

South Brisbane and West End Parish Newsletter

Christmas Time
25th December 2025



**The Word of God became flesh
and dwelt among us, and
we saw his glory.**

It was when I became a priest that I started looking up Christmas poems. Since then it's been a tradition that I'd share a new Christmas poem in the newsletter every year. This one comes from a famous martyr priest, Robert Southwell who wrote many more poems but this one stands caught my eye. It's called 'Burning Babe.' Since there's also an unspoken rule about experiencing art and letting it speak to you personally, I'll avoid explaining it, but I will say Merry Christmas, and may this season be filled with joy at the birth of our Lord.

As I in hoary winter's night stood shivering in the snow,
Surpris'd I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a fearful eye to view what fire was near,
A pretty Babe all burning bright did in the air appear;
Who, scorched with excessive heat, such floods of tears did shed
As though his floods should quench his flames which with his tears were fed.
"Alas!" quoth he, "but newly born, in fiery heats I fry,
Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I!
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel wounding thorns,
Love is the fire, and sighs the smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;
The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy blows the coals,
The metal in this furnace wrought are men's defiled souls,
For which, as now on fire I am to work them to their good,
So will I melt into a bath to wash them in my blood."
With this he vanish'd out of sight and swiftly shrunk away,
And straight I called unto mind that it was Christmas day.

+Robert Southwell SJ

Fr William

Parish Administration

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Welcome to new Parishoners

We welcome any new Parishoners among us. Take the time to meet with our priests and get connected to the broader community.



Embracing the communities of:

*St Mary's, South Brisbane,
St Francis of Assisi, West End
St Ita's, Dutton Park*

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Fairfield

The Good Shepherd Parish acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our Churches stand.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Silent night
Holy night
Families hurt
Families fight
Can't forgive
Can't relate
Joy and sorrow
Love and hate
Weep in heavenly
peace.
Weep in heavenly
peace.



Finish the story with the words at the right.

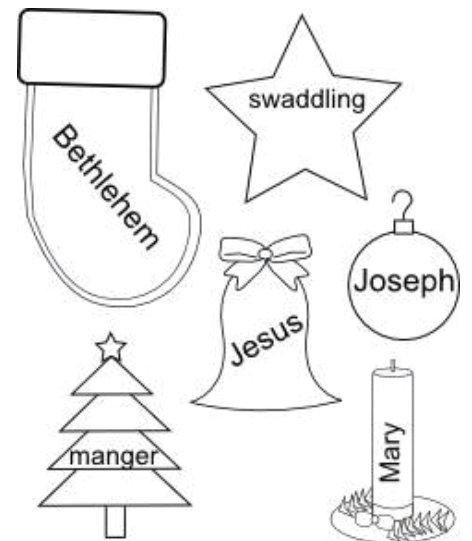
M _____ and J _____ traveled to
B _____.

M _____ had a baby and named him

J _____. He was God's Son.

She placed J _____ in a m _____,
which was a place for animals to eat.

He was wrapped in s _____
clothes, which were strips of cloth.



hohoho

Happy
Holidays

