

# Sacred Heart Parish, Kew

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2023



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Immanuel**

**God is with Us**

**Make Time for God in your Life**

## **Sacred Heart Parish Prayer**

*Lord, may we the parishioners of Sacred Heart strive to be people of the gospel and prayer. Imprint in our hearts a deep desire for your Word and a love of the Eucharist. Motivate us to be an engaging, welcoming, and supportive community. Help us to be a people of compassion and justice for all.*

## The true meaning of Christmas

Christmas celebrates the actions of God in our midst.

*The Hebrew word Hessed (חסד) – describe these actions of God.*

*Hessed is more than generosity or acts of loving kindness*

Charity can be done by anyone so too can generosity but **Hessed** is different. **Hessed** = ‘Loving kindness’ = **demands that I give of myself.**

Loving kindness - **pray for someone** and don't tell them.

**Loving kindness – the gift of self**

**Acts of loving kindness towards God – Coming to Mass**

**Hessed** demands that you give of yourself not just of your possessions.

**The story of Christmas is God giving not his possessions but himself!**

God comes not as the all-powerful, but as one of us – to win us back to himself. How will I respond to God's invitation?

How important is God in my life? How will I practice **Hessed**?



*A Invitation to all - On behalf of God*

*As a Priest I always personally struggle at Christmas and*

*Easter. While it is good to see so many at these times I*

*grapple with the fact that many will not return to Mass*

*next weekend. God gives us so much and all he asks is for*

*one hour a week. Please come to Mass .*

*The choice is yours all God can do is ask.*



*Merry Christmas*

*I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the generosity and kindness you*

*have shown me throughout the year and especially at Christmas. Many*

*thanks for the numerous cards and gifts I have received, they are deeply*

*appreciated. May the joy of the Christmas season be a time of happiness*

*and peace for you and your families and may the New Year be filled with*

*love, laughter, and countless blessings.*

Fr. John

Christmas thought—Real listening has the power to heal.