

***'Blessed is she who believed
that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'***

Mary, you teach us so much about how to live and how to grow in the love of God. You show us that by accepting God's word we make way for his transforming power. If we lose sight of God and of his promises we are quickly overcome by our own petty difficulties. And so we forget the promises of God and we become trapped, limited, lost.

But you show us the way again. Mary, may we believe in God's promises! May we believe in a love that can break through the fear and the loneliness and the hesitation. God is sending his Son. He wants to save us and fill us with his Spirit of life and freedom.

Help us to forget our difficulties. Help us to turn from ourselves, look on the goodness of God and believe!
(From Daily Prayer online)

Caritas Australia is, this year, offering gifts that will inspire and inform whilst also supporting your Global Family around the world. A gift to Global Family will support vital **Caritas Australia** water, food, security or health programs. You will receive a card that you can give to your loved ones which will include a message about how their present is supporting marginalised communities around the world. To make a donation please go to www.caritas.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413.

Free Christmas Lunch

The Katoomba Christmas Lunch is held each year by the Kinship at Christmas Foundation, a community group that provides a meal and some company on Christmas Day. There is **NO CHARGE**. There is **NO PREACHING**. There are **NO STRINGS**.

Just a friendly get together for Christmas.

Lunch will be served from 11.30am on Christmas Day at the Katoomba Civic Centre in Katoomba Street. Doors open at 10am for tea and coffee. Transport is available for those who have mobility problems. For information contact 4787 7550.

The Foundation relies on the generosity of community members and sponsors - donations are appreciated.

See you at Christmas.

Result of Christmas Raffle

The Committee has been thanked for running the raffle - but the big THANK YOU goes to all the parishioners for donating goods, selling and buying tickets. Also, thank you to Sheilagh Kirkham for making the Christmas cake for the "Guess the weight" competition. It was a wonderful result.

Hamper Raffle	\$1,081.00
Guess the weight	105.00
TOTAL	\$1,186.00

Result of Raffle

1st Prize	Brent Tokoli
2nd Prize	Helen Boyd
3rd Prize	Harry Hemmings
Winner of cake	Jane Kirkham (weight 5.105 kg)

Advent Litany

Composer: Bernadette Farrell (USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Light of nations. Alleluia! Light in darkness. Maranatha!
Risen Saviour. Alleluia! Lord of glory. Maranatha!
You we long for. Alleluia! You we thirst for. Maranatha!
Here among us. Alleluia! Living in us. Maranatha!

Responsorial Psalm: Save us, O Lord

Composer: Bob Dufford (USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

**Save us, O Lord, carry us back, rouse your power and come.
Rescue your people, show us your face. Bring us back.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us. Return and we shall be saved.
Arise, O Lord, hear our cries, O Lord: Bring us back.

How long will you hide from your people? We long to see your face.
Give ear to us, draw near to us, Lord, God of hosts.

Turn again, care for Your vine,
protect what your right hand has planted.
Your vineyards are trampled, uprooted and burned.
Come to us, Father of might.

Come Love Carolling

Composer: Bob Dufford (USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Come love carolling along in me, come love carolling along in me.
All the while wherever I may be, I carry the maker of the world in me.

Lifting and loving you that I am not
though you are living in my bone and blood
I wonder at the maker who can be, before I am and yet a child of me.

I lift and I carry you to Bethlehem
I lift and I carry you to Galilee
I'll carry you wherever I may be - I carry the maker of the world in me.

In the beginning you were there I know
and you will carry me wherever I go
I'll carry you wherever I may be - I carry the maker of the world in me.

Thanksgiving

Composer: Br Colin D. Smith cfc (USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Lord, we praise you. Lord we thank you for your gift of loving grace.
When our striving here is ended, may we see you face to face.
Thanks be to God. (Repeat 4x)

Christ Be Our Light

Composer: Bernadette Farrell (USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

**Christ be our light, Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

The 10 Gifts of Christmas

As we celebrate the joy of his birth we share our joy by giving of ourselves to others. Here are 10 suggestions that are "large of heart and small of purse". By giving these gifts you are giving the most priceless gift of all... yourselves.

1. The Gift of Listening

This means we must really listen.
No interrupting, no walking away,
no planning our response...just listen.

2. The Gift of Signs of Affection

Be generous with your hugs, kisses,
pats on the back, gentle squeezings
of the hand. Let these tiny actions
demonstrate the great love you have
inside of you.

3. The Gift of a Note

As simple as "I love you" or as
complex as a sonnet. Leave the note
as a surprise - in the lunchbox, in his
socks, her purse, their book-bags.

4. The Gift of Laughter

Give those you love this gift. Cut
out a cartoon, clip a joke, copy a
riddle. Your gift will say "I love to
laugh with you."

5. The Gift of a Game

Offer to play your loved ones'
favourite games. Even if you lose
you'll be a winner, because together
you will have shared an experience.

6. The Gift of Doing a Favour

Help with the dishes, type up that letter,
mow the lawn, run to the store. This gift
is made more valuable when it anticipates
a request rather than responding to it.

7. The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition

No complaining, no feeling sorry for
yourself, no nasty comments. Your gift
of cheerfulness will be a precious gift for
everyone...including yourself.

8. The Gift of Being Left Alone

There are times in our lives when we
need to be alone. Become more sensitive
to these times in the lives of others and
respond generously with the gift of
"Do not disturb".

9. The Gift of a Compliment

Pay your loved ones compliments...A
simple "You look good in those clothes"
or "Great dinner, honey!" is a fantastic gift
to those who may feel taken for granted.

10. The Gift of Prayer

Pray for those people on your shopping
list. Praying for someone is like saying
"You are so special to me that I often talk
to God about you."



**MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE FILLED WITH
PEACE, JOY AND LOVE.**

