



*St Therese's  
Christmas Chronicle  
2017*



**LET YOUR GOD LOVE YOU.**

Be silent. Be still. Alone.

Empty before Your God.

Say nothing. Ask nothing.

Be silent. Be still.

Let your God look at you.

That is all.

God knows. God Understands.

God loves you with an enormous love.

God only wants to look at you with love.

Quiet. Be Still.

Just let your God love YOU.

Fr Vince Hurley SJ  
Apostleship Prayer



# Fr Mark Hanns MSC

## Parish Priest



Another Christmas is upon us and we are about to celebrate the birth of our Saviour and then the arrival of a New Year and the hope of things to come. I look back over the year and the thing that overshadows the life of the Church at a national level is the handing down of the findings of the Royal Commission. It would be the elephant in the room if it went without comment.

The findings are disturbing, and we have been kept up to date and informed of these as developments unfolded over the last five years. It has been stated that this is the longest and most difficult Royal Commission that Australia has had. Yet what I see as the ray of light in all this is that through this process the church is being purified in a way that has never been done or even been possible since the time of the Apostles. The dark secrets that have been concealed from observation for decades have now been uncovered and the light of Truth has been shone and exposed them for what they are. Jesus said in John's Gospel, "If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free" (Jn 8:32). The church now is being purged from the sins of those of its members who committed them against the innocent victims. The truth is leading to freedom from the life-suppressing power of the sin. There is another very pertinent verse in the Psalms which says, "I kept it secret and my frame was wasted. I groaned all the day long, for night and day your hand was heavy upon me. Indeed, my strength was dried up as by the summer's heat. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said: "I will confess my offence to the Lord." And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin... You surround me with cries of deliverance" (Ps 32:3-5). Yes, concealing the crimes actually made the church sick. Ironically, the concealment was so that the church would not look shameful, yet it brought shame upon us.

Even the victims, innocent though they were, felt ashamed, and most kept the sin committed against them secret. Now they have taken the opportunity to share the burden of this terrible secret that each had to carry alone. Now they can begin to heal. Now they have discovered that they are not alone in their suffering. Now they are finding solidarity. Now they are being listened to, heard, believed and understood. Now they are being helped to recover. Now the church is being purged of the burden of carrying the guilt secretly. Now the leaders have made humble proclamations of sorrow, and declarations of solidarity with the survivors and their families. Now the structures of power which enabled the transgressions

are being dismantled and new structures are being set in place to ensure the innocent ones are safe and protected.

It is a painful process, yet the labour that the church is going through will lead to a new birth. A new and healthier future awaits us, not only in the church but in all of the institutions of society. The Cross becomes the Resurrection and new life.

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During Advent over these last two years since I arrived in Moonah I implemented something which I saw Fr John Rate MSC initiate, and invited members of our congregation to speak on the different themes of the Advent wreath candles, the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The result has been truly moving and inspiring, I believe. We have heard and been brought into the lives and stories and inspirations of these wonderful and generous members of our parish family. No two reflections are the same because each person is a unique mystery and has a unique experience and perspective to share. Some of these have been reproduced in this chronicle so that you can enjoy them again, or if you were at a different Mass you can enjoy it for the first time. Thanks to all our speakers. It's great for us to hear many voices and stories.

Thanks to all the members of our parish family who have served in large ways and small, noticed and unnoticed, and all who have simply prayed in solidarity at our gatherings. May you and all the members of your families be blessed with those gifts of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas and New Year.

In Christ born among us

Fr Mark MSC



# Polish Community



In February, we hosted Fr. Tadeusz Rostworowski (SJ) and 43 Polish/Australian cruise passengers from Victoria who glided into the port of Hobart on the Golden Princess. They attended Mass at St Therese's con-celebrated by Fathers Kazimierz and Tadeusz. Light food and refreshments were served later in the adjoining function room. The visitors were very impressed with the recently renovated church. A coach trip gave the tourists the opportunity to do a bit of sightseeing, particularly Mt. Wellington where the fine weather conditions provided unrestricted panoramic views. A visit to St. Mary's Cathedral concluded the day's outing.

Fr. Kazimierz commenced his holidays in August and while he was in Poland for the next 2 months, Fr. Arkadiusz Bernat (SChr) assumed all his duties. His dedication and easy-going manner soon endeared him to our parishioners. He enjoyed his time here taking the opportunity whenever his duties permitted to see a little of our beautiful island. Fishing was a pastime he also enjoyed but time and weather conspired to give him little opportunity to try out his skills on our freshwater fish so Fr. Kazimierz's status in that regard remains unchallenged.

The church committee as in the past organised and ran 2 very successful fund-raising functions during the course of the year. Each included a cooked luncheon, raffle and entertainment kindly provided by our national dance ensemble Oberek.

As part of the celebrations associated with the centenary of the final apparition of Fatima, rosary was recited in Launceston's City Park on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October with a small group from St. Therese's driving north to take part.

The weather could have been a bit better but the intermittent drizzle did not seem to deter the faithful from joining Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fathers Kazimierz, Mark, Stan Lipski and Deacon Michael as they led the procession to the traditional 4 altars celebrating the Feast of Christ the King. Later his Grace and invited guests enjoyed a luncheon prepared by the ladies of our church committee.

To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of Our Lady Queen of Croatians and Queen of Peace Church at Granton, Mass was con-celebrated with principal celebrant Archbishop Julian Porteous with Fr. Kazimierz among others assisting. A barbecue was provided afterwards so that those attending could socialise.

For the first time, we have an honorary Polish consul in Tasmania. We congratulate Edward Kremzer on his appointment and wish him every success in his new role supported by his wife Halina and family.

The Polish Association hosted the traditional sharing of the Christmas wafers (Oplatek) at their club in New Town where everyone wished each other all the very best for a safe, healthy, happy and above all, a Holy Christmas. Credit must go to the organisers for the beautiful Christmas themed decorations. Oberek entertained with some folkloric dances and those attending were able to enjoy a selection of cakes.

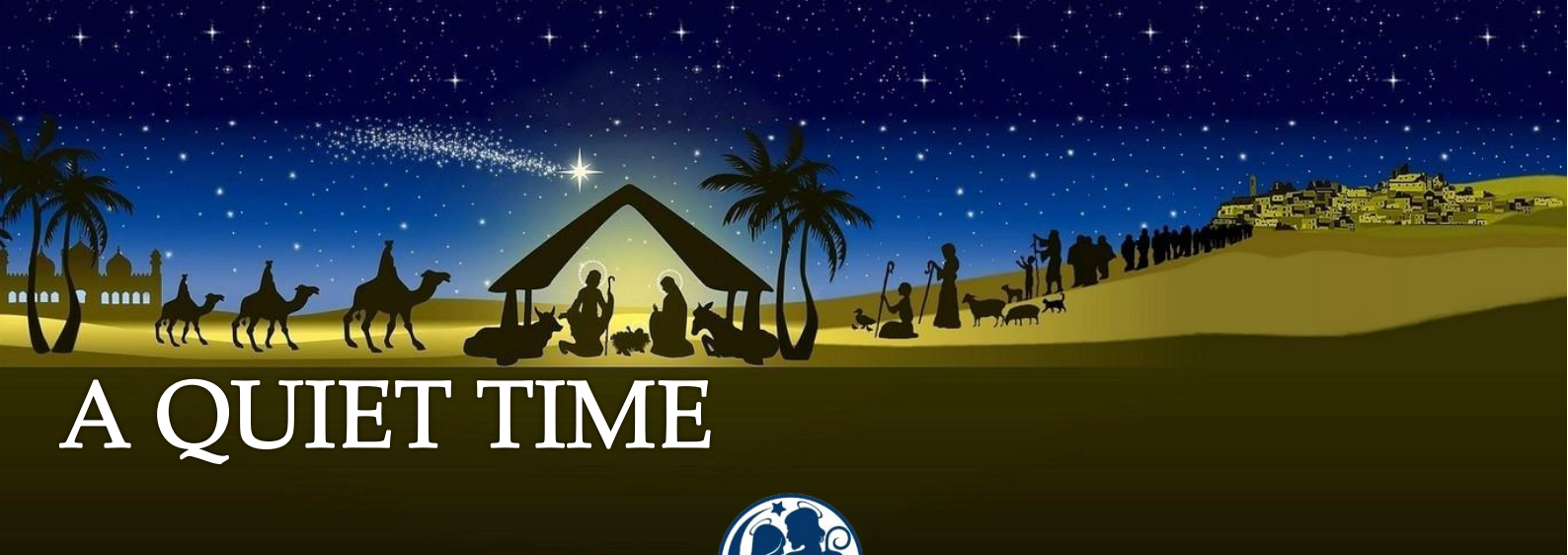
An invitation was extended by his Grace for a Polish choir to perform in the Elizabeth St Mall in the week leading to Christmas.

Fr. Kazimierz, Sisters Margaret and Anna together with the church committee and Polish community would like to wish Fr. Mark, Deacon Michael and our fellow parishioners a safe, healthy and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018.

John Adamus







# A QUIET TIME



"Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held each Friday after the 12 Noon Mass until 5:00pm."

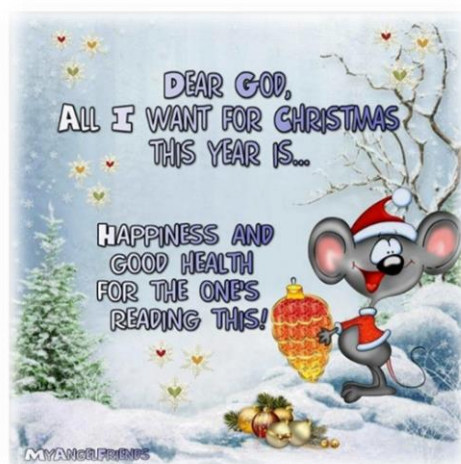
This notice is there every week in our Parish Bulletin – have you ever looked at it, and thought "this is an invitation from Jesus to come and spend some time with him? Every hour, of every day, we rush from one thing to another, longing, sometime, for just a quiet time by ourselves. Here is your chance: Do you remember in the garden of Gethsemane Jesus asked, "Could you not pray one hour with me?" Perhaps in the New Year you can resolve at least to try and organise everything so you can take a short time to accept Jesus' invitation.

As someone who does try to be there, I can assure you I am strengthened in Faith, and often come away calm and at peace. I read once that St John Vianney asked a man who sat in his Church each day, "What do you say to Jesus while you're sitting there?" and the answer was "I don't need to say anything, He looks at me, and I look at Him." So, don't say "I'm not good at praying" - share your day, or your week with Him, and listen. There may be happy laughter of the children playing outside, perhaps the birds calling out to each other, or the leaves rustling in the breeze – perhaps you find you are distracted, but each time you come back to Jesus, that is prayer as well.

The Chapel is such a great blessing for us – remember all the sisters who have lived there in the convent – many of them would have spent time praying (or just sitting) there. Your spirit will rejoice theirs, as Jesus enkindles in your heart, the fire of His love.

For you all, my community (my second family), I pray that the blessings of Christmas will be with you throughout the year.

Marie Ogle



# SANTA'S PRAYER



My dear precious Jesus,  
I did not mean to take your place,  
I only bring toys and things  
and you bring love and grace.  
People give me lists of wishes  
and hope that they came true;  
But you hear prayers of the heart  
and promise your will to do.  
Children try to be good and not to cry  
when I am coming to town;  
But you love them unconditionally  
and that love will abound.  
I leave only a bag of toys and  
temporary joy for a season;  
But you leave a heart of love,  
full of purpose and reasons.  
I have a lot of believers and what one  
might call fame;  
But I never healed the blind  
or tried to help the lame.  
I have rosy cheeks and a voice full of  
laughter;  
But no nail-scarred hands or a  
promise of the hereafter.  
You may find several of me in town or  
at a mall;  
But there is only one omnipotent you,  
to answer a sinner's call.  
And so, my dear precious Jesus, I  
kneel here to pray;  
To worship and adore you on this, your holy birthday.





# Merry Christmas

*from the MTC Mission Office*



## A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
That we may share in the song of the angels,  
The gladness of the shepherds,  
And worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
And open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
And good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which Christ brings  
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning make us  
Happy to be thy children  
And Christmas evening bring us  
To our beds with grateful thoughts  
Forgiving and forgiven  
For Jesus' sake  
Amen.



# CHRISTMAS RECIPES



## Microwave Christmas Pudding 🎄

Combine 60g butter, ¼ cup caster sugar, 1 tablespoon jam, 2 cups mixed fruit and 1 cup milk in a pot. Stir over heat until mixture boils. Remove from heat and stir in 1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda.

Sift 1 cup SR flour, 2 teaspoons cocoa, ½ teaspoon nutmeg, ½ teaspoon ground mixed spice and ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon into a bowl, add fruit and 2 tablespoons rum or brandy. Stir to combine well.

Pour mixture into a greased bowl (7 cup capacity). Cover with plastic wrap.

Cook on MEDIUM for 10 MINS or until cooked in centre.

Stand 5 mins before turning out on plate. Serve warm with brandy butter.

## Brandy Butter

125g butter, 1 teaspoon finely grated orange rind, 1 ½ icing sugar mixture, 1 tablespoon orange juice and 1 tablespoon brandy. Beat with electric mixer till light and creamy. Refrigerate.

Pudding may be made 2 days ahead. Store covered in fridge.

Reheat in microwave on MEDIUM.

I make this pudding in my Tupperware lettuce crisper bowl.

Very successful and yummy. 🎄 🎄

## No Bake Pavlova 🎄

1 tablespoon gelatine softened in ½ cup of water.

Heat 1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup evaporated milk, (carnation milk) in a saucepan until bubbles appear around the edge of saucepan. Stir in gelatine mixture.

Add 3 egg whites, ½ cup caster sugar and ½ teaspoon vanilla essence to hot milk

Put mix into a bowl and beat mix with electric mixer until thick and white.

Pour into 23cm springform bowl. Chill until set.

Top with whipped cream and mixed berries. 🎄

If you have a ring container, you can fill centre with berries.



## Iced Christmas Pudding Recipe

- 8 oz Condensed Milk
- ½ pint Whipping Cream
- 1 teaspoon Mixed Spice
- 4 teaspoon Instant Coffee
- ½ teaspoon Nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon Vanilla Essence
- 2 oz Walnuts
- 4 teaspoon Orange Peel
- ½ teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 oz Citron (chopped)
- 2 oz Candied (chopped)
- 3 oz Raisins, Sultanas and Glace Cherries

## Method

- Beat the cream with condensed milk, ground nutmeg, mixed spice and coffee.
- Spoon the mixture into the refrigerator tray and freeze it.
- Whisk the rest of the cream until stiff.
- Top it with chopped fruit and nuts
- Add flavours of vanilla and orange juice.
- Transfer into pudding mould and refrigerate it again.



A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. In the background, a city with domes and minarets is silhouetted against a dark blue night sky with stars. In the foreground, three camels are silhouetted, facing right. To the right, a wooden manger is silhouetted, containing the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. The title "CHRISTMAS NATIVITY CRIB" is written in large, white, serif capital letters with a blue outline, centered over the illustration.

# CHRISTMAS NATIVITY CRIB



Every Advent Eddie hauls out the traditional Christmas tree and decorates it in style with decorations that we keep adding to each year. It probably looks a little overdone, but it is very meaningful to our family and is a focal point for Christmas Eve celebrations in our household. It is well lit up (like a Christmas tree) and would definitely not pass the “art nouveau” style and decoration uniformity that is now in style.

Each of the decorations has a significant meaning that goes beyond the festive tradition.

Our new puppy, Wolfgang, alias Wolf and sometimes Wuffie, took a particular liking to a wooden decoration and chewed the legs and antlers off. It will now have to be replaced with something to remind us that he was once a mischief making puppy who thinks that anything he can get his teeth into is his.

During our recent trip to Europe, I searched for a Christmas Nativity Crib to replace a wooden one that we have had for forty years. It consists of the three figures of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in a wooden manger, and is devoid of colour and I thought I would find a new one that is more stylised and upmarket.

We visited Christmas shops, which are open for business every day of the year in Germany to cater to the tourist market. Nothing suitable to replace the old one was found. Visits to magnificent cathedrals, domes, abbeys and churches were on our itinerary which included Koln Cathedral and Melk Abbey, but, the elusive Christmas Nativity Crib was not found in the attached tourist souvenir shops on this journey.

As I look at the one we have this Advent, maybe I am glad that I was not able to find a replacement as the old one still evokes the wonderment, humility and holiness of the first Christmas as Mary and Joseph look at the infant Jesus.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas.

Monica Sianski

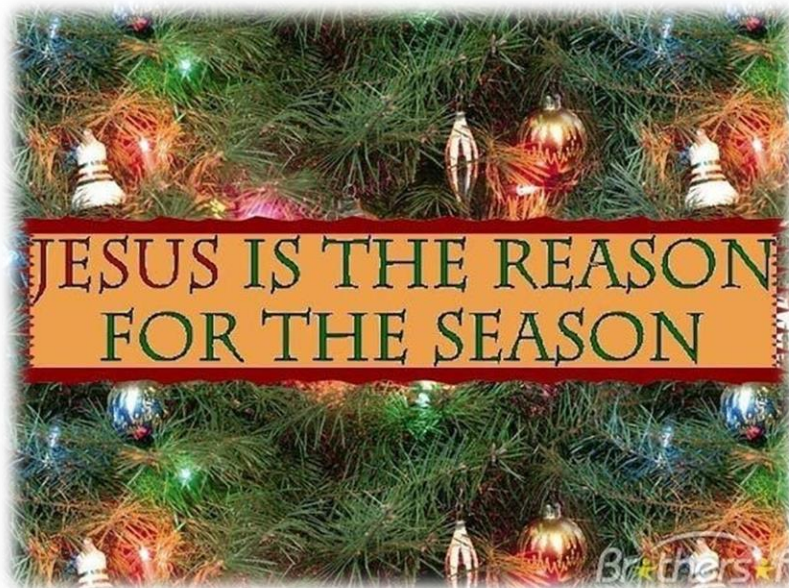


# CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER



*Rejoice this night with all the hosts of heaven  
For Christ our Saviour is born.  
He has come to foreigners travelling from afar,  
He has come to shepherds outcast in the fields,  
He has come bringing joy to the world.  
He has come,  
Heralding God's eternal world of peace and justice.  
May we make ourselves a part of it,  
And look into the light of Christ.  
- Christine Sine*

*God of endless ages, Father of all goodness, we keep vigil for the dawn of salvation and the birth of your Son. With gratitude we recall his humanity, the life he shared with the sons of men. May the power of his divinity help us answer his call to forgiveness and life? We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*





# WHAT IS LOVE?



Is it the warm, fuzzy feeling you feel in the pit of your tummy?  
Is it the huge unexplained smile you find on your face?  
Is it the tears of pride that well up in your eyes?  
Is it the hairs on your arms standing on end?  
Is it looking at your children and grandchildren and feeling so blessed over the joy that they all bring?  
Is it your heart so full that it feels like it is going to explode?  
Is it the tears that quietly trickle down your cheeks when you recall beautiful memories?  
Is it your heart aching for those who are no longer with us?  
Is it the feeling of despair and helplessness as you try to care for parents living in another state?  
Is it accepting God's plan with faith and belief?



Well, it is all of these things and much more. In the dictionary they define LOVE to be such a simple thing. It describes LOVE as an intense feeling of deep affection. It defines LOVE as accepting others even with their failures, stupidities and ugly points. However, it is a known fact that there is no other word in our language that is more abused, misused or confused than the word LOVE.

- Mother Teresa defines LOVE as – “to give all of yourself to others until it hurts”
- John defines LOVE as - “laying down his own life for that of his friends”
- St Thomas Aquinas defines LOVE as - “willing the good of the other”
- Paul tells us that LOVE is the greatest virtue.
- The Corinthians define LOVE as patient and kind. That LOVE always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres and never ends.
- Eric Fromm tells us that LOVE is the only sane satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.

So I am sure that everyone of us here can say that during our lives we have found and experienced LOVE no matter how we define it.





I don't pretend to know what LOVE is for everyone, but I can tell you what LOVE is for me. Put simply, my definition of LOVE is being full; being complete and having the feeling that everything is so much lighter.

LOVE is when someone else's happiness makes you truly happy.

It is to live for their happiness without expecting anything in return and it is caring for another person's happiness more than your own no matter how painful the choices you face might be.

LOVE is knowing someone's weaknesses and not taking advantage and knowing their flaws and accepting who they are.

LOVE is when you look into someone's eyes and you see their heart.

It is an unconditional commitment to selflessly care, truthfully communicate, fearlessly protect, gracefully forgive and compassionately heal.



I define unconditional LOVE as a LOVE with no conditions and without limits. LOVE of this nature is the most pure and simple. It requires nothing but returns everything.

LOVE is definitely the most powerful feeling that we can ever experience in our lives. It is truly magical. It brings joy, hope, beauty and unity into one's life, however, it can also bring pain and heartache if it is not nurtured or neglected. But with every heartache, sorrow, sadness and feelings of being lost we experience, LOVE is fighting so very hard in the background to restore itself. Our hearts are made for deep LOVE. Our hearts can give and receive LOVE and it is truly a marvel on how much LOVE one's heart can hold.



It is my belief that LOVE is the first emotion that we feel. We are born to parents who immediately develop an unconditional LOVE and protectiveness for us. This is a natural bond that every child must make in order to survive the helplessness of infancy to childhood. This LOVE continues for us always and forever.

There are so many forms of LOVE. Brotherly LOVE is the kindness devotion, affection and tenderness for your siblings and families.

This type of LOVE is necessary for family peace and growth. Not always possible in my family. I have four sisters and one brother and no matter how hard we tried there was always one or two of us that created dysfunctional moments.

And then there is Neighbourly LOVE. This love is the love that is necessary for social survival. This is the LOVE that should be shown to each other without any rhyme or reason. But, I am sure that at one point or another we have asked ourselves the question of how we can LOVE someone if we do not like him. My answer to this is easy, we do it to ourselves all the time. We don't always have tender, sweet, comfortable feelings about ourselves. Sometimes we feel foolish, stupid or wicked but we always convert to seeking out our own good. We care about our good, so we are impatient with our bad – no different really to anyone with whom we come into contact.

Then there is the LOVE of a partner or husband. This LOVE is like an oasis in the middle of a desert. It is being coupled with your closest friend. This LOVE is not just about wiping each other's tears but is more about listening and understanding the reason behind the tears. It is

about taking turns in being strong for each other in the moments when the other feels weak. I am blessed with this deep unquestionable LOVE. My husband John and I have been together since I was 15 years of age and we have been married for 39 years.

Then there is the LOVE you experience when your first child is born. Your heart swells so much that you can never imagine there being any room for anything or anyone else. Every minute of every day is taken up with the hopes and dreams you have for them and I am extremely blessed to say that my daughter Amber has exceeded all of these dreams and is now holding down the most important role in her life – that is to be the mother of my granddaughters. Then if you, like me, are fortunate to be blessed with more children you are amazed at just how much LOVE one's heart can hold. My sons Nicholas and Daniel have grown into the most caring, selfless and generous young men who continue to surprise me with their empathy and approach to life.



AND then comes along the LOVE that consumes every ounce of your being.

Your blessings are doubled, tripled, quadrupled when we are blessed with the arrival of grandchildren. Your heart that was holding enough LOVE for your husband, your daughter and your sons now has to find and hold LOVE enough for a grandson and four beautiful grand-daughters. This is where LOVE takes on another tangent.

I can best describe this by using three words. Iszaebella Maddi Zielinski. Iszaebella is my oldest grand-daughter and she exemplifies yet simplifies this type of LOVE. She is full of innocence, honesty, compassion, and hope. She is generous and thoughtful and is always thinking of others before herself. She meets each new day with the adage to be the reason behind someone's smile – she is and will always be the simplest yet the most rewarding form of LOVE.



LOVE – like us – has a life cycle.

When we are a child LOVE is the wonderful attraction between parents and kids which usually means that we can get what we want.

When we are young adults we see LOVE as some type of “gooeey” attraction to the opposite sex.

When we are middle-aged we start to learn that LOVE is all about self-sacrifice.

and when we are old we learn that LOVE is really about valuing one of the simple things – life itself!

LOVE is something so great that only God could design it. It is far beyond what man can define.

LOVE is immortal. LOVE is God's divine gift.

So, no matter how hard we try to understand or define LOVE we probably will not succeed because LOVE is something that can only be felt not defined. All of us feel LOVE differently.

For many of us LOVE is just a word until someone else comes along to give it a meaning.

Please be that someone that gives LOVE a meaning to others who that are struggling to find it. I ask us to practise patience, kindness and compassion. I ask us to find understanding, mercy and forgiveness. I ask us to commit to continue living with these qualities and to expose them to those around us.

LOVE is wanting and doing what is best for the other person at all times.



And finally, I would personally ask you to please keep my mother – Gwen Joyce – in your LOVE and prayers this Christmas as she battles her illness.

***This Christmas I hope that your hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred and that the spirit of Christmas brings you peace; the gladness of Christmas gives you hope and the warmth of Christmas grants you LOVE.***

Debbie Large



A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. In the center is a wooden manger with a warm glow inside. To the left, three camels and a shepherd with a staff are silhouetted against a dark blue night sky filled with stars and rays of light emanating from the manger. To the right, a shepherd with a staff and several sheep are silhouetted. The background shows rolling hills and a small palm tree on the right.

# CHRISTMAS QUIZ



- What is another name for the song "O Tannenbaum"?
- What is the meaning of the phrase "Felice Navidad"?
- How many horses are pulling the sleigh in the song "Jingle bells"?
- In which century did the tradition of singing Christmas carols begin?
- In which Christmas carol do you find the lyric "the stars in the night sky looked down where he lay"?
- Who was the first to record the song "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"?
- Who were the author and the singer of the song "Wonderful Christmas time"?
- What is the name of the group who walk through the streets in the neighborhood singing Christmas carols?
- Who is the author of the poem "Silent night" that turned into a Christmas Carol?
- In one of the Christmas songs "Frosty the snowman", what is Frosty's nose and pipe made out of?
- From which Christmas song is this line from: "You can say there is no such thing as Santa, but as for me and Grandpa, we believe."
- From Charles Dickens, The Christmas Carol, what is Marley's first name?
- Who in one of the famous Christmas Carols says "God bless you, everyone"?
- What do the singers demand after they sing, "Now bring us ....?"
- What is the name of the Christmas song that was made famous by Spike Jones?
- What is the original name of the Carol which is commonly known as "O Holy night?"
- Which Christmas song uses the line: "Said the king to the people everywhere"?
- Which popular Christmas Carol uses the line: "Later on we'll conspire"?



# A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION



“We had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free” (Luke 24:21) This desire was expressed by two of Jesus’ followers who were on their way to Emmaus - some eleven kilometres from Jerusalem. Like any two people who were trying to make sense of the tragic events that led to the death of their charismatic leader, they were revisiting the disastrous proceedings of the past few days trying desperately to make some sense of what had happened. Just as they appeared to be going nowhere with their musings a third person joined them and began walking with them.

The stranger asked them what they were talking about and was rebuked by the one called Cleopas who was amazed that the former didn’t know what had happened in Jerusalem “these last few days”. By the time they arrived at Emmaus the two followers of Jesus had recounted everything that had happened. They were berated by the stranger for their slowness to believe what the prophets had said about the proceedings that appeared to them as a disaster. The stranger proceeded to give the disciples a lecture on the Old Testament and afterwards was about to leave them when they begged him to stay. It was only at the breaking of the bread that they recognised who the stranger was.

Advent and Christmas provide the opportunity to see this season of the year through Emmaus eyes. Like the two disciples we witness what will happen to the Christ Child especially in his ministry, Passion and death. We see members of our family whom we have known from birth undergo immense suffering and pain. The hopes we had for them have long evaporated as their lives seem to be travelling in a downward spiral. The words “we had hoped” apply to people such as couples who discuss what their offspring might have become. They may revisit photo albums showing highlights of successes enjoyed at school or in the sporting arena. Two friends might discuss the wonderful parties they had with their mate who is now absent in some way and no longer with them.

The two disciples would have known the people – such as Mary - who were at Jesus’ birth and those he grew up with. Like us they had the benefit of hindsight but were now experiencing the loss of what could have been. It was at this point that the stranger appeared and introduced them to a narrative of hope to fill their emptiness. He presented a spiritual element to the account and stirred embers of expectations that a resurrection had happened. Death and despair did not have the final word and that “The Lord is risen indeed!”



At Christmas we are invited to become familiar with the birth of the Baby whose life continues to have a tremendous impact on the cosmos. We prepare ourselves to become the stranger who will draw near to people who have experienced loss. We are invited to be ministers of hope who present another God-given dimension to the story. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is inserted into our very DNA and that we are earthed in history and transformed into a new creation.

Like the Emmaus disciples we share our stories of loss with each other and then await the coming of the stranger who will not only affirm our bereavement but also introduce a transcendent element showing us that a life-cycle does not end with death but is 'Christmased' with new possibilities.

The side-mirror on some cars has the message that "objects in the mirror are closer than they appear". The Emmaus story reflects a past narrative that is much closer to us than we think!

This Christmas may we recognise the Christ Child in each other as we "break bread" during the festivities.

Ed Sianski





# LEGEND OF BABOUSHKA



Christmas heralds a time of merry making and gift giving, of bonding with friends and family and of spending time in the warm glow of love. Of course, gifts are the most awaited and best loved part of Christmas. It is a tradition which, according to legends, has continued since the birth of Christ, when He was offered the first gifts that would later become an important aspect of the celebration of his birth. And like gifts, Christmas stories are also an integral part of the occasion. Every region has its own favourite Christmas story that elders and children alike love recounting during this time. The ritual of giving gifts during Christmas, especially to children, had its origin in a very poignant legend. This is the Legend of Baboushka and, it is widely believed that it originated in Russia. This story was very popular in Russia before the revolution of 1917.

## **The Legend**

The legend of Baboushka is about an old and lonely woman who is considered to have started the tradition of giving gifts to children. Baboushka, which means 'grandmother' or 'old woman' in Russian, lived in a big house, safe and warm. However, she led a very lonely life with no company, friends or neighbors. Only the sound of travellers passing in their carts and the animals grazing nearby could break the monotony of her existence, these being her only solace. She would provide food to the animals and birds and offer a resting place to weary travellers.

When winter came, and winter in Russia is long and dreary, these little comforts would also fade away. Even the birds, that she would leave crumbs for, would desert her for warmer climes, leaving the old woman sad and lonely, wishing and praying for company. It was on one such winter night, when she was trying to sleep, that she heard a noise steadily growing louder - voices and grunts - and she knew there are no humans or animals for miles around, what with the entire earth being blanketed in snow. Before long, she heard a loud pounding at her door and she rushed to open it, thinking that it must be a cold and famished traveller only to find three large horses with three noblemen dressed in, she thought, some of the finest and richest clothes that she had ever seen.

Baboushka invited the men inside but they declined. Instead, they invited her to travel with them, to Bethlehem, where they were bound, they said, to find and welcome the child who would be the king of Jews and lead mankind to salvation. Since it was night and the winter harsh, the old mother asked the strangers to alight and spend the night at her house so that they all can leave in the morning but they declined saying that they do not want to get delayed, and set off. Later that night, she thought of the three men and the strange tidings

they bore about the child who would be the king. She felt sad at rebuffing their invitation and so, then and there, she decided to meet the Child.

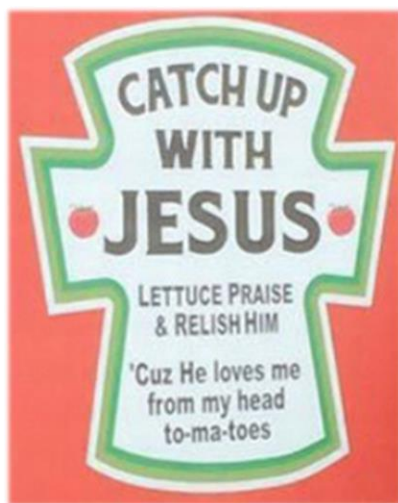
She gathered some trinkets to gift him and set out in the cold dark night. But, as luck would have it, despite travelling far and wide she could find neither the boy king nor the travellers. Legend has it that the old mother is looking for the boy king to this day and that whenever she meets a child she presents him/her with trinkets and continues on her search. Thus, from her, originates the custom of giving gifts to children on Christmas, no doubt to continue the pious work of Baboushka.

Supplied by Melissa Philp





# CHURCH NOTICEBOARD SAYINGS



IF YOU ARE MORE  
FORTUNATE THAN OTHERS,  
BUILD A LONGER TABLE  
NOT A TALLER FENCE.

HONK IF YOU LOVE  
JESUS TEXT  
WHILE DRIVING IF YOU  
WANT TO MEET HIM

THE FACT THAT  
THERE'S A HIGHWAY  
TO HELL AND ONLY  
A STAIRWAY TO  
HEAVEN SAYS A  
LOT ABOUT  
ANTICIPATED  
TRAFFIC NUMBERS

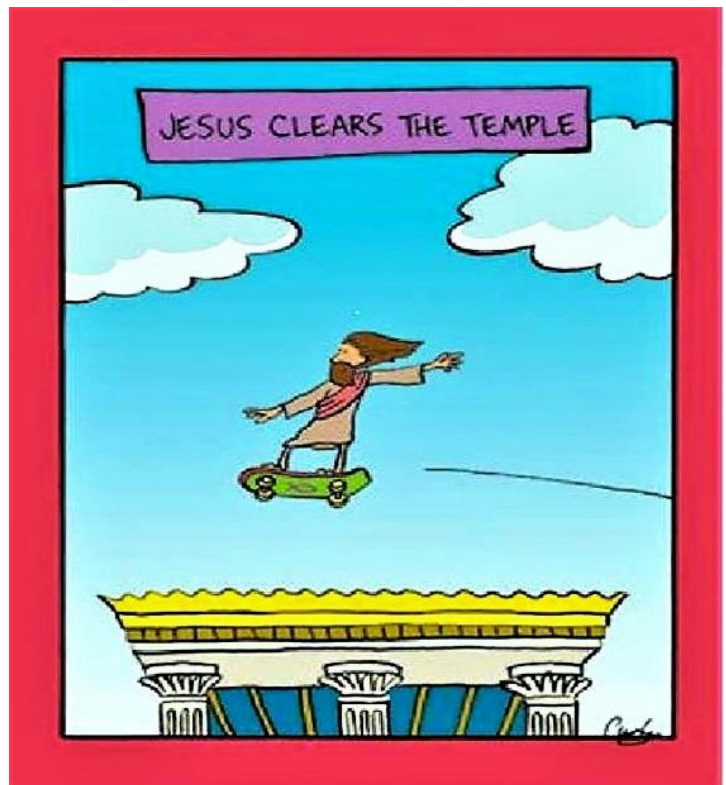


CHURCH IS NOT AN  
ORGANISATION YOU JOIN; IT  
**IS A FAMILY**  
WHERE YOU BELONG,  
A HOME WHERE YOU ARE  
LOVED AND A HOSPITAL WHERE  
YOU FIND HEALING.





# CHURCH FUNNIES (AND NOT SO FUNNY)








# Christmas Thinkers Keys

Based on Tony Ryan's Thinkers Keys

Thinking is the key! 

There are 12 thinker's keys that help us think about Christmas in new ways. Colour in the present after you have answered each question.



 **Reverse**  
List 10 things you do NOT want for Christmas!



 **What If?**  
What if it suddenly snowed on Christmas day? How would it change your Christmas plans?



 **Disadvantages**  
What are the disadvantages of being Santa?



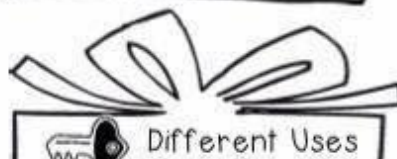
 **BAR**  
Use BAR on Santa's sleigh  
B – bigger  
A – add  
R – replace





 **Alphabet**  
List A-Z all things about Christmas.




 **Alternatives**  
Think of 6 presents you could give that don't cost money.



 **Different Uses**  
Think of 4 other ways to use a Christmas tree.



 **Variation**  
You are in the bush. How could you make/find a present for a friend?



 **Inventions**  
Invent a toy that every child would want for Christmas.



 **Question**  
'Tinsel' is the answer.  
List 5 questions.



 **Prediction**  
Write and draw about what Christmas would be like in 100 years time.



 **Forced Relationship**  
How might a beetle, a candy cane and a surfboard help Santa deliver presents?

# Peace



Some people think the phrase Peaceful Marriage is an oxymoron, but not us.

**Peace to me** is the overwhelming feeling in your soul of wellbeing, everything is going to be alright. It's a calmness, a sense of tranquility. There's no unrest, worries, stresses or anxieties. You are at peace.

What I've learnt in life is that you only ever find true peace and happiness when you maintain a meaningful connection with God.

As a child I was brought up a catholic. My family attended church every week. I went to a catholic school and attended catholic youth retreats. God was part of my life and I really enjoyed the religion classes at school. Of course, I wasn't perfect and at times the strength of my connection with God fluctuated but in the main I involved God in my life. Especially in times of difficulty when I would ask for his help. I didn't realise it then but even with life's trials and tribulations I generally felt at peace.

However, sometimes it's not until you lose something before you realise what you have lost. There was a time in my twenties when I drifted away from God. I started to miss church and eventually stopped going. I was young and enjoying life, with too many important things to do, or though I thought. I started to prioritise my job and things I wanted to do before God.

Gradually as the years went by I became more accustomed to this new way of life. I still believed in God but would only call upon him at times of difficulty and then return to following my own interests which weren't always in line with God's. It's only now when I look back I can see what happened to me. I was like a ship adrift at sea at the mercy of the elements. More importantly I felt no peace. In fact, I felt dead inside. I was mostly depressed and no matter what I did, I couldn't get rid of it. My health started to suffer and I was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. I went to numerous doctors and specialists, tried many different treatments and eventually my body recovered but there was still something missing. I still felt rest less, unhappy



and dead inside.

I started to go back to church and this helped a lot but I was still holding back. Still prioritising things, I wanted to do, before God.

I tried to fix it by leaving the government job I had been doing for 16 years and started working for myself. I was happy with the new work but financially it was worse. By this time, we already had three children including a newborn and the Global Financial Crisis had just happened. These were rather difficult times as I'm sure it was for all of us. As I've always done I asked for God's help. I started to pray more and said novenas to Our Lady and St Joseph asking for help.

My mother always said "Remember to ask for God's help and God will always help you. The help may not be what you want (like a lottery win) but it will always be what's right for you and in accordance with God's plan. I now say this to my own children.

I was 42 years old and had lived in Queensland my whole life. I started applying for government IT jobs and I believe it was God's intervention that helped me get a job in Tasmania working for Aurora and now for TasNetworks. Our family moved here 8 years ago. Over those 8 years there's been more difficulties and issues, but I think that's just life. More importantly over this time I returned to God and formed a deeper connection with him. I have finally returned to feeling at peace. Peace with myself, peace with others and peace with God.

Along the way, I've learnt in order to obtain peace:

- We need to live by God's teachings, the closer we are to God the more at peace we will become;
- We should forgive others. Holding onto grudges and not forgiving keeps us away from God and therefore away from feeling at peace;
- God has graciously given us sacraments which I've found essential in attaining peace, namely confession and holy communion;
- We obtain peace by opening our hearts to our Lord Jesus.

With regards to that last one, I recently found the Light of the World painting which hangs in St Paul's Cathedral in London. I know Father has mentioned it before and I found this to be rather poignant to obtaining peace as well as other gifts from God. The painting shows our Lord Jesus standing on the outside of a door that's just been opened. The outside of the door has rusty nails and ivy growing over it, depicting a door that has not been opened for a very long time, or maybe never. All that time, Jesus has been patiently waiting on the other side but it's up to us to let him in. To highlight this fact, the door has no outside handle, only a handle on the inside and therefore Jesus can only wait until we open up to him and let him in.

In closing I'd just like to read a couple of short messages of peace from Our

Lady. She's been giving monthly messages in Medjugorje, Bosnia for the last 30 years.

**June 25, 1997** *"Dear children! Today I am with you in a special way and I bring you my motherly blessing of peace. I pray for you and I intercede for you before God, so that you may comprehend that each of you is a carrier of peace. **You cannot have peace if your heart is not at peace with God.** That is why, little children, pray, pray, pray, because prayer is the foundation of your peace. Open your heart and give time to God so that He will be your friend. When true friendship with God is realised, no storm can destroy it. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

**December 25, 2006** *"Dear children! Also, today I bring you the newborn Jesus in my arms. He who is the King of Heaven and earth, He is your peace. Little children, no one can give you peace as He who is the King of Peace. Therefore, adore Him in your hearts, choose Him and you will have joy in Him. He will bless you with His blessing of peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

And finally, I'd just like to say, Peace be with you and may all of us including those before us and after us eventually rest in peace.

Sean





# VICTORIA KAKKI – My Story



**I am the little lady with the scarf and long dark red dress that you see at Mass at St Therese's.**

I was born in Mosul, a city in Northern Iraq. It is a big city. The famous River Tigris goes through Mosul. The ancient city of Nineveh is on one side of the river. When I lived in Mosul, there were maybe 2 million people, people mixing from many religions and communities. My mother worked in Mosul.

When I was a girl we went back to Qaraqosh where my family came from. I remember that in Qaraqosh, my mother had one cow. So we had milk, butter and cheese.

My family are Catholic Christians and our town Qaraqosh is/was a Christian town on the Plain of Nineveh, about 30 minutes by car from Mosul. All the towns on the plain are Christian. My great-grandfather and his family lived under the Ottomans (Turks) in Armenia, but they became refugees after one of the massacres in 1800's. He was the one who came to Qaraqosh. We are all the time refugees!

In my family we speak Syriac (*also called Aramaic*) – the same language as Jesus, and we speak Arabic. We are Catholics of the Syrian Rite (*also called Syriac*), even though we are Iraqi.

We lived near the Church in Qaraqosh. We went to Church every day to pray, morning and evening. In my family, we have three priests and about 6 of my cousins are Sisters, Dominican Sisters. I went to Primary school in Qaraqosh. It was a Sisters' school, run by the Dominican Sisters. As you can see, we were very close to the sisters and to the Church.

After Grade 6, I returned to the big city of Mosul. There I spent 4 years at a Government Secondary School. I lived with the Dominican Sisters. It was a place for girls who wanted to be Sisters (*a Juniorate*). I wanted to be a Sister.

After I finished school, I became a Postulant with the Dominican Sisters. When I was about 19, they sent me to Baghdad to be a nurse. I studied for 3 years in the San Raphael Hospital of the Dominican Sisters. I learned to nurse, and I learned to work in English and French.

I left the Sisters in Baghdad. I lived with my aunt. I worked as a lay woman in a government hospital in Baghdad. At the age of 24, I got married to Mudhafar Matloob in Baghdad. We lived for one year in Baghdad. In 1974, I returned with my husband to Mosul. He came from there. I nursed in Mosul till 1980.



My husband worked with iron. He made windows, window security grilles, security doors, metal gates. In 1990, my husband got cancer and died very quickly in 14 days. He was only in his mid 40's. He left 4 young children, 3 boys aged 6,7,12, and a girl aged 14.

The Church supported me. I worked for the Church doing cleaning. I worked for the Dominican Sisters as a cook and helping in other things. Some nights I lived in with the Sisters. My oldest girl looked after the home. I lived between 2 places.

Sometimes there was no work. My eldest son, as a boy, worked in the market selling chocolates and cigarettes and sweets. Later he learned to work in iron like his father. The next son became a fitter and turner.

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ISIS (Daesch) came to Mosul on 6 June 2014.

In my house in Mosul, we had one of my sons, his wife and myself. My other two sons had their own homes with their families, also in Mosul.

At first ISIS did not speak to Christians. Then after 1 month, they announced over loudspeakers:

"We want to clean Mosul from Christians." We had 5 days to leave, or become Muslims or pay money or be killed. We had to leave everything, just take the clothes we were wearing. We walked 1 hour to outside Mosul. Thousands of men, women, and children were walking and running.

At an ISIS roadblock, they put guns in our faces. The children were scared. They searched bags. They cut rings and jewellery off us. They took money, just left us with clothes. We walked to the town of Bartala. There we met buses from the Church in Qaraqosh. They took us to Qaraqosh. If people had no family there, they stayed in the Church.

I had my mother in Qaraqosh, so I stayed with her. Catholic Refugee groups gave us fridges, tables, furniture, clothes. We had 1 month there.

Then in August 2014, ISIS came to Qaraqosh and to all the Christian towns on the Plain of Nineveh. They told Christians to go, or become Muslim or die. Again we lost everything, and all our money.

We left Qaraqosh at 2am in my son's car. There were 9 people in the car. It was hard to drive. Kurdish troops blocked the way till 5am. Then we were allowed to go. The road was crammed with cars, with people walking, people with children on their backs. It took us 4 hours to drive to Dhauk - normally a 1 hour's drive.

People were crying, people were calling out in prayer "*Yarup* (Allah, God) save us". And "*Yarup mubarak* (God bless us)". I felt awful, I wanted to cry, but no crying. God is with us. We were going just as Jesus said in Gospels, no backpack, no spare clothes.

We got to Dahuk. My son's wife had family in Dahuk. My other sons went to Erbil, then to Amman, and the other one to Baghdad.

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I stayed in Dahuk for 1 year. In 2015 I went to Baghdad. I worked for 3 months in San Rafael hospital as a nurse, to make money for clothes, before going back to Dhahuk. In January 2016, I flew on my own from Dhahuk to Jordan, and was with my oldest son. I stayed 9 months in Amman.

I went often to the Catholic Syrian Church, and also to the Protestant [Anglican] Church, which was looking after refugees with fruit and vegetables. At the Syrian Church I met my cousin there, Fr Zuhair Kakki (Gagghi).

I applied to UNHCR as a refugee. We were accepted by the Australian Government. In October 2016, 14 months after ISIS sent us from our homes, we went to Australia. We flew from Amman to Dubai, to Melbourne, to Tasmania.

It is good in Tasmania. My family is safe, there is no fighting, no one putting a gun in my face. We are free, free to go and come.

At first I lived in Bridgewater. Now I live in Moonah, and I go to St Therese's Church. It is a good Church, like family. The Priest and Deacon all good.

Once a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, we have an Arabic Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. Sometimes Fr Fadhel, Syrian Rite priest, comes from Melbourne. I knew Fr Fadhel in Iraq. He was born in my town of Qaraqosh.

We are having a special Christmas Mass in Arabic & party on 29 December with Fr Fadhel.

I now have a daughter in Sweden, a son in Tasmania, a son in Amman, Jordan, and a son in Baghdad, Iraq.

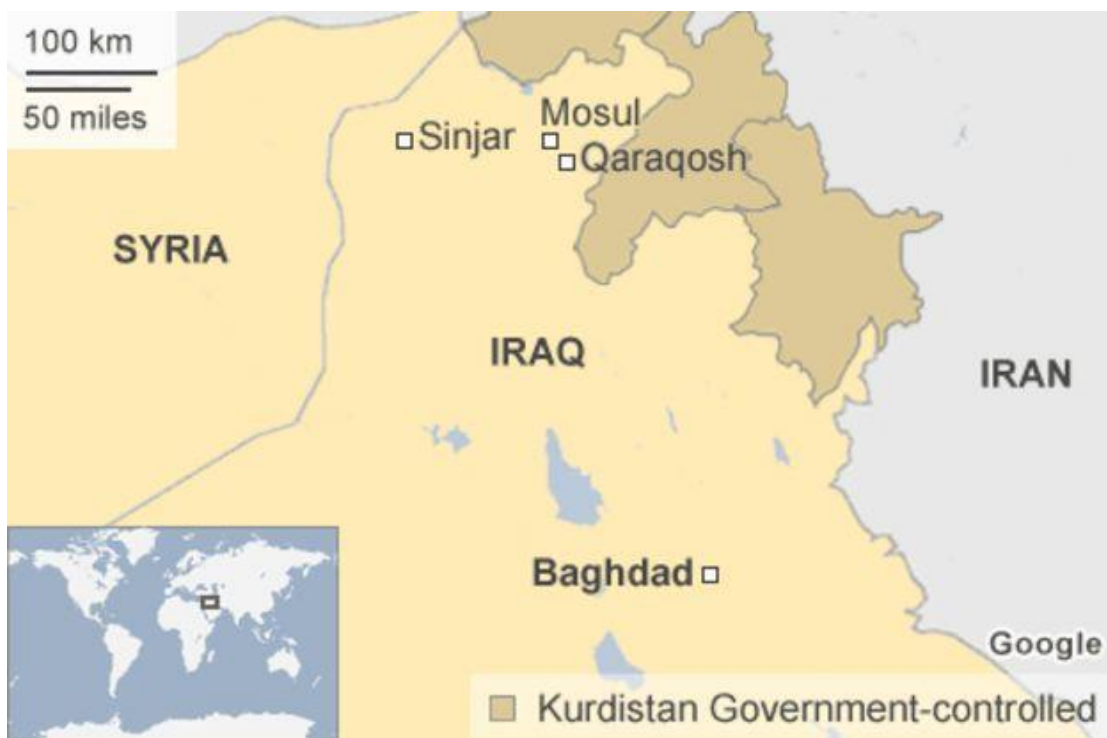
Victoria Kakki as told to Br Sean McManus



As the Christians left Mosul, ISIS painted the Arabic letter N ("Noon") that means "Nasrani," from Nazrene, a word often used to refer to Christians, on their homes. Next to the letter, in black, are the words: "Property of the Islamic State of Iraq."



Victoria Kakki





# JOY



I am not used to doing this, so it's a new experience for me, and so I will not speak for too long.

It is "Gaudate Sunday" which is Latin for "Joyful" - we light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle - a pink one, today.

Joy is something I hope many of you have experienced in your lives.

Christmas is a great time of Joy for us - we have our Saviour born among us and we celebrate our wonderful Redemption.

I have had many joys in my life - some quite huge and others smaller but very joyful.

One of my greatest joys, or rather four of my greatest joys was when Brian and I welcomed our sons into this world. I didn't care what I had - boys or girls - but I thought I would like to be the mother of four sons..... and I am!

They are my joy.

Now, the next generation is arriving. I have nine grandsons who give me joy, and one granddaughter who gives me the joy of nine. My twin grandsons are celebrating their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday today.

Having faith is my greatest joy - giving me so much hope and joy. I have always found it a privilege to be part of my Church.

I remember a very special occasion: my grandmother, as a child was afraid of the Confessional box and avoided Reconciliation - she was suffering from claustrophobia.

I had not seen her receive the Eucharist. Then, one Sunday I attended Mass at Sacred Heart, New Town, and sat with Gran in her favourite back seat.

In those days we were taught that you must go to Confession before going to Communion... and as Gran was too frightened of the Claustrophobia-inducing Confessional booth, she never went to Communion, as far as I knew.

Communion time came and I rose to go to the Altar. My Gran went in front of me. I thought she was a little unwell and may be leaving to go home, but she went up to Communion and received the Eucharist.

As I returned with her to her seat she whispered to me, "I did that for you." I almost choked with joy - what a great joy for us both.

Gran had gone up to the Redemptorist Monastery in Cross Street, New Town - pressed the Confessional button to call a priest and received Reconciliation.

There were no words that could describe how I felt and I still feel this joy today - maybe 60 - something years later.

Another occasion I asked the father of one of our MSC Priests how he feels when seeing his son at the Altar and consecrating the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. He answered "There are no words that could explain how I feel every time." What a wonderful joy for him!

Another source of joy for me is that..... I love to hear the congregation sing when I play the organ at Church - did you hear that? It gives me joy, a lot of joy, so please continue to raise your voices in song - it is said "You pray twice when you sing."

A few weeks ago I played a recessional hymn but in two keys - ooh! - couldn't find my notes. This is a no-no and musically does not work. This was not a joy for the people.

My hope for everyone here is that each one experiences, feels, a deeply joyful hope at the celebration of our Saviour's birth. Amen.

Carlene Larkin



# Joy



When Father Mark asked me a few weeks ago to prepare a personal reflection on Joy, the third candle of the advent wreath, I found myself wrestling with the definition of joy and in some ways trying to distinguish the word from happiness. I had to spend time really drilling down on what a definition of joy was and how it was different to being happy.

I found that Joy is something entirely different from happiness. Joy, in the Biblical context, is not an emotion. I found that there is a big difference between joy and happiness. Happiness is an emotion and temporary; joy is an attitude of the heart. The word *joy* is repeatedly in the Scriptures. For instance, the Psalms are filled with references to joy. The psalmists write, “Joy comes with the morning” and “Shout for joy to God, all the earth”. Likewise, in the New Testament, we read that joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit which means that it is a Christian virtue. Joy is not the same as happiness.

Several from the medical profession describe joy as surpassing happiness, such as “Happiness is an emotion we feel when circumstances are favourable [such as] our body is rested and well-fed, we are doing something we enjoy, we get great news. Joy, on the other hand, is a state of being.”

Joy doesn’t mean feeling good all the time. That’s impossible! Even for those like a few of my friends and work colleagues or who are naturally upbeat and optimistic.

A definition I found related to the Scriptures states that

**Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of our lives, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.** This definition appealed to me as you’ll find nothing in that definition about happy feelings, because, as we all know, happiness is fleeting and temporary.

My reading informed me that we should not be just talking about the meaning of joy *in general*. Instead rather, Christian joy, as Paul the apostle describes it. *Christian joy is described as a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit and causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world.*

Christian joy from my experience is a good feeling. It is not a persuasion or a decision. It is a feeling. One of the marks of the difference between an idea and an emotion or feeling is that you don’t have immediate control over your feelings or your emotions. You can’t snap your fingers and decide to feel something. An extension of this is that the good feeling is *in the soul*. By that, I am drawing attention to the fact that it is not in the body. The soul, experiences joy. The body may feel the effects of that. Some of us may get butterflies in our stomach or have a spring in our step. There may be tears of joy rolling down our faces. None of those effects in my body. They are all distinct from joy.

From our Christian perspective, the movements of the soul are produced by the Holy Spirit, which is clear because we cannot make these things happen. The book of Galatians tells us they are called the



fruit of the Holy Spirit. “The fruits of *the [Holy] Spirit* is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, [and] self-control”

The Holy Spirit does this work by causing us to see the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ.

From a letter to the Philippians Apostle Paul writes, “Rejoice in the Lord.” How do you rejoice in the Lord if you don’t know anything about the Lord? How do you rejoice in the Lord if you are not seeing things about the Lord that cause joy to rise up in your heart? That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Some of us may experience joy on most days. Others may experience joy during big celebrations like birthdays, weddings and the birth of a child. Still others of us may worry that we’ve lost our sense of joy.

What Joy looks like for some and what joy means to them, and what brings joy into their lives can all be different.

From my work as the school principal at St Therese’s, joy flourishes when we see growth and improvement in an individual child, both academically, spiritually and socially. It may also come from the pastoral care and concern we have provided for a child or family in need. It can also come from the collective efforts of our school community to see major school initiative or improvement come to fruition like a new building program or new curriculum implementation.

From the perspective of one of my closest friends, I would say [Joy] happens when he lets go of any self-consciousness and plays a song on his guitar and forgets what his fingers are doing. Or, when we get swept up in a game of sport and play instead of thinking about playing.

For others it may be when we enter the world of our own kids and completely lose track of time, this is something I could definitely align with from personal experiences. Being a life-long Western Bulldogs supporter and to be there on Grand Final Day at the MCG with my son to witness a 62 year premiership drought ending last year was definitely one such moment.

Personally, I have a great love of music and that joy personally can come from disengaging from time along with space and engaging with my “uncensored self. When listening to live music at a concert is such an example. In these cases, the joy is being fully present in the moment, connected to other people, to nature, or to music.

I think the challenge for us all, in an age where we seem to live such busy lives is about allowing joy. I find that there are moments when the smallest things have the potential to fill me with a state of joy, yet I am not present to the moment or I am preoccupied or attached to another emotion or state of mind, and thus it dissipates. If I am in a rush or talking on the phone it is far less likely that I will be present for the beautiful sunrise or sunset before me.”

Author and theologian Henri Nouwen said: “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” The key to discovering joy is not going out and seeking it, but rather, digging deep within to uncover it.”

All of us have access to joy. But some of us might need to work to access it. “We all have the potential to experience joy. It is part of all of us. Some of us might have to work a little harder for it. Is it possible to remain joyful all the time? Paul gives us the key: “Rejoice *in the Lord always*” The key to the Christian’s joy is its source, which is the Lord. If Christ is in us and we are in Him, that relationship is not a sometimes experience. The Christian is always in the Lord and the Lord is always in the Christian, and that is always a reason for joy.

Cameron Brown



# MAKING JESUS REAL (M.J.R.)



My name is Marty Ogle and I am privileged to help coordinate Make Jesus Real, which is a philosophy that helps school communities to focus on the teachings of Jesus. It also focuses on the positive values we need in our lives now to be a successful virtuous person who strives to help others. MJR was the brainchild of Peter 'Mitch' Mitchell and for around 20 years he has been helping students across Tasmania to

- Make good choices
- Learn the power of compassion
- Develop the crucial habit of self reflection
- Name up 'the Spirit of Jesus' moments they come across in their daily lives
- Bring Jesus into the now.

'Mitch' also very **cleverly** uses a large number of acronyms that ensure students and staffs remember the **crucial catch** phrases that remind us of Jesus and his **compassionate** actions. For example, many schools across Australia have adapted the **W.E.S.T.** acronym that stands for being **Welcoming, Encouraging**, able to say **Sorry** and **Thank you**. Plus it is important to remind those in our communities that attitudes are **contagious**, to look out for the goodness in others and to be a 'grinner and a winner not a moaner and a groaner'.

My role is to take this message across Tasmania to all the Catholic schools and this year we are now engaging in conversations with students from kindergarten to year 12. Father Mark has twice attended the classes I take at St Therese's Catholic School and he has come away very enthusiastic, due to the positiveness he has seen displayed by the staff and students. The Grade 5/6's use the MJR booklet while the Grade 3/4's use the 'Spirit of Jesus' book. In 2018, the new k- Gr 2 book 'My Friend Jesus' will be released and hopefully by November the Gr 7/8 teacher guide and student journals, I am currently completing will be released.

So what are some of the effects an MJR approach can have on a person, a class, a school and/or a **community**? At the end of a recent two day, MJR Interstate conference some participants stated

- 'MJR is a deliberate way of being - actions opening our hearts to Jesus.'
- MJR - it's not just in school, taking it home to parents and the community is just as important.
- It allows kids to take Jesus and their faith into the playground and their lives.
- MJR is a perfect opportunity to be God's hands on earth.

- Faith is a really important part of catholic schools. MJR has opened my eyes to see it. It's very real and it's about living it yourselves.
- MJR allows us to infuse Religion and the faith message in all subject areas.
- There is a deep **connection** with Jesus that can be developed through MJR.
- We are not just the face of Jesus, we are the vessels for the Spirit of Jesus and we can show that in our everyday lives.
- Through MJR we can engage all children, regardless of their faith, with their spirituality.
- It is easy to see the spirit of Jesus in others but we need to encourage the children to see the spirit of Jesus in ourselves as well.

So as you can see, MJR is a powerful message that is gaining momentum across Australia (over 6000 students participated in 2017) and it is a joy for me to be involved in such a beautiful, well-received program. Often, after my day has concluded in the classroom, students seek me out to thank me for the day and I think the following message from a student that 'God sent you to me today Marty because I really needed to hear positiveness due to problems at home.'

If you wish to find out more about the programme go to [www.makejesusreal.com](http://www.makejesusreal.com) where there is a huge amount of information regarding MJR or just browse the site, as there are many resources including the very popular 2018 calendar, monthly bulletins and stories that students and teachers use to further connect to Jesus.



Marty Ogle  
Education Officer  
Tasmania Catholic Education Office





## Parish Directory

Group	Meet (at Parish Centre unless otherwise noted)	Contact	Phone
Adult and Child Baptismal Program		Fr Mark Hanns MSC Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442 6272 1442
Child Protection Support		Rebecca Goss	
Children's Liturgy		Fr Mark Hanns MSC Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442 6272 1442
Exposition & Rosary	Weekly Fridays 12.45pm – 6.15pm	Marie Ogle	6272 7900
Finance Committee		Fr Mark Hanns MSC John Halys (Chair) Gerard Synott John Radcliffe Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442 6228 7420  6273 1000 6272 1442
Healing Mass	Quarterly (see noticeboard for dates)	Fr Mark Hanns MSC	6272 1442
Legion of Mary		Lorna Brazendale	
Liturgy Group		Fr Mark Hanns MSC Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442 6272 1442
Music	9:00am Mass  6:30pm Mass	Sean McManus  Carlene Larkin	6202 1100 / 0417 136 640  6272 0750
Parish Pastoral Council	Monthly Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 7.30pm	Fr Mark Hanns Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442 6272 1442
Parish Rosters			
Counting & Morning Tea		Marie Anders	6228 7498
Cleaning/Flowers/Altar		Monica Sianski	
Readers/Eucharistic		Eva Hangan	6272 1620
Ministers/Ministers to the Sick/PowerPoint		Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442
Polish Choir		Roman Andrzejcack	6272 1857
Polish Church Committee		Adam Cislo	6273 3292
<i>Polish Prayer Groups</i>			
Divine Mercy Prayer	Weekly Tuesdays & Fridays after Mass		
	St Therese's Church		
Divine Mercy Novena	Monthly First Sundays 3pm at St Therese's Church		
Polish Rosary Prayer Group		Genia Pikula Zosia Dzierbicka	6272 0450 6249 3902

Sacramental Team		Fr Mark Hanns MSC	6272 1442
		Sr Margaret Henderson	6272 3996
Sacristan	Weekdays	Carlene Larkin	6272 0750
		Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442
	6:30pm Vigil Mass	Carlene Larkin	6272 0750
		Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442
	Sunday 9:00am Mass	John Radcliffe	6273 1000
	Sunday 4:30pm Mass	Daniel Duharte	0419 394 944
Social & Hospitality		Marie Anders	6228 7498
Social Justice		Rebecca Goss	
St Therese's Catholic School		Cameron Brown (Principal)	6272 1403
St Therese's Catholic School Board of Management			6272 1403
St Vincent de Paul	Weekly Mondays @ 7.30pm	Joe Higgins	
Youth Ministry		Rev Dcn Michael Hangan	6272 1442





# TWO-WAY TAXI TRUCKS

PH: 6273 1000



FURNITURE REMOVALIST, WAREHOUSE STORAGE, FORK HIRE & RENTAL