



## The Friar's Voice

Fr Joy D'Souza has a NEW Podcast available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Search "The Friar's Voice" to listen to his first episode about the *Fascinating History of the Holy Brown Scapular*.

In each episode, Fr Joy will explore faith-related topics to help us grow in our spiritual journey. Whether a lifelong believer or just starting to explore the faith, there will be something relevant. Join him, to embark on a journey of faith as he shares insights, stories and reflections that will inspire and uplift.

### End of year Parish Fun Day BBQ



### Parish Family Christmas Carols & Games with Fr Joy



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year 2025 from Fr Joe, Fr Joy & the Parish staff.

As we celebrate this Christmas and New Year may the baby Jesus fill you with love, light, truth, beauty, abundance, good health, peace, security and joy.



The local Conferences of St Vincent de Paul Society (Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga) wish you a happy and holy Christmas. Thank you all for your generous support of our appeals throughout the year. Your donations have helped us to assist those most in need in our communities. Both Conferences will take short breaks over the Christmas and New Year periods. Check the Parish website for details on how to contact us for support.

### NEWS & EVENTS

Visit our website [www.coffscatholic.com](http://www.coffscatholic.com)

### DIGITAL DONATIONS

Please scan for digital donations to our parish



## Midnight Mass readings

### Reading 1,

Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

### Reading 2,

Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.



## Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

Our Lady of Mercy Chapel

Located at the Curran Centre, 12 Gordon Street, Coffs Harbour

**Our Chapel is currently closed and will reopen at 8:30am on Monday 13 January 2025.**

*Join the Guardians of the Blessed Sacrament in 2025*

**Guardians are needed for the following vacant hours:**

9am Tues, 1pm Wed, 1pm Fri

Anyone who can help as Guardian on either a temporary or permanent basis, please contact Maurice on 0407 934 088



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## SUPPORT VANUATU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Thousands of people have been severely impacted by the earthquake in Vanuatu. Please help provide emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support to those who are experiencing hardship.



**DONATE NOW**

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1800 024 413



### Gospel reading,

Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**Collections at Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup> Collection is for the Clergy and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for the needs of the Church.

## Vigil Mass Readings

### Reading 1,

Isaiah 62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

### Reading 2,

Acts 13:16-17,22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised

up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal."

### Gospel reading, Shorter version starting at Matthew 1:18-25

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus



## Catholic Life Magazine

The Diocese of Lismore Catholic Life magazine has returned after 5 years! December's issue is filled with stories and updates that capture the vibrant life of the Diocese of Lismore. The magazine includes articles on Bishop Greg's Christmas message, the true spirit of Christmas by Fr Joe DSouza (on page 9) and celebrates the end of the school year. Limited copies are available at church, otherwise you can read it online now at [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org).



## Please remember in your prayers

**Recently deceased:** Frank Kennedy, Noreen Secomb, Kokouvi "Abraham" Adjikou, Sandra Bown, Bill Hayward, Patricia "Maureen" Lenane, Karina Barrioquinto, Joyce Foggiato

**Anniversary:** Donbosco Cung Pi, Zita Borsato

**Sick:** Emma Russell, Diane Benefield, Rex Dignan, Sister Pat Malone, Sandra Graham, Maureen Mobbs (nee Nolan), Breanna Charles, Judy Brooks

## Christmas Day readings

### Reading 1,

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### Reading 2,

Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which

**Safeguarding in the Diocese** The Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contacted if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support, and discuss all options available. Contact the Safeguarding Office—Phone (02) 6621 9444 or email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)



**Administrator:** Fr Joe D'Souza OCD

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Joy Dsouza OCD

**Parish Church:**

**St Augustine's**, Gordon Street, Coffs Harbour

**Station Churches:**

**St Francis Xavier**, Scarborough Street, Woolgoolga

**St Therese**, Gale Street, Coramba

## Parish Office

**Office & Chapel Christmas closure**

Our Parish Office and Adoration Chapel are closed for the Christmas break and will re-open 8:30am Monday 13 January 2025. For urgent Priest matters please call 6651000 and follow the prompts to the duty Priest.

Curran Centre, 12 Gordon St, Coffs Harbour  
Phone: 6651 0000

General enquiries: [parish@coffscatholic.com](mailto:parish@coffscatholic.com)  
Accounts/Rosters: [coffsadmin@coffscatholic.com](mailto:coffsadmin@coffscatholic.com)  
Parish Business Manager: Debbie Willoughby  
[dwilloughby@coffscatholic.com](mailto:dwilloughby@coffscatholic.com)

Pastoral Associate: Teresa Olid-Pryer  
[TOLID@coffscatholic.com](mailto:TOLID@coffscatholic.com)



he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

### Gospel reading, Shorter version John 1:1-5,9-14

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

## The Nativity of the Lord

St Augustine's Catholic Parish  
Coffs Harbour



## Bishop Greg's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



For a brief time, each year our thoughts turn from the business and worry of life to a newborn child in a manger. In the silence of Christmas night, we hear the secret hopes of our hearts and rekindle the trust and gaze of our childhood. The past is gone, if only we could fashion our future from the joy of Christmas. This is a season of hope in which we are called to believe in goodness, truth and beauty. Moreover, we are challenged to believe in ourselves and each other.

As we look at the crib we tend to identify with the baby. Curiously we do not associate with Mary or Joseph, and certainly not with the shepherds or the wise men. The baby Jesus carries our hopes, our fears and our future. He does not threaten us, we are not afraid of him. God comes into the world as a baby so that he can grow with us. We can also grow with God. Jesus shares each of our pains, difficulties and joys. In the baby, God and humankind are one. Jesus comes into the world to show us how to believe in ourselves and each other with confidence.

Take some time to pray. In prayer we are moved by Christmas. Suddenly joy becomes part of us, and we begin to see life with greater optimism and hope. This is the miracle of Christmas. May you be gifted with the spirit of Christmas.

With my prayers and wishes this Christmas and New Year.

*Bishop Greg Homeming OCD*

Dear Brothers and Sister in Jesus Christ

As we celebrate Christmas, we are reminded of the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's profound love, peace, hope, and joy. In a humble manger in Bethlehem, the light of the world was born, bringing with Him a divine message that continues to resonate through the ages. The birth of Jesus is a testament to God's boundless love for humanity. It is a reminder that no matter how dark the times may seem, there is always light and hope to be found in His presence. Jesus came into the world not as a mighty king, but as a humble infant, showing us that true strength lies in love, compassion, and humility. This Christmas, let us embrace the message of Jesus' birth by spreading love and peace in our hearts and communities. As members of our parish, we are called to be the living testament to God's love. By actively participating in parish life, we can nurture a sense of belonging and fellowship, supporting one another in faith and action. As we gather with family and friends this Christmas, let us take a moment to reflect on the true essence of this season. It is not merely about the exchange of gifts, but about the celebration of a love so great that it transcended the heavens and came to dwell among us. It is about the joy of knowing that we are never alone, for God is always with us, guiding and protecting us. May the message of Jesus' birth inspire us to live lives filled with love, peace, hope, and joy. Let us carry this divine message in our hearts and share it with everyone, everywhere. In this way, we honour the true spirit of Christmas and become active participants in God's wondrous plan.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Christmas. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives, filling you with His endless love and peace. Happy Christmas to you and your families, and may God bless us all.

Fr. Joy Agnel D'Souza OCD



**Diocesan Investment Fund** This Bulletin is sponsored by the Diocesan Investment Fund. Our Parish Office is the Coffs Harbour Agent for the DIF. Effective 1 November 2023, the interest rate on investments will be 4.15%. For information call 1800 802 516 or [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au)