

25th December 2014 (Year B)

NEWSLETTER

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

The Nativity of the Lord

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Mostly people say "Merry Christmas". I always say "Happy Christmas". Merriment focuses on the Christmas dinner with festive food and drink. Now, of course, there is nothing wrong with making merry. It is a wonderful human thing to do, especially at a family gathering.

But there is something deeper and more lasting about Christmas that is better captured by happiness and joy. Pope Francis put it well the other day:

And the joy of Christmas is a special joy; however, it is not a joy that is only for Christmas day, it is for the whole life of a Christian. It is a serene, tranquil joy, a joy that always accompanies a Christian.

Also in difficult moments, in times of difficulty, this joy becomes peace. When people are true Christians, they never lose peace, even in suffering. That peace is a gift of the Lord.

Christian joy is a gift of the Lord. "Ah, we have had a great lunch; we are all happy." This is good, a great lunch is fine, but this is not the Christian joy of which we speak today; Christian joy is something else. It leads us also to celebrate, it's true, but it is something else.

The happiness of Christmas comes from the realisation that we have been blessed, gifted, by God. A Christian, said Pope Francis, should always have a joyful face and, in suffering, a peaceful face. Sure there are always things to complain about. Sometimes even trivial things annoy us and make us dissatisfied. But stop. Make a list of the blessings we enjoy. And then thank God. When we make prayers of praise and thanksgiving, we are on the road to true happiness. It accustoms us to joy.

Happy the poor. Why? Because God provides.

Happy the sorrowful. Why? Because God is our consolation.

Happy the merciful. Why? Because God shows mercy to us.

So I invite you to come to Mass each Sunday to thank God. There is a New Year's resolution for you! Sunday Mass makes us stop once a week to see afresh how God is blessing us. It shapes our lives with the perspective of gratitude. Herein lies our lasting joy and happiness.

And Christian joy is highly infectious. Let's make an unstoppable epidemic of joy, peace and happiness in 2015.



Parish Priest



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Today is born our saviour,
Christ our saving Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Good News and Great
Joy to all the world: today is
born our Saviour, Christ the
Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!



Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Madeleine Simon, Jean Ann Tolley, Stan Grzegorzolka, Sandra Riley, Sr Mary Ellen Ryan SGS, Elia Rossi, Winifred Bevan **recently deceased and also for** Yvonne Watt, Maria Sophia Rana, Gary Fletcher, John Fletcher, Bill Underwood, Dorothea Piper, Marie, Percy, Keith and Phyllis Thatcher, George and Mary Allen.



FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN:

THANK YOU to all of the parishioners who have so generously contributed to ensure the success of our church restoration project. The total amount raised is \$860,315, a fantastic effort for our parish. Our target is \$1M. You can be a part of our future!

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

A DESIGN TEAM of architects and engineers has been hard at work since early October. The team which comprises three architects, an engineer and a project manager are all parishioners who have very generously donated their time to ensure the parish can get a great outcome while keeping professional costs to a minimum. Architects are Dion Seminara, Melika Davies and Paul Sheppard; Richard Carlile is the engineer and John Schick is the project manager.

The DESIGN TEAM is:

- Confirming the scope of the work to be undertaken. This has involved thorough inspections of all the areas requiring maintenance work to confirm the extent of the damage and the work that needs to be undertaken.
- Documenting specifications for restoration work so that tender documents can be produced.
- Determining what original materials and structures are still in place in the sanctuary under the existing flooring.
- Preparing a design for the interior of the church.

The PROJECT MANAGER is:

- Obtaining estimates for the work to be undertaken and preparing a project budget
- Identifying potential tenderers for the restoration work including parishioners that have expressed an interest in helping

WHEN WILL THE WORK BE DONE?

The key components of the restoration work will be carried out during 2015. The church restoration is intended to be completed before the parish centenary in 2016. Actual dates will be confirmed after contracts have been let for the major restoration work.

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON US AND OUR CHURCH SERVICES?

All church services will continue during the restoration project.

At times parts of the church will be unavailable and at other times the church will need to be closed. Alternative arrangements have been made for all these situations. Impacts are expected to be:

- MASSES

SUNDAY MASS on Saturday evening and Sunday will be celebrated as usual when there is no internal work in progress.

When the church is closed for interior refurbishment, Masses will be held in the Good Samaritan School hall behind the church. The school has very kindly agreed to make the hall available but we will need to set it up for Mass and put out chairs and then return it to its usual state on Sunday evening. We will need volunteers!

There is parking available behind the church and lift access to the Good Samaritan Hall for those who require this.

WEEKDAY MASS will be celebrated in a chapel to be set up under the presbytery when the church is closed.

- WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

The parish office will work with any affected families for weddings and funerals to accommodate their needs. When it is not possible to use church, the parish will make arrangements with neighbouring parishes for the use of their facilities.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

The parish website has a page dedicated to the Church Restoration Campaign where information about the project can be obtained:

www.bulimbacatholic.com/church-restoration.html

If you have any questions about the Church Restoration Project or the arrangements that have been made for when the church is unavailable please phone the parish office on 3399-2386 or email bulimba@bne.catholic.net.au.

+Liturgy this Week 22 December – 28 December 2014

MONDAY	7:00am		Mass
TUESDAY	-		-
WEDNESDAY	6:00pm 8:00pm	Christmas Eve	Family Mass Mass
THURSDAY	12:00 midnight 8:00am	The Nativity of the Lord	Mass Family Mass
FRIDAY	-	St Stephen	-
SATURDAY	9:00am	St John	Mass
SUNDAY	6:00pm(Sat); 8:00am; 6:00pm		Mass: THE HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
<i>Readings – Genesis 15:1-6 21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8 11-12 17-19 Luke 2:22-40</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	Friday and Saturday before 9:00am Mass

GLORIA *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you we give you thanks for your great glory.
 Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 have mercy on us For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
 Amen

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

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

SACRAMENTS IN 2015

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

PENANCE

Parent Sessions

Thursday 5 February at 7:30 pm
 OR Friday 6 February at 9:30 am

Celebration of Penance

10, 11 and 12 March at 6:00 pm

CONFIRMATION/COMMUNION

Parent Sessions

Thursday 23 April at 7:30 pm
 OR Friday 24 April at 9:30 am

Celebration of Sacraments

Masses on the weekend of 30-31 May



Please remember the sick in your prayers – Natale Zaini, Claire Antcliff, Kenneth Freeman, Nerina Piccone, Jill Patterson, John Chester, Matilda Swain, Noel Nicholson, David McKeon, Debbie Simeon, Imelda Clegg, Annette Harvey, Colin de Cruz, Reginald Sladen, Joe Cussein and Ray Jarrett.



From Fr Tom, Sr Mary, Helen and Helen - very happy Christmas to all. Every Joy and Blessing!

DATE CLAIMERS 2014

26 Dec to 1 January	Parish Office Closed.
Wednesday 1 January	Mass for New Year's Day 9am
Thursday 5 February	Sacrament of Penance Parents Session 7:30pm in Hall
Friday 6 February	Sacrament of Penance Parents Session 9:30am in Hall
7 & 8 February	Rite of Enrolment for Sacrament of Penance at all Masses
18 February	Ash Wednesday
10-12 March	Celebrations for Sacrament of Penance
5 April	Easter Sunday
Thursday 23 April	Parent's Information Sessions for Sacraments of Confirmation /First Eucharist 7:30pm
Friday 24 April	Parent's Information Sessions for Sacraments of Confirmation /First Eucharist 9:30am
25 & 26 April	Rite of Enrolment for Sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist at all Masses
30 & 31 May	Celebrations for Sacraments of Confirmation/First Eucharist

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – Thank you to all the parishioners who helped with the toy appeal this year. We were able to help needy families with 48 Christmas hampers and gifts for 38 children in our parish. Your response was really wonderful. Our special gratitude as a parish to the tireless workers of St Vincent de Paul and all the willing helpers from Lourdes Hill who made it possible.

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

The Parish Office will be CLOSED from 26 December to 2 January 2013