.

Why else does Jesus tell us to ‘Stay Awake’. To wake up and realize the gifts of love we have received.

The Christmas Woman

Luke’s gospel’s account of the Christmas event is full of activity. And yet, in the middle of the frenetic action, here is this woman wrapped in silence. She demonstrates the necessity of a quiet place within ourselves at Christmastime - that place where we are most ourselves in relation to God.



It is a place of silence not because it is untouched by all the activity of our lives, but because it is capable of wonder. Every prayer begins with silent wonder before it turns to words. Our first response to God is awe at who he is and what he has done for us.

Life is an Advent Season

Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience.

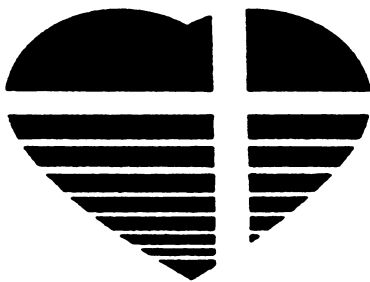
The world is not as just, not as love, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us - as one of us - give us reason to lie in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

CHRISTMAS waves a magic wand
Over this world, and behold,
Everything is softer and more beautiful

(Norman Vincent Peale)

AND here is my secret,
A very simple secret:
It is only with the heart that
One can see rightly;
What is essential is invisible
to the eye.

(Antoine de Saint-Exupery)



Sacred Heart Parish Sandringham

Parish Priest : Fr Frank O'Loughlin
Mass Times : Sunday - 9am & 11am; 6pm Sat evening
Baptisms : By appointment - Tel 9598 1511
Marriages : By appointment - Tel 9598 1511
Sacrament of Penance : 1st Saturdays 5pm
Enquiries : Parish Office - Tel 9598 1511
Email - domecc.sand@bigpond.com
Website - www.sandringhamcatholic.org.au

We respectfully acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal peoples and especially the Boonerwung people of the Kulin Nation, who are the traditional owners and custodians of the Sandringham area.