

**Prayer for Rain:** Almighty and eternal Father, Give your blessing of rain to our land. May your rain fall gently on our farms, our stock and our native life. Give courage, strength and hope to our farmers and graziers and their families and to our rural townspeople as we wait patiently for your providence. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord. Amen. Thank you dear Lord for the rain we have received.

ROSTER	Sat 30th Dec	Sun 31st Dec	Sat 6th Jan	Sun 7th Jan
Welcomer	Mary	-----	Tom	Pat
1st Reader	Felicity	Eris	Beverley	Catherine
2nd Reader	-----	Christine	Pilar	Susan
Communion	Judy David	Con Rebecca	David Marion	Con Cris
Servers	Stazio Han Andre	Xavier Byron	TBA	TBA
Musicians	Robyn	Rita/Justin	Justin	Amy
Singers	Janette	Theresa	Janette	Amy
Mass set up	Carmel	David Rebecca	Carmel	David Rebecca
Morning Tea		Parish Council		Parish Council
Floral Arrgmt	Jennifer Williams and Harry Rackemann			

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**PARISH PRIEST**  
Rev. Fr Lucius Edomobi  
Email: edomobil@bne.catholic.net.au  
**PARISH MANAGER**  
Antony Manjooran Sebastian  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
8.30AM TO 2.30PM TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**  
Ron Wroe 0455 433 335  
**PARISH SCHOOLS**  
St Mary's Primary 41 215705  
St Mary's College 41 902200



**NEWSLETTER 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH- YEAR B**  
THE SHEPHERDS WENT IN HASTE,  
AND FOUND MARY AND JOSEPH AND THE  
INFANT LYING IN A MANGER.

**This Week's Mass Schedule**

**03/01/2024 Wednesday No Service**

04/01/2024 **Thursday**  
Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass) **12:00pm**

05/01/2024 **Friday**  
Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass) **8:30am**

06/01/2024 **Saturday** **6:00pm**

07/01/2024 **Sunday**  
**Maryborough** **8:00am**  
**Tiaro** **10:00am**

**1st RITE OF RECONCILIATION EVERY SATURDAY 5 - 5.30pm**



**Please Ensure Silence In The Church By Supporting Silent Prayer**

**READINGS**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph-Year B (p.520 in St Pauls Missal)**  
• 1st- Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3  
• Psalm - 104 Resp. hymns page  
• 2nd-Hebrews11:8,11-12, 17-19  
• Gospel Accl. hymns page  
• Gospel - Luke 2:22, 39-40  
**Next weekend: The Epiphany of The Lord - Year B (p.145)**  
• 1st- Isaiah 60:1-6  
• Psalm - 71  
• 2nd - Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
• Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

**Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: Family and covenant**  
The responsorial psalm ties the three readings together under the image of covenant - 'The Lord remembers his covenant forever.' In the first reading the promise of descendants which God makes to Abraham is ratified by a covenant-making ceremony (the description of which is omitted from the selection); Paul makes reference to the promise to Abraham as having been fulfilled in numerous offspring descended from Abraham's only beloved son, Isaac, who was to have been offered up in sacrifice and who foreshadows (i.e., is a 'symbol' of) Christ. The gospel describes Joseph and Mary fulfilling the obligations of the covenant as spelled out in 'the law of the Lord'.

Frequently covenants between individuals, clans, and tribes, even kingdoms, are described by using the language of family. In covenants between equals (e.g., two clan heads or two kings) the partners are called 'brothers' - the most famous biblical example is perhaps the covenant of friendship between Jonathan and David who become 'brothers' to one another (1 Sam 18:1-3; 2 Sam 1:25-26). In covenants between unequals (e.g., a great king and a petty king), the partners are referred to as 'father and son.' The language indicates the obligations owed to family members are owed also to those united in covenant. Such obligations are sacred and an individual is held duty-bound to fulfil them. While 'family' informs our understanding of covenant, covenant broadens our notion of family to include relationships beyond blood or marriage ties.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (January 1<sup>st</sup>)**  
*The Word was Made Flesh and Dwelt Among Us:* When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons.

Born of a woman, adoption, heir, conceived in the womb. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus. In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. May God bless us in his mercy.

Jesus, fully human, is also fully divine; therefore, Mary is the Mother of God. Since Jesus is born of a woman, we have received adoption as children of God. Because Jesus shares our humanity, we share his divinity. The consequence of this event is that we have been raised to the royal status of heirs, children of God.

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, going by this sacred Christian teaching, we are all one family, and we ought to draw our inspiration from the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph who gave us what the world cannot give. Let us therefore pray that the Holy Family may guide and guard us safely through the new year of 2024 with a renewed spirit to always do the will of God.  
**Happy New year Everyone!**  
Fr Lucius

## APPRECIATION

I would like to use this weekend of the solemnity of the Holy Family to thank everyone who worked so hard in making our 2023 Christmas celebration a huge success, beginning with the parish office, the Choir, Communion Ministers and Readers, Altar Servers, Flower Ladies and Men, Sacristans, Power point operators, Collectors, Piety storekeepers, Liturgical Ministers, Gardeners, Volunteers, and indeed all our parishioners. May the blessings of the Holy Family usher us all into a new and prosperous year of 2024. Amen

### ANNUAL LEAVE

Please keep me in your prayers as I travel to Nigeria in the new year to be with my family and spend some time with my sick Dad. To be back early February. Fr. Des Holm, a retired priest from the Archdiocese, will look after the Parish until my return. Thank you.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS CHANGES

From January 2024, the parish office will be open from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Tuesday to Friday. This little change was to enable the office to adequately complete its challenging work and to serve you better.

Finally, I wish everyone a happy and healthier 2024.  
Fr Lucius, pp

GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD:  
HIS LOVE ENDURES  
FOREVER.  
PSALM 137:1



**FUNDRAISER:** If you like to contribute to Parish through Containers For Change, the recycling centre is on Kingston Drive off Walker St. Quote ID C10151538 for the funds to be paid directly to the Parish.

## RCIA 2024

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- Session 1: Thursday 4th January - 5-6pm.
- Session 2: Thursday 18th January - 5-6pm.
- Session 3: Thursday 1st February - 5-6pm.
- Session 4: Thursday 15th February - 5-6pm.
- Session 5: Thursday 29th February - 5-6pm.
- Session 6: Thursday 14th March - 5-6pm.

**Celebration - Easter Vigil Mass - 30th March - 6pm.**

Christmas Offering



### Christmas Offering

envelopes will be available until Sunday 07th January (Epiphany of the Lord). We request all to return the envelopes by 07th January. All the offerings that we receive through Christmas Offerings this year will be set aside to support the Parish Youth Group.

## ENTRANCE: FATHER WELCOMES

Refrain:

Father welcomes all His children  
To His family through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation,  
Life for ever has been won.

Little children come to Me,  
For My Kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give:  
Mercy for your sin. R/

In the water, in the Word,  
In the promise be assured:  
Those who are baptised and believe  
Shall be born again. R/

Let us daily die to sin.  
Let us daily rise with Him.  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
Live in the peace of God. R/.

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## PSALM RESPONSE: (SAID)

THE LORD REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT FOR EVER .

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son .

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## COMMUNION: UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT

Refrain:

Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the  
ground and die,  
It remains but a single grain with no life.

If we have died with Him then we shall live with Him,  
If we hold firm we shall reign with Him. R/.

If any one serves Me then they must follow Me;  
Wherever I am My servants will be. R/.

Make your home in Me as I make Mine in you;  
Those who remain in Me bear much fruit. R/.

If you remain in Me and My Word lives in you;  
Then you will be My disciples. R/.

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## THANKSGIVING: GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

(Repeat)

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',  
Let the poor say, 'I am rich',

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

(Repeat)

Give thanks.

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## RECESSIONAL: WE WALK BY FAITH

We walk by faith, and not by sight:

No gracious words we hear

Of Him who spoke as none e'er spoke

But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands or side,

Nor follow where He trod;

Yet in His promise we rejoice

And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,

And may our faith abound;

To call on You when You are near,

And seek where You are found.

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## INVITATION TO SUNDAY MORNING TEA

Each Sunday after the 8am Mass we host a morning tea. Please join us. Meet and talk to your fellow parishioners.



### Please remember in your prayers:

**Those in ill health:** Ailsa Wickbold, Justin Percival, Marceline & Gabriel Burton, Margaret Twomey, Betty Hove, Brenda Dreger, Evelyn Keys, Carmel Bird, Gregory Massingham, David Brettell, Anna Pecar and Ame Cox.

**The Recently Deceased:** Brian Hodges, Cecilia Hynes, Michele Hughes and Ariston Cortes Jr.

**Anniversary of Death:** Dick Cumming, Barry Foot, Dominguita Hones, Zita Hogan, Alice Bertram, Joseph Hogan and Angelina Edomobi.