



Embracing the communities of:
St Mary's South Brisbane,
St Francis of Assisi West End,
St Ita's Dutton Park and
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Fairfield



The community of St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parishes stand.

The Nativity of the Lord 25th December 2024 - Year C

Merry Christmas friends!

One of my favourite memories from Christmas time was listening to the roaring laughs of my Father who would, without fail, watch Arnold Schwarzenegger's 1996 movie, *Jingle all the Way*. The movie follows the story of Howard Langston who disappoints his son after missing one of his karate expositions. As a way of making it up to him, he searches for his son's favourite action hero figurine; Turbo Man. The slapstick, adventure culminates in this whirlwind of events that leads to Howard himself dressing up as Turbo Man in the local parade and becoming the hero that his son always wanted to be.

There's many things to appreciate about this Christmas movie, but perhaps what stands out the most is the reason for the sons disappointment in the first place, namely, that Dad was not present.

If you ask any child what they want most for Christmas, they often allude to the desire of being with 'everyone'. The gifts are certainly a major attraction and shouldn't be overlooked (who wouldn't want a Turbo Man?), but without anyone to share it with, it becomes a lonely occasion.

Perhaps the most heroic thing we can do this season is simply that, to be present. Put down the device for a couple of hours and enjoy the noise, laughter, conversation and present openings of Christmas. Put aside the resentment towards aunty, uncle or cousin Freddy that has kept you apart for so long. Put on the clothes of kindness, charity, wisdom and love.

The Christmas stable shows the shepherds, the animals, the angels and the parents all present, not just physically but emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, to the moment of Jesus' birth.

This too is our time to be invested in each other, just like the people of the Christmas stable. I pray that our time together be Christ-centred and joyous. God Bless

Fr William

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE PARISH

The Nativity of Christ

Behold the father is his daughter's son,
The bird that built the nest is hatch'd therein,
The old of years an hour hath not outrun,
Eternal life to live doth now begin,
The word is dumb, the mirth of heaven doth weep,
Might feeble is, and force doth faintly creep.

O dying souls! behold your living spring!
O dazzled eyes! behold your sun of grace!
Dull ears attend what word this word doth bring!
Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy embrace!
From death, from dark, from deafness, from despairs,
This life, this light, this word, this joy repairs.

Gift better than Himself God doth not know,
Gift better than his God no man can see;
This gift doth here the giver given bestow,
Gift to this gift let each receiver be:
God is my gift, Himself He freely gave me,
God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.

Man alter'd was by sin from man to beast;
Beast's food is hay, hay is all mortal flesh;
Now God is flesh, and lies in manger press'd,
As hay the brutest sinner to refresh:
Oh happy field wherein this fodder grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to men renew!

-Robert Southwell

CHRISTMAS POEM

Life is very big and fast
But I am small and slow,
Many things go whizzing past
That I will never know.

"What will I do with this life of mine?"
I asked the sky of blue.
"Your life is fine" said a voice divine
"And what will it do with you?"



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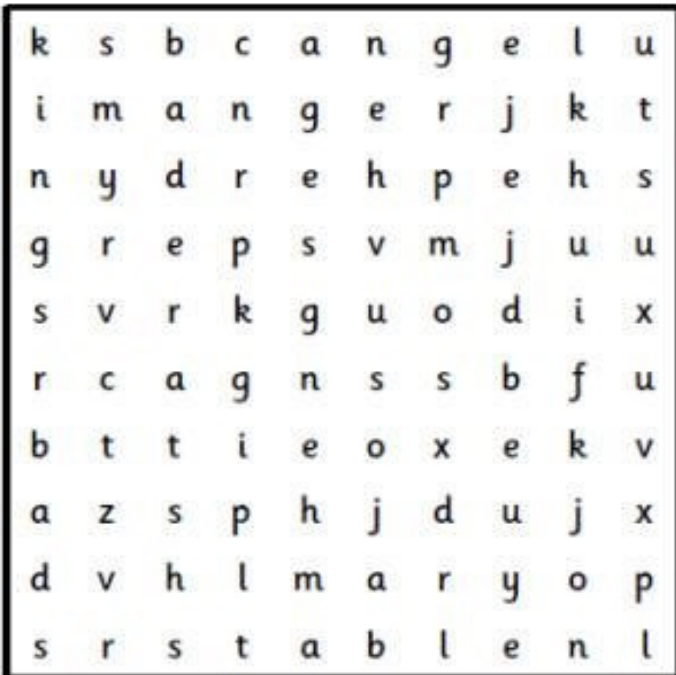
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|----------|--------|-------|--------|
| angel | donkey | Jesus | Joseph |
| kings | manger | Mary | |
| shepherd | stable | star | |



SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding everyone involved in their activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

To make an anonymous report call 1300 304 550.
For more information visit brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding

