

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS



at

Bridge Mall

**From Tuesday 5th December
– Friday 22nd December 2023**

This year to celebrate Christmas, two nativity displays will be exhibited. Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at Bridge Mall and at the Catholic Diocesan archives.

You can - see and smell real frankincense and myrrh;

- see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; and
- see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica)
- Nativities that prize social justice and the environment

Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information on the Bridge Street display please contact Fiona Tonkin via Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Every one welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.



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at

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat archives

**Between Monday 20th November –Friday 22nd December
and Thursday 4th January – Monday 22nd January 2024.**

The first nativity scene recorded in history was conceived by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. After visiting the Holy Land and birthplace of Jesus, St. Francis was concerned that the meaning of Christmas was being forgotten. To highlight the importance of the birth of Jesus, St Francis of Assisi obtained permission from the sovereign Pontiff to construct a nativity scene in a cave near Greccio, Italy. By the 19th century the nativity scene was gradually replaced with static displays with baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph in a manger surrounded by richly robed figurines and animals.

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat archive will extend on the “Making a Scene at Christmas” display in the Bridge Mall by exhibiting Nativity scenes from various private collections. Due to the exhibition space numbers are restricted, visitation is by appointment only between 10am – 3pm Monday to Friday. To book a visit please email the archivist on archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au

