



St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Parish

26-38 Macarthy Road, Marsden, PO Box 545, Marsden Qld 4132
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office is closed from 23rd December 2023 to 1st January 2024

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today, acknowledging their continuing connection to land, water and community.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

Fr. Mikhael Loke SVD 38030862

Priest-in-Residence

Fr. Nick De Groot SVD 38030862

Parish Secretary

Ronet D'Mello

Pastoral Council Chairperson

Noel Swindells

Finance Committee Chairperson

Tom Kalaja

Parish Safeguarding Children Rep.

Ron Klerks (0411 057 611)

STOP line: 1300 304 550

PARISH MINISTRY LEADERS

Liturgy Ministries

Children & Families Ministries and Children's Sacramental Program

Helen Swindells (0400 014 042)

Community Life Ministries

Lele Faeteete

Youth & Young Adults Ministry

Shanna Kelemete

Adult Faith Formation Ministries

Outreach Ministry

Winnie Kepu

Affiliated Catholic Schools

St. Francis College - Tel. No 3489 4800

Mr. John Marinucci (Principal)

St. Clare's Primary School - 5549 8000

Ms. Liesl Profke (Principal)

San Damiano College - 5670 7000

Mr. Peter Edwards (Principal)

Weekday Mass Times

Monday	9.00am
Tuesday	9.00am
Wednesday	9.00am
Thursday	9.00am
Friday	9.00am
Saturday	8.00am

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

Sunday Mass: 8am & 9.30am

The Nativity of the Lord – Monday, 25 December 2023



Merry Christmas!

Our Advent preparations have been completed, and we are now invited by our Lord to enter into the glorious celebration of His birth!

How well do you understand the awe-inspiring mystery of Christmas? How fully do you comprehend the significance of God becoming a human, born of a virgin? Though many are quite familiar with the beautiful and humble story of the birth of the Saviour of the World, that familiarity can have the surprising negative effect of keeping our intellect from deeply probing the depths of the meaning of what we celebrate.

Notice the last line of the Gospel passage quoted above: "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." What a beautiful line to ponder this Christmas day. Mother Mary was the one person who would have understood the

mystery of the birth of her Son, the Son of God, the Saviour of the World, far more deeply than anyone else. It was to her that the Archangel Gabriel appeared, announcing her pregnancy and His birth. It was her who carried her Son, the Son of God, in her Immaculate womb for nine months. It was to her that Elizabeth, her cousin, cried out, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). It was Mary who was the Immaculate Conception, the one who was preserved from all sin throughout her life. And it was her who gave birth to this Child, carried Him in her arms and nursed Him at her breast. Our Blessed Mother, more than any other, understood the incredible event that had taken place in her life.

But, again, the Gospel above says that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." One thing this tells us is that even Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, needed time to ponder, reflect and savour this most holy mystery. She never doubted, but her faith continually deepened, and her heart pondered the unfathomable and incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation.

Another thing this tells us is that there is no end to the depth of the "pondering" to which we must commit ourselves if we want to enter more deeply into the mystery of the birth of the Son of God. Reading the story, setting up a nativity scene, sharing Christmas cards, attending Mass and the like are central to a holy celebration of Christmas. But "pondering" and "reflecting," especially during prayer and especially at the Christmas Mass, will have the effect of drawing us ever deeper into this Mystery of our Faith.

Reflect, today, with our Blessed Mother. Ponder the Incarnation. Place yourself into the scene that first Christmas. Hear the sounds of the town. Smell the smells of the stable. Watch as the shepherds come forth in adoration. And enter the mystery more fully, acknowledging that the more you know about the mystery of Christmas, the more you know how little you actually know and understand. But that humble realization is the first step to a deeper understanding of what we celebrate this day.

Lord, I gaze at the wonder of Your birth. You Who are God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, God from God and Light from Light, became one of us, a humble child, born of a virgin and laid in a manger. Help me to ponder this glorious event, to reflect upon the mystery with awe and to more fully grasp the meaning of what You have done for us. I thank You, dear Lord, for this glorious celebration of Your birth into the world. Jesus, I trust in You.

Excerpts from: My Catholic Life-daily reflections

The Nativity of the Lord— Mass at 6pm & 10.00pm
Sunday, 24 December 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 1-7

A son is given to us.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95: 1-3, 11-13

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

The Nativity of the Lord— Morning Mass at 9.00am
Monday, 25 December 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97: 1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations and adore the Lord
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:1-18

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

Dear Parishioners & Guests

As we celebrate again and again the coming of God's 'anointed one' to live among us, we reflect with gratitude God's gift of Himself to each one of us. We pray especially in this season that God's gifts of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy accompany our lives each day in whatever we do. In this way, Christ continues to be reborn and lives in and with us.

Another year has passed with many events, public and private, touching our lives and those of the people in our parish community in various ways. No doubt, 2023 has brought its joys and sadness in different measure to each person: all colouring our memories of this past year.

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, let us welcome family, friends and visitors in our midst who may join with us to celebrate the Eucharist. Make room in the pews; greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality those like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn. Let us not send them away to be born in a manger like the baby Jesus.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all and each one of our Parishioners and Volunteers, who have been so generous with their time and energy, to reach out in love and care to our church community during this past year.

May each one of you experience in your heart the presence of God's everlasting love, now and throughout the New Year of 2024.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year

Fr. Mikhael Loke SVD & Fr. Nick de Groot SVD

Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

