

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

ANNERLEY EKIBIN CATHOLIC PARISH

December 25, 2014

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

I would like to say thank you for the wonderful way in which so many have responded to the Christmas Giving Tree in each Church and to the call for assistance from each of our St Vincent de Paul Conferences. It was great to see parents ensuring their young ones brought their gift and placed it around the tree, thus teaching them the value of giving to others, especially the less fortunate.

To all those who have been involved in the preparations over the Advent period and for our Christmas celebrations, my thanks for all your efforts; they are much appreciated.

On behalf of Father Paul, Sister Maureen, all the Staff at the Parish Office and myself I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the coming year.

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from 24th December until January 12th. The usual telephone number will be accessible during this period.

Father Adrian Sharp

sharpa@bne.catholic.net.au | 0427 109 054



FROM THE SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR

CHRISTMAS IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF CELEBRATION AND JOY FOR CHILDREN. CHILDREN ARE FULL OF WONDER AT THE COMING OF NOT ONLY SANTA (HOPEFULLY) BUT MORE SO OF OUR INFANT SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.

JESUS CHRIST CAME TO THE WORLD IN THE MOST HUMBLE WAY POSSIBLE. THIS TRUTH SPEAKS VOLUMES TO US AS ADULTS AND TO CHILDREN, AS TODAY WE REMEMBER HIS BIRTH SO LONG AGO, IN THAT SAME VERY HUMBLE WAY.

AS YOU CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER, I SEND MY VERY SINCEREST WISHES FOR A BLESSED TIME OF TOGETHERNESS WITH THOSE YOU HOLD MOST DEAR.

OF COURSE CHRISTMAS CAN BE CHALLENGING JUST AS MUCH AS IT IS JOYFUL - AS WE REMEMBER PEOPLE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US OR AS WE GRIEVE ANY PAST HURTS.

WHATEVER IS YOUR SITUATION THIS CHRISTMAS, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO LOOK TO JESUS FOR THE HOPE HE BRINGS TODAY AND EVERY DAY, TO THE WORLD. HIS HOPE IS ONE THAT LASTS, WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS LIFE IS TRANSIENT.

MAY THE ENDURING HOPE OF OUR INFANT SAVIOUR RENEW YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THIS CHRISTMAS AS WE ALL LOOK TOWARDS 2015 WITH ANTICIPATION AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

GOD BLESS YOU

SELINA VENIER
SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR
0409 735 462
SELINA12@ICLOUD.COM

A NOTE ABOUT THE SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY FOR FAMILIES: THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT THEIR PREFERENCES FOR OUR JANUARY RECAP & CHURCH TOUR SESSION AND THEIR GROUP PREFERENCE. PLEASE NOTE THIS INFORMATION IS DUE BY 1 JANUARY 2015.

ANYONE REQUIRING MORE INFORMATION OR WISHING TO CLARIFY ANY DETAILS OF THE UPCOMING JOURNEY, PLEASE CONTACT ME ON THE DETAILS ABOVE. THANK YOU AND PEACE BE WITH YOU!

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

I have come to bring you peace.
Not the peace of the season, for it is too fleeting,
Not the peace of the carol, for it is nostalgic,
Not the peace of the greeting card, for it is too slick,
Not the peace of the crib, for it is too wistful.

Rather, I have come to bring you peace,
Peace of the ordinary, the daily, the homely,
Peace for the worker, the driver, the student,
Peace in the office, the kitchen, the farm.

I have come to bring you peace,
The peace of accepting yourself as I fashioned you.
The peace of knowing yourself as I know you,
The peace of loving yourself as I love you,
The peace of being yourself as I am who I am.

I have come to bring you peace,
The peace that warms you at the completion of a task,
The peace that invades you at the close of the day,
The peace that sustains you at the beginning of the day,
The peace that reinforces you when you
are reconciled with one another.
The peace that touches you when your family is in order.

Without peace, my coming is unfulfilled.
Without peace, my birth is forgettable.
Without peace, Christmas is a contradiction.
I have come to bring you peace.

Blessing Before or After Opening Gifts

Person 1

Lord, we gather today as a family with a past history and a future hope. Be with us as we share our gifts with those we love. May this sharing bring us closer to you and each other.

Person 2

We are all gifts to each other. Each person has been given unique gifts by God. Let us call to mind the special gifts that each person here brings to our family. Let us recognise each person by name and tell what gifts they bring to us as a family. *(Allow enough time so that each person is affirmed and appreciated).*

Person 3

Gracious God, we praise and thank You for all the many gifts and blessings which you have given us. Today, we especially praise and thank you for Your Word of Love to us, Jesus Christ. Be with our family today and every day, so that we may continue to be a family which always loves, forgives and appreciates one another.

All Amen.

Celebration of a New Year



After lighting the candle:

Person 1

Let us bless the Lord of days.

All To God belong the times and seasons.

Person 2

O God our Creator,
You have divided our life into days and seasons
and called us to acknowledge Your
providence year after year. Accept Your
people who come to offer their praises
and in Your mercy receive our prayers through

Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Person 3

Let us listen to God's Word (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)

Talk about this reading and what it means to you for the year that has passed and the year that will shortly begin. Everyone prays the Our Father together to finish.