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Parish Office Hours: 9.00am –3.00pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

The Nativity of the Lord

(Year B)

25th December 2011



Fr Gerard Spillane
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 Gisborne Vic 3437

Phone: 5428 2591
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In Our Prayers We pray for the wellbeing of all parishioners their families and friends who are currently in ill health. We pray for the recently deceased, and also for those whose anniversary occur at this time, especially Catherine Mary Brennan. and Christopher George Bird.

"May they rest in Peace"



Reflection

The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth.

The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the Preface of the Nativity: "For by the mystery of the Word made flesh the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge Him a God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen."

During the Christmas season there is an extensive exchange of greetings and good wishes among friends. These greetings are a reminder of those "good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people, for this day is born to you a Saviour Who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11). They are a reminder, too, that all blessings and graces come to us from Christ: "Hath He not also with Him given us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).

During the Christmas season there is also an exchange of gifts. This custom should recall to us that on this day God Himself gave to us the greatest of all gifts, His beloved Son: "God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son" (John 3: 16).

The Christmas tree, of which the first-known mention was made in 1605 at Strasbourg, was introduced into France and England in 1840. It symbolizes the great family tree of Christ which through David and Jesse has its roots in Abraham, the father of the chosen race. It is often laden with gifts to remind us that Christmas brought us the priceless gifts of grace and of eternal life. It is frequently adorned with lights that recall to us that Christ is the Light of the world enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Though not entirely unknown before, the custom of the Christmas Crib was adopted by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas 1225. It is a concrete and vivid way of representing to ourselves the Incarnation and birth of Christ. It depicts in a striking manner the virtues of the newborn Saviour, especially His humility, poverty, and charity

What does Christmas mean to me????.

A Christmas prayer;

*Christ be
 ever in our minds
 and at the heart of our every thought.*

*Christ be
 ever in our eyes
 and at the heart of all we see.*

*Christ be
 ever in our ears
 and at the heart of all we hear.*

*Christ be
 ever on our lips
 and at the heart of every word we speak.*

*Christ be
 ever in our hearts
 and at the heart of all our meetings with others.*

*Christ be
 all in all of us
 and at the heart of all we do.*

*Christ be
 All in all*

A joy filled Christmas to all parishioners of St Brigid's Parish Community. Thanks to all those people who have given of their presence & giftedness over the past year. May Christ's peace reign in our hearts.



Christmas Timetable

Christmas Eve

24th Dec 7pm St Brigid's Gisborne (carols 6.30pm)
 24th Dec 9pm St Patrick's Macedon (carols 8.15pm)
 24th Dec 11pm St Brigid's Gisborne (carols 10.30pm)

Christmas Day

25th Dec 9am St Ambrose Riddells Creek
 25th Dec 10.30am St Brigid's Gisborne

New Years Day

31st Dec and 1st Jan Normal weekend Masses celebrated



Christmas Greetings and Blessings from the Parish Secretary.

I always call this THE SILLY SEASON ???

Lots of busyness and tiredness, although I try not to get caught up

I would like to wish everyone a very very happy and safe Christmas.

Whatever you may be doing on this special day I wish you many

Blessings

God Bless Doris

The Parish office will close on Thursday 22nd Dec

and re-open

on Tuesday 24th January 2012

Departing Parishioners -
 We'll miss you.

Please notify the presbytery.



New Parishioners -
 Welcome to St Brigid's Parish.

Please register at the Parish Office.





Rosters and Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses:

6.00pm Mass: St Brigid's

Reader: Volunteers
Offertory: Chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers

9.30am Mass: St Patrick's

Readers: Volunteers
Offertory: Chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers
Children's Liturgy: No Liturgy



8.00am Mass: St Ambrose's

Welcomer: Max McMahon
Readers: Volunteers
Offertory: Chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers



11.00am Mass: St Brigid's

Readers: Volunteers
Offertory: Chosen on the day
Eucharist: Volunteers
Children's Liturgy: No Liturgy
Flowers: Volunteers



Counters: Graham Kays & Maurice Bourk
Please keep both sides of envelopes together.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

A group of Japanese children aged 10-16 will be visiting Victoria in Dec 2011. The organiser is the Hiroshima YMCA and the children will be attending ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Holy Cross PS. From 25th December to 2nd January (8nights).

If interested, please contact Yoshi Uemura at
yoshi@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au or 0420 502 340

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

"May Saint Vincent de Paul inspire us to do better"

This Christmas you can help by supporting Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2011

Your generous donation to the Christmas Appeal will provide a welcoming relief not only to families and individuals in need of assistance within the community but also reaching far beyond our region to support struggling families in India-Did you know The Gisborne Conference is twinned with Christ the King conference in Nedumangal (Kerala)

Your continuing support for our work is greatly appreciated.
Thank you

Donations can be made online or by mail-envelopes can be found in the porch of all churches.

Gisborne Conference

Humour From Vactican 11 (1962-1965)

*It's reported that three Latin nations
Have monopolised canonisations.
It seems rather quaint
That a non-Latin saint
Get a halo, but with limitations.*

ROSARY

We invite you to pray the Living rosary on Tuesday mornings at 11am at St Brigid's Church. Bring your personal prayer requests.

*We welcome you to experience the PEACE given by this
miraculous meditative prayer.*

Weekday Masses: Tues 27th Dec-Friday 30th Dec

Tues: No Mass
Wed: No Mass
Thur: No Mass
Frid: 9.15am



Reconciliation & Spiritual Direction: Saturday 9.00 - 10.00am

The Melbourne Overseas Mission collection

(10th & 11th December)

Special collection totalled \$241.90

Thank you for your contribution

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2011

The Malate Medical Centre is located in a 4-storey building at the rear of Our Lady of Remedies Parish in inner-city Manila. The ground floor has recently been renovated to house the clinic and a soup kitchen. It is quite basic but clean and functional. Inside the clinic there is some short-stay accommodation for patients who are undergoing treatment. The clinic offers the following services; gynaecological, dental mental health, nutrition education and vaccinations.

On the second floor of this building there is a centre for children with cerebral palsy, down-syndrome and other disabilities. The third floor is home to a nursery school for children whose families can afford 100p(\$2.50 per month). These children are considered reasonably privileged, wear uniforms and are well behaved. The fourth floor has nursery school for street children. They are beautiful and free spirited and just want to be hugged. These children have nothing-thank god for the Columbans and their supporters.



Trained volunteers from the Malate parish are on duty to make appointments for patients and to organise the clinics. Looking after the Malate parish was the first work to be taken on by the Columban Fathers in 1929 when they started their mission work in the Philippines over 80 years ago.

This information has been sourced from Janette Mentha, Director of Mission Programs; Philip King, Ferntree Gully and Kathryn Boyle, ACU Melbourne. www.columban.org.au/e-news-vol.-2-no.-2/its-better-than-no-clinic/

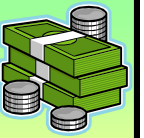
The Parish Columban Partnership team invite you to support this worthy venture through the Advent Giving Tree. We also wish to thank you for your recent support of our Cross to Cross Camino

Total figure raised as at 20th Dec is \$2208.00

Thank you

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Thanksgiving

Total Amount Received \$930.50
Total Amount Pledged \$2028.00
Presbytery Collection \$542.10



*Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.
May the Lord bless you all.*