

St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

Office Hours: please ring the office number

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or pastoral@stcolumbasparish.org

Parish Web: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au School Web: scballarat.catholic.edu.au



Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm
Sunday: 10am
Wednesday: 9.30am

Supervising Priest: Fr Peter Sherman
Priest in Residence: Fr. Barry Ryan
Pastoral Leader: Judith O'Sullivan
Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand
Leadership Chair: Colleen Wakefield
School Principal: Kim Butler



*We wish you all a very blessed and holy Christmas
From Frs Peter and Barry, Judith and Ruth*

Christmas 24/ 25 December 2016

Deaths: Maisie Lamb, Colin Storey.

Anniversaries: Georgie Grano, Brian Andersen, Stephen Haintz

We pray: for the sick of our Parish and for all those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness or loneliness.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed between Friday 23rd December and Wednesday 4 January. For any urgent matters please call 0417 168 716. From the 4th January to the 20th January the office will be manned periodically. Please call ahead if you need to meet with either Ruth or Judith. Thank you.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the co-ordinators and leaders of groups in the Parish. Without you, a lot of what happens in the Parish just would not happen. So often you serve behind the scenes or without a thought of thanks. But, please be assured we appreciate all that you do.

ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Please see the notice board for Christmas rosters. The 2017 roster (up to April) has been emailed to those we have email addresses for. Otherwise please take your envelope from the table in the foyer. Please let the office know if you can receive them via email in future. Thank you

ROSTERS ETC

Over January please be aware of any vacancies to rostered ministries. If you are there and can help, please do so. It would be greatly appreciated. We are currently having a few issues with the website so our notice sheets etc are not uploading from the Diocese end. Please be patient while we endeavour to find a solution to the problem. Also we would like more helpers to clean the brass in the Church. If you can spend some time doing this please contact the office.

NEWS FROM FR BARRY

Those at Mass last weekend were informed that Fr Barry would be leaving the Parish in early January. That is no longer the case. Fr Barry will continue to be associated with St Columba's in a role to be determined in negotiation with the incoming Parish Priest of Ballarat North and Wendouree.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

All loose money on the 2nd collection this weekend will go to this appeal, otherwise money for this appeal can be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Bishops Appeal" can be left on the collection plate. Thank you in advance.



We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus

WEDNESDAY MASSES

Wednesday Masses at 9.30am will continue through the holiday period. Many thanks to Fr Dan for your ministry in the Parish.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

When most people hear of "The 12 Days of Christmas", they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith.

Each of the items in the song represents something of religious significance. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help young Christians learn their faith. The song goes, "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian. Here you go:

The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.

The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (I Corinthians 13).

The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses".

The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.

The "seven swans a swimming" were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit". (I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12, Ephesians 4; I Peter 4:10-11).

The "eight maids a milking" were the eight beatitudes.

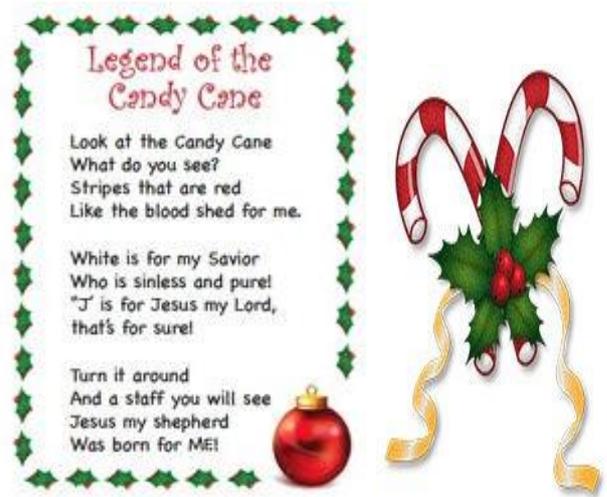
The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22 & 23)

The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.

The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples.

The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

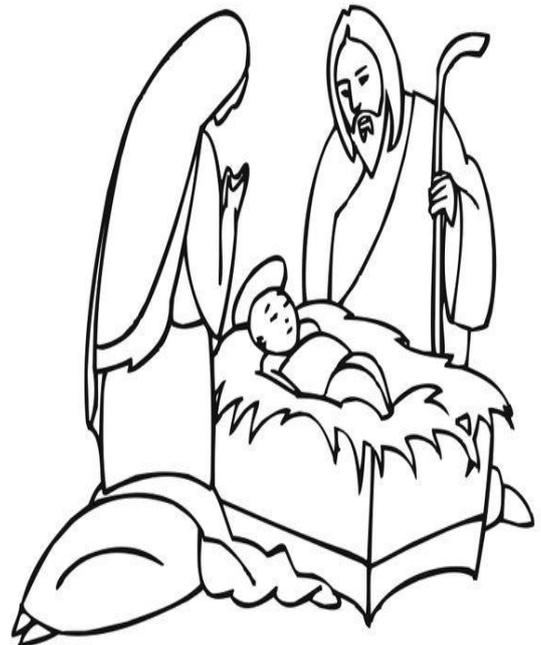
So, the next time you hear "The 12 Days of Christmas", consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith.



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Colouring for Children



Merry Christmas

Reflection on the Gospel: Christmas Year A
 (Matthew 1:1-21; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-18)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The prologue to Matthew's gospel provides the first part of the gospel for the Christmas Vigil Mass. The first two words of the gospel (biblos geneseōs) evoke the first words of the Book of Genesis and thus locate the child to be born within the broad sweep of the birth of the cosmos. At the same time, the child Jesus is identified as Messiah or Christos (the anointed of God) and descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for "his people". At this time of Earth's distress, we are conscious of our need to be saved from our "sins" which include our capacity to destroy God's world for selfish gain.

The gospel for Midnight Mass (Lk 2:1-14) comes from the great story-teller, Luke, as does the gospel for the early morning Mass (Lk 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit by violent means. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus, rather than Caesar Augustus, as the face of God, as saviour of the world, and as bringer of the good news of peace. Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought "peace" to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts.

On Christmas morning, we hear the words of John's prologue. Once more, Earth's genealogy in Genesis 1 is evoked: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." The gospel then asserts that "all things came into being through him" and that "what has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of the people". These assertions prepare the way for the extraordinary statement that the Word was enfleshed and tented among us. John brings home to us the momentous nature of the birth of the child whom Matthew has named Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Please note that there could be changes to this roster for next weekend. Please find a replacement if you are not available.

Duty	Saturday 31st	Sunday 1 st January
Welcomer	Helen O'Loughlin	Louisa Godbold
Commentator	Tom Keogh Snr	Anne Rossiter
Proclaimer 1	Jennifer Adams	Brian Kennedy
Proclaimer 2	Shirley Edgar	Min Myers
Gifts	Simmons Family	M & H van der Ploeg
Ministers of Eucharist	J Mullaly, R Fithall, A Madigan	M Burke, M Kennedy, C Haintz
Liturgy Prep		K & T Beggs
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
Overheads	Volunteer please	Sharon de Beer
Sacristan	Trish Simmons	Josie Crowe
Altar/Flowers	As Arranged	As Arranged

We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus

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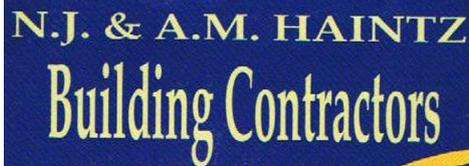
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