

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.