

PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE

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20th December 2015 (Year C)

NEWSLETTER

◆ TOM ELICH parish priest ◆ MARY RANDLE SGS pastoral associate ◆ HELEN PRICE and HELEN COLE parish secretaries ◆ ANN-MAREE NICHOLLS SGS school principal ◆

Fourth Sunday of Advent

POPE FRANCIS OPENS THE HOLY DOOR OF MERCY

In a few moments I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door of Mercy. We carry out this act so simple yet so highly symbolic, in the light of the word of God which we have just heard. That word highlights the *primacy of grace*. Again and again these readings make us think of the words by which the angel Gabriel told an astonished young girl of the mystery which was about to enfold her: "Hail, full of grace" (Lk 1:28).

The Virgin Mary was called to rejoice above all because of what the Lord accomplished in her. God's grace enfolded her and made her worthy of becoming the Mother of Christ. When Gabriel entered her home, even the most profound and impenetrable of mysteries became for her a cause for joy, a cause for faith, a cause for abandonment to the message revealed to her. *The fullness of grace can transform the human heart* and enable it to do something so great as to change the course of human history.

This Extraordinary Year of Mercy is itself a gift of grace. To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. It is he who seeks us! It is he who comes to encounter us! This will be a year in which we *grow ever more convinced of God's mercy*. **How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy!** But that is the truth. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God's judgement will always be in the light of his mercy. In passing through the Holy

Door, then, may we feel that *we ourselves are part of this mystery of love, of tenderness*. Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience *the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things*.

Today, we also want to remember another door, which fifty years ago the Fathers of the *Second Vatican Council* opened to the world. This anniversary cannot be remembered only for the legacy of the Council's documents, which testify to a great advance in faith. Before all else, the Council was an encounter. A genuine *encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time*. An encounter marked by the power of the Spirit, who impelled the Church to emerge from the shoals which for years had kept her self-enclosed so as to set out once again, with enthusiasm, on her missionary journey. It was the resumption of a journey of encountering people where they live: in their cities and homes, in their workplaces. Wherever there are people, the Church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel, and the mercy and forgiveness of God. After these decades, we again take up this missionary drive with the same power and enthusiasm. The Jubilee challenges us to this openness, and demands that we not neglect *the spirit which emerged from Vatican II, the spirit of the Samaritan*, as Blessed Paul VI expressed it at the conclusion of the Council. May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Philippians 4:4-5
Luke 3:10-18



Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Phoebe Eales, Thora Levinson, Robert Hancock, Magda Coulam, Emmanuel (Willie) Falzon, Geoffrey Cardillo, Jeff Gill **recently deceased and also for** Erin Begley, Bill Underwood, Reg Sladen, Patrick and Eve Long, Arthur and Mavis Wilson, Stan Grzegorzolka, Lyons family, Dennis Duncan, Erline Marshall, Roy Jones, Kathleen Geraghty, Andrew Geraghty, Kath and George Nolan, Margaret Turpin, Harrold Turpin, Madeleine Simon, Vera Price, Dorothea Piper.

Please remember the sick in your prayers – Karen Cassady, Molly Xavier, Bernie Kinneally, Leo Maher, Paula Maher, Rory Kelly, Margaret Anne Pritchard, Lucy Gibb, Matilda Swain, Julie Wessely.



DATE CLAIMERS 2015/2016

Sunday 20 December Mass in French 3pm
Monday 21 December Centenary History Group 7:30pm
26 Dec to 3 January Parish Office Closed.
Wednesday 1 January Mass for New Year's Day 9am
Thursday 17 March Sacrament of Confirmation Parents Session 7:30pm in Hall
Friday 18 March Sacrament of Confirmation Parents Session 7:30pm in Hall
10 February Ash Wednesday

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – Thank you to all the parishioners who helped with the Christmas gift appeal this year. Your response was really wonderful and will enable us to help needy families in our parish and local area.



VOCATION VIEW – Can you honestly pray: "I have come to do your will, O God"? Blessed are they who trust that the Lord's words to you would be fulfilled. Pray for vocations. To talk about your vocation, please contact Vocation office 3336 9392 or vocation@bne.catholic.net.au



CHRISTMAS CAROLS last Friday was wonderful. Thank you to the organizing committee and volunteers who assisted in so many ways.

The funeral for Thora Levinson (Sr Eugennie Levinson's mother) will be 10:30am Tuesday 22 December at Little Flower Church, 80 Turner Road, Kedron.

A Christmas Miracle A poorly dressed lady walked into a grocery store. In a most humble manner, she asked if the grocer would let her charge a few groceries for Christmas and pay later. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. The grocer angrily asked she leave his store at once. She pleaded: 'Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can.' He told her he could not give her credit, since she was not a customer. A regular customer who overheard the conversation walked forward and told the grocer that he would pay for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, 'Do you have a grocery list?' She replied, 'Yes sir.' 'Okay' he said, 'put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries.' She hesitated then she reached into her purse, took out a piece of paper, scribbled something on it, then laid the piece of paper on the scale. Amazingly, the scales went down and stayed down. The regular customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer, which said: 'Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands.' The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. She thanked him and the regular customer and left the store. The regular customer handed the money to the grocer and said; 'It was worth every penny of it. Only God Knows how much a prayer weighs.'

**The Parish Office will be CLOSED
 26 December to 3 January 2016**

NO PARKING please on brick paved area in front of the church.

CHECK OUT THE PARISH WEBSITE
www.bulimbacatholic.com
 GET THE PARISH NEWSLETTER ONLINE
 School newsletter: www.stspp.qld.edu.au

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve 6pm (lots of children)
Christmas Eve 8pm (a bit quieter)
Midnight (special magic)
Christmas morning 8am (again exuberant children)



CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS! At the Christmas Family Masses (6pm Christmas Eve and 8am Christmas Morning) we invite small children to come dressed as shepherds or angels. There will be a Gospel Tableau and they are invited to come forward as a group as part of the proclamation of the Gospel.

MESSE EN FRANÇAIS – Several times a year. Fr Tom celebrates Mass in French for the French-speaking community in our Church. It will be held today Sunday 20 December at 3pm. French speakers and students welcome.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB is now at the front of the church. Bring the children to see it, tell them the Christmas story, and say a little prayer with them. **BUT DO NOT LET THEM TOUCH** the shelf or the figures!



PRAYER AT THE CRIB

LORD JESUS,
 conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,
 you become the brother of all human beings.
 As we contemplate this wondrous event,
 may we feel the gladness of the shepherds,
 share the awe and worship of the wise men,
 and always sing your praise and glory with the angels.
 May the star of peace lead us to your love and mercy.
 AMEN.

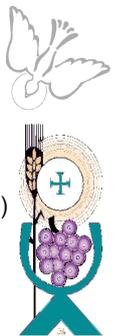


JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE - Join the parish Jubilee of Mercy Pilgrimage to Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre at Ormiston on Sunday 13 March. 9:30am to 3:30pm. Lunch provided. Come for a reflection day on God's mercy. Perfect for Lent. Contact the parish office to express your interest.

SACRAMENTS IN 2016
 Please mark the following dates in your diary for next year.

CONFIRMATION (Year 3 children)
Parent information sessions
 Thursday 17 March 7:30pm
 OR Friday 18 March 9:30am
Celebration of Confirmation
 Weekend 14/15 May at all Masses

CONFIRMATION/COMMUNION (Year 4 children)
Parent information sessions
 Thursday 14 April 7:30 pm
 OR Friday 15 April 9:30 am
Celebration of Sacraments
 All Masses on weekend 28/29 May



PARISH ROSTERS NEXT WEEK
Readers, Communion Ministers, Sacristans and Altar Servers
 Team 4 - please arrange a substitute if you are not available.
Hospitality Roster
 25 December – Help needed at all Christmas Masses
 17 January 2016 – Lisa Kelly and Gillian Henschke
Casserole Bank
 Team 3 – Contact Maree Meier (extra supplies very welcome)

+ Liturgy this Week 21 December – 27 December 2015

MONDAY	7:00am		Mass
TUESDAY	-		-
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm		Mass
THURSDAY	6:00pm 8:00pm	Christmas Eve	Family Mass Mass
FRIDAY	12:00 midnight 8:00am	The Nativity of the Lord	Mass Family Mass
SATURDAY	-	St Stephen	
SUNDAY	6:00pm (Saturday), 8:00am and 6:00pm		Mass: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
	<i>Readings – 1 Samuel 1:20-22 24-28 1 John 3:1-2 21-24 Luke 2:41-52</i>		

OTHER LITURGY AND PRAYER

RECONCILIATION	Saturday at 9:30am and 5:00pm
MEDITATION	Tuesday at 7:00pm (Lourdes Hill Convent) and Wednesday at 9:30am (Parish Hall)
ROSARY for peace	Saturday before 9:00am Mass
ANGELUS for vocations	Saturday before 9:00am Mass

ENTRANCE HYMN THE MAGNIFICAT

REFRAIN

*My soul is praising the Lord, yes,
and glad for all he is saving;
Because the Lord has remembered me,
small as I am, poor as I am.
All people will call me blest.*

For he that is mighty has done me great things.
Holy his name. Holy his name.
His mercy is reaching from age to age.
Holy his name. Holy his name.
To all those who honour him.

For he that is mighty has stretched out his hand.
Scattered the proud, shattered their plans.
He's pulled down the princes from their golden thrones.
Scattered the proud, shattered their plans.
He has raised to their place the poor.

He's filled up the hungry with many good things.
Earth is renewed, all things renewed.
But the rich he has sent them all empty away.
Earth is renewed, all things renewed.

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PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

You came to call sinners

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to
intercede for us

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim your death O Lord until you come again.



COMMUNION HYMN ADVENT LITANY

1. Word of Justice, Alleluia. Come to dwell here. Maranatha!
2. Word of mercy, Alleluia, Live among us. Maranatha!
3. Word of power, Alleluia, Live within us. Maranatha!
4. Word of freedom, Alleluia, Save your people. Maranatha!
5. Word of healing, Alleluia, Heal our sorrow. Maranatha!
6. Word of comfort, Alleluia, Bring us hope now. Maranatha!
7. Word of gladness, Alleluia, Fill our hearts now. Maranatha!
8. Word of wisdom, Alleluia, Come renew us. Maranatha!
9. Word we long for, Alleluia, Word we thirst for, Maranatha!
10. Key of David, Alleluia, Son of Mary, Maranatha!
11. Promised Saviour, Alleluia, True Messiah, Maranatha!
12. Cry of prophets, Alleluia, Hope of ages, Maranatha!
13. Light of nations, Alleluia, Light in darkness, Maranatha!
14. Risen Saviour, Alleluia, Lord of glory, Maranatha!
15. You we long for, Alleluia, You we thirst for, Maranatha!
16. Here among us, Alleluia, Living in us, Maranatha!

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

HAIL QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star,
Guide of the wand'rer here below;
Thrown on life 'surge, we claim thy care,
Save us from peril and from woe;
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the wand'rer, prayer for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless maid,
We sinners make our prayers through thee:
Remind thy son that he has paid,
The price for our iniquity,
Virgin most pure, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

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