

**CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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CHRISTMAS DAY – 25th December 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

202 – Go, tell it on the mountain (v. 1, 2, 3)

Responsorial Psalm:

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

630 – See, amid the winter's snow (v. 1, 2, 3, 4)

66 – Away in a manger

643 – Silent night

520 – O come, all ye faithful

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today is Christmas. A day we wait for with emotion, with hope, with light in our hearts. A day when time seems to slow down and hearts open more easily. Today we do not celebrate only a beautiful memory from the past, but a living truth: God comes. God comes close. God is born for us.

The Scripture we have heard speaks with one heart and one voice. The prophet Isaiah says, “How beautiful are the feet of the one who brings good news.” These are the steps of God, who does not stay far away, but comes towards us. Christmas is the feast of these steps. God comes to us, not with noise, not with power, but with the gentleness of a child.

The Psalm invites us to sing a new song to the Lord, because He has done wonderful things. And what greater thing could God do than give us His own Son? Not an idea, not a cold command, but a life. A beating heart. A hand that touches and comforts. A child lying in a manger.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that God, who once spoke in many ways, now speaks to us through His Son. At Christmas, God does not speak only with words, but with flesh. With a child who cries. With a mother who holds Him close. With a father who watches in silence. God speaks to us through weakness and tenderness.

The Gospel of John takes us even deeper: “The Word became flesh and lived among us.” He lived among us. He stayed. He shared our life as it is, with joy and with pain. Christmas tells us that God is not afraid of our life, of our weakness, of our wounds.

Like a mother who does not leave her sick child but comes close, takes the child in her arms, and stays there, so God comes close to us. He may not take away all our burdens at once, but He carries them with us. Or like a candle lit in a dark room: it does not remove all the darkness, but it is enough so that we are not alone. Jesus is this light. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Christmas is not only a beautiful day or a tradition. It is an invitation. “To all who received Him, He gave the power to become children of God.” To receive Jesus means to make room for Him in our hearts. It means learning to be more gentle, more forgiving, more caring towards one another. To love more and judge less.

For some, Christmas comes with joy. For others, it comes with longing, with quiet tables, with painful absence. God knows this. And that is why He comes. He comes not only into celebration, but also into loneliness. Not only into light, but also into tears.

If God became small for us, let us not be afraid to become small for one another. If He came as peace, let us be makers of peace. If He came as light, let us not put out the light in our homes and hearts with harsh words or indifference.

Let us carry Christmas beyond this day: in a phone call to someone who is alone, in forgiveness freely given, in a simple act of kindness. Let us be “beautiful feet” that bring good news.

And maybe, at the end, we can ask ourselves this simple question: if Christmas came every day, what joy it would be... perhaps we would be kinder people. May the Child of Bethlehem not remain only in this day, but be born again each morning in our hearts.

I wish you a Christmas full of true peace, light, and tenderness. God is with us. Merry Christmas. **Amen!**