

Wodonga Parish Centre 283 Beechworth Road Wodonga Vic 3690: Phone: 02 6024 3366 E:wodcath@bigpond.net.au Office Hours 9:30 am - 3:00 pm Monday to Friday Parish Priest

Father Junjun Amaya
0459-356-917
Priest
Father Uday Kumar Marneni
0422-814-178
Father Adi Indra
6024-3366
Pastoral Associate
Sister Eileen Reardon
0458 327 554 (Mt Beauty)
Safe Guarding Officer:

Sonia La Motte-Schubert:

60243366

Weekend Masses
Wodonga
Sacred Heart Church
Saturday @ 5:00 pm.
Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10.30 am

Tangambalanga
Our Lady Help of Christians
2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10:30 am

Dederang St Joseph's 1st & 3rd Sunday @ 10.30 am Mass

Mt Beauty St Joseph's Sunday @ 8.30 am 5th Sunday - No Mass

Tallangatta
St Michael's Church
2nd & 4th Sunday - @ 11:00 am

Corryong: Sacred Heart Church 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 8:30 am

Walwa: Christ The King 2nd & 4th Saturday @ 4:00 pm

Sandy Creek St Michaels 5th Sunday @ 8:30 am

Mitta St Joseph's Church 5th Sunday @ 11:00 am

Weekday Mass:
Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga
Tuesday to Friday @ 9:15 am
Saturday
St Augustine's Church
Saturday 9.30 am
Reconciliation:
Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga
Saturday 9:00 am:
Country Churches:

Before Mass.

# Wodonga Catholic Par



SACRED HEART CHURCH, Beechworth Rd Wodonga, ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, High St Wodonga, OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, Tangambalanga, ST. JOSEPH'S Dederang, ST. JOSEPH'S Mt. Beauty & Parishes of ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH Tallangatta, SACRED HEART CHURCH Corryong.

## December 25th - 2023: Nativity of The Lord

## A Christmas Message from our P.P.

Christmas is "the most wonderful time of the year" as the song by Andy Williams goes.

But what makes it wonderful?

Is it the time we spent in writing Christmas cards and sending them? Is it the time, the effort and the money we spent to get and give the perfect presents for our loved ones? Is it the time we spend with family and loved ones at Christmas parties? Is it giving and receiving presents?

Is it by looking at the beautiful Christmas lights and decors on our streets?

Yes, all these are wonderful.

However, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year because it is the time when God who is beyond time and space, steps into our own time and space to show us the way to regain our place in paradise.

It is about God who decided to spend valuable time with us human beings. It is about God who gave us the most beautiful present he can give- Jesus Christ, who is born for us (Lk 2:11), the real reason for this season.

In Christ, we experience God reaching out to us personally by coming down from his throne in heaven, choosing to be born from a poor family, to be our 'saviour' (Lk 2:11), and as a 'true light that enlightens us all' (Jn 1:9).

In Christ, God shows us how much he loved us by being one like us, not to put himself lower but to lift us up higher.

In Christ, God willed that he becomes part of our human story, in order for us to become part of the Divine story.

Christmas is God spending time in a real and personal way with us his loved ones- we who are in need of God's mercy and love. So, to have a wonderful Christmas is spending time with God and with our loved ones and those in need of our care.

We spend time with God in our prayers, in the Sacraments we celebrate this season, and in our participation in our Christmas Mass and services. We can spend time with our loved ones by being with them at Christmas dinners, sharing and exchanging presents and just by being present in the company of our families and friends.

We can also celebrate Christmas wonderfully by giving others opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas.

In parts of the world where conflicts and war are still happening as we speak, where families are displaced or suffering the death of their loved ones, where innocent civilians are affected, they may not feel the Christmas joy as much. Let us pray that instead of making it as a showdown of power and weapon, they would sit down in a respectful dialogue and find peaceful resolutions.

In parts of the world where natural disasters hit and damaged their properties and livelihoods, such as those bracing against cyclones, flooding, fire, earthquakes, or fending for themselves against famine and poverty, they may find it hard to feel it's Christmas.

Let us pray and do something concrete to help them feel they are not alone this Christmas and that somebody cared for them. Donate to charities and appeals to support them.

Some may have lost their loved ones in death. Christmas time, when family get together is a cherished tradition, would be a challenge to endure. Phone them if we know them, send them a message of comfort. Let them know, they are being thought of.

Friends, this Christmas, let us thank God for his blessings, think of others by sharing our blessings with them, and remind ourselves that for God, we are worth his time and attention. If we endeavour to realize this, Christmas would indeed be a 'wonderful time of the year' for us.

On behalf of Fr Adi and Fr Uday, I wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas season and a grace-filled new year!

74 Junjun

## ..... John 1:45, 9-14 ....

In the beginning was the Word:

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.

#### **Readings Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9:1-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

#### **Readings Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18 or John 1:1-5,9-14

#### Responsorial Psalm:

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving

power of God.

#### Gospel Acclamation:

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

Prayers of the Faithful:

Lord, hear our prayer.

## A Christmas Blessing:

May there be harmony in all your relationships.

May you give and receive love generously.

**M**ay each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.

**M**ay the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.

**M**ay the wonder and Awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

**M**ay you often go to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit One who offers you peace.

May you bring this peace into our world.

### A Grace before Christmas Dinner

Lord of All, we give you thanks for your abundance,

and for all the great things you have given us,

especially the birth of Your Son on this day.

We ask your blessing upon this food,

and upon our friends and family.

We also pray that in your great mercy,

you would look kindly upon all those in need this day.

We pray in Jesus name, Amen.