

# Grapevine



COMMUNITY

NEWS

PHOTOS

EVENTS



**CHRISTMAS**

**2023**



# Christmas in Prayer

During these advent days we have heard the words of the Psalmists proclaim, **God will bless his people with peace.**

Psalm 29

Each day we also hear cries of pain shaking the heart of peace. Like Mary and Joseph, we see many leaving their place of belonging to go into unknown places. We are aware many have no welcome and no place to lay their head.

In uncertainty Hope calls people on.

Calls people to come not with eyes of judgement but eyes of Love.

With Mary and Joseph, all prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

With the Shepherds we hear the Angels say:

"Do not be afraid I bring news of joy.

**Joy for all peoples.** A child is born to us, God with us."

Jesus was born into a world while different yet very much the same as ours.

What is still the same is the best gift to give each other, **Love.**

The light and love of God is **Hope.**

The light and love of God unwraps **Peace.**

The light and love of God is a song of **Joy.**

The light and love of God is a grace, to bless us and keep us Loving always.

We thank you God for giving us Jesus to bring your love to all creation and to all people.

Help us to be givers of your gift of love, to all people, to all creation as we live each moment.

Rejoice, **Rejoice, God is with us!**



*Kathy Bourke*

*Community Spiritual Life group*

# Community Leader Message



**Greetings friends,**

Every year, around the world, most people celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on, 25th December. It's our Christmas Day.

In preparation for this day – we engage in activities of advent and celebration – which becomes of Christmas season – Advent prayers, Christmas carols, tree decorating, house decorating, gift-giving and parties.

Among all the celebrations, you may be wondering: what is the real meaning of Christmas?

Why do we have these Christmas traditions?

What do they have to do with Jesus?

Our lives, and our world are far from perfect. There's always challenges and struggles we face both personally and collectively. The good news of Christmas is that even when the world or our circumstances change – the message of Christmas is timeless. Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope, and joy. This message never changes from year to year. When there is devastation in the world, this is good news worth celebrating!

Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ is more than a Christian holiday or Christian festival. It is more than an occasion to decorate our houses.

It is an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Jesus – our Saviour and friend. As we exchange gifts with loved ones, it is out of remembrance of the gift God gave us in Jesus. The gift that we are loved, are never alone and can have hope for the future.

# Community Leader Message

After Jesus was born, a small group of wise men visited him. They recognised the kingship of Jesus and they “worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

We too, can offer up our worship and thanks to God through prayers this Christmas. Prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of hope, love and joy.

God’s love is for everyone. You are not alone. You are loved, and you can feel hopeful and joyful. That is the true meaning of Christmas.

L’Arche NSW, invites you to experience a peaceful and hopeful Christmas and a blest 2025.

Krishnee Nair  
Love Faith Peace



# L'Arche NSW celebrates together

As we are waiting and preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus, the Saviour, we have received the invitation to live Simply, be in Silence and experience Solitude.

Live Simply and walk Humbly. Listen through Silence. Follow the star that is shared with each of us.

On the first week of December L'Arche NSW members and friends gathered for the annual Christmas celebration.

Sharing music, a meal together and following the star in the fantastic Nativity play performed by the core members and assistants. Broadway look out! Here are some photos of the day!



# L'Arche NSW celebrates together



# L'Arche NSW celebrates together

After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked people, 'Where is the child who has been born to be the King of Jews? We saw the star that shows he was born. We saw it rise in the sky in the East and have come to worship Him.

/Matthew 2:1-2/



# L'Arche NSW celebrates together





# L'Arche NSW celebrates together



# Life in our homes

In each house the excitement and anticipation of Christmas is increasing. Either decorating, baking, listening to the Christmas music, catching up with family and friends, the spirit of Christmas is always special.



# Life in our homes



# Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas our dear friends. As another year is wrapping up, we give thanks for all that has passed, and also the hard times as we learn and grow from these moments. We want to thank you for keeping us in your prayer and wish you all a beautiful Christmas and many blessings for the New Year. With Love, from Five dock house.



*Merry Christmas*

# Merry Christmas



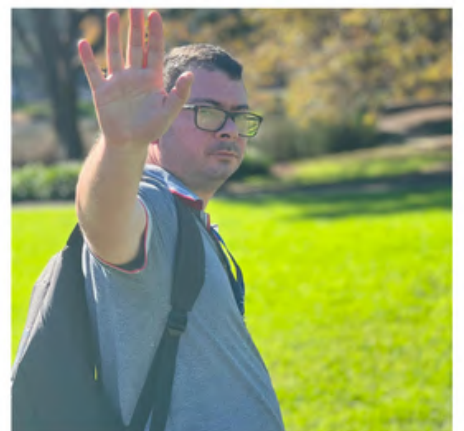
*Merry Christmas*

Merry Christmas from L'Arche Campsie House! Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday filled with warmth, love, hope and laughter. May this festive season bring you peace, happiness, and cherished moments with those closest to your heart. May the spirit of Christmas fill your home with blessings and the glow of goodwill. Here's to a season of togetherness and making beautiful memories. Happy holidays!"

# Merry Christmas

We celebrate the Advent of the season and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas from all of us at Merrylands House.

May 2024 bring everyone Health, Love, Joy, peace and prosperity.



*Merry Christmas*

# Merry Christmas



*Merry Christmas*

The Holidays are here again, a time for remembering those who have stayed beside us during the last year.

The end of the year brings no greater Joy than the opportunity to express to you season's' greetings and best wishes.

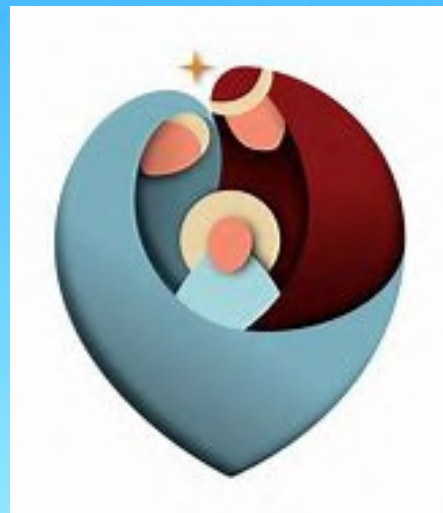
Burwood house members wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. May Jesus always be with you in good and in hard times, we all pray that His blessings shed light upon you every day.

# baby news

With lots of excitement we are so happy to announce the birth of Jess and Andrew's little baby boy "Alasdair James!!!".

Mum and dad are thrilled and adjusting to a new life - the family of three.

The L'Arche Community are keeping our newest member in prayer.





# Christmas favorite recipe



## CINNAMON SPICED TEA PUNCH



This simple spiced tea punch is made with chai tea, apple juice, orange juice, and ginger ale. It's a perfect beverage for brunch parties and showers!

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cup chai spice or apple spice tea
- 2 cup orange juice
- 1 cup apple juice
- 2 cup ginger ale
- 1 cup rum, if desired
- cinnamon sticks

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Brew 2 cups chai spice or apple spice tea, then let cool.
- Mix with 2 cups orange juice, 1 cup apple juice and 2 cups ginger ale in a pitcher filled with ice. Add 1 cup rum, if desired.
- Chill. Divide among 6 glasses and serve with cinnamon sticks.



# Our thanks giving

- For moments of joy, peace, personal growth, the support of friends, families and God's grace. God has always walked with us. We enjoy the good times, and we learn and grow from the moments that are hard.
- We give thanks for L'Arche NSW board and Community Council, and Spiritual Life group, for each members dedication and hard work throughout the year.
- We thank each and all volunteers that have contributed to a better world for our core members and community.
- We give thanks and pray for the wellbeing of our core members and their families.
- We give thanks for our leadership team, for all the assistants and the wonderful team of L'Arche NSW
- For the season of Advent and this very special feast "Christmas!".

Have a Merry Christmas our dear friends, and with many more blessings to come we are looking forward to our New Year together!

