



HOLY FAMILY – SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS - YEAR C
26 & 27 DECEMBER 2009
“We welcome the stranger”

Parish Team

Fr Peter Carrucan PP

Pastoral Associates

Sr Margaret Maher fcl

Sr Catherine FMDM (VU)

Sr Maria Yen Bui MTGDL

Chaplains

Fr Philip Le & Fr Xua Nguyen
Vietnamese

Fr Lois Filipino

Fr John Malabar

Sudanese

Refugee Worker

Mathew Bul

Office Hours: Wed. 9am – 12 noon

Business Manager/Secretary

Sue O'Loughlin/Virginia Verano

Office Hours 8:30am/4:30pm Mon–Fri

Parish School

Principal - John Steele

Phone: 9366 2899

Mass Times

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday 9am, 11am, 6pm

12:30pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

1st Sun Filipino Mass 4:00 pm

2nd Sun: Sudanese Mass 2.30 pm

3rd Sun: Malibar Mass 4:00 pm

RECONCILIATION: (English)

Sat: 10.00am - 10:30am

5:15pm - 5:45pm

Thurs: 7.00pm - 7:30pm

Sun: 12 noon - Vietnamese

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the 1st Sunday of every month during a Mass. Preparation session - Thursday evening beforehand 7:30pm in the Church.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If anyone is sick, it is appropriate that they receive the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing). Please ring the Parish Office for regular Communion of the Sick home visits.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Six months notice should be given. Marriage preparation is necessary. Permission to marry in a church other than that of the bride or groom should be sought before making any arrangements. Church arrangements should be made

Dear Friends

ONE LAST CHRISTMAS

Sad, but Christmas brings warm memories. Family gatherings: how my mother wanted them at her home, because it might be her last. We humoured her for as long as possible. Then, one year she was not there. We scattered. Other families have come instead.

Another mother has the pride of place: Mary, Virgin Mother of God. That God should choose to share our humanity is the stuff of mystery.

Like the Shepherds, the Wise Men and a whole company of humans, all we can do is to bow and wonder at such happenings. We catch our breath.

Even as a child, I was enthralled by Midnight Mass; disappointed when my parents didn't wake me. I love hearing different customs of Christians from other places. In my culture Christmas Day was the celebration. In another, it is Christmas Eve. Christmas is family; St Stephens' is visiting day, not just the Boxing Day Test!

This is my last Christmas among you as the priest of the parish – wonder where next year's will be – and I thank you for the many memorable and beautiful celebrations we have had together.

To all a very happy Christmas, remember it lasts until the Baptism of the Lord. We rejoice, because we are always learning that God's love is fresh and new, like an annual present.

Neighbours:

? Mr Nguyen celebrates his 80th birthday on 26th. The neighbours are coming; he lives nearby. Often, he asks prayers for the deceased orphans, because they have no family to remember them.

? Mary is unable to attend the Christmas Masses. No one ever remembers her missing. Mary prepares the Mass things each morning and the 9am Sunday Mass. She's not so well.

Peace



An excerpt from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

'Three days later, they found him in the Temple, and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.'



STEWARDSHIP CORNER
- THOUGHTS ON GIVING

“Beloved, see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.”

During this season of giving, let's also remember the gifts that God has given to us, including the gift of making us His children. Are we as grateful for that wonderful gift as we are for all the material gifts we have received? How do we show our gratitude to God for the gifts He gives to us all year?

peoplespeak

gospel voices then and now

at a glance 

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

1 John 3:1-2.21-24

Luke 2:41-52

Dedicated to God

God's children

My Father's affairs

Next Week

Go find the child

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71

Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6; Matthew 2:1-12



The Holy Family Year C

27 December 2009

in a nutshell

Mary, Joseph and Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Jesus has reached adolescence, and is awakening to and maturing in his religious experience. Perhaps it is reassuring for parents of teenagers to know that Jesus caused anxiety to Mary and Joseph. He was truly human and they did not understand him! Yet he returned and lived under their authority as he grew to adulthood.

Family life

I am a Sister of the Good Samaritan. When I had to leave my farmhouse home of many years and go to an urban area to live I had to give away my dogs. One little one, a miniature foxy cross long-haired Chihuahua, was taken by a family who lived at the top of Razorback Mountain. The family grew to love Puddin and she thought the youngest member of the family was wonderful. But Puddin hated storms and would go crazy if she could not get some solace from her family. On Boxing Day the family went to visit some friends and left Puddin outside with plenty of water and food.

A fierce storm blew up. When the family returned home there was no sign of Puddin. They called and searched until dark to no avail. For several days they searched and called. The possibilities of where she could be were endless. She could have gone further into the bush and up the mountain, or to the other side down the steep slopes into the ravines. Or down or up the road.

Eventually her owners went down the road in the direction of her former home. At a crossroad they saw a sign on one of the fences: Little lost dog by name of Puddin. Brown and white. They knocked on the door and an elderly lady answered with the little lost dog in her arms. Puddin was pleased to see the family but was very obviously enjoying her new company.

The woman said that she had lost her husband a few days before Christmas. At this point other members of her family came in to see what was happening... *(continues next column)*



To comfort them

... The gentleman who had died was particularly fond of Christmas pudding and was looking forward to his. After his death the family didn't feel like having their usual pudding. Then Puddin appeared. She appropriated the chair belonging to the dead man and if someone was sitting in it she went underneath the chair. The family took this as a sign she had been sent to them to comfort them. When Puddin's owners heard all this they felt drawn to leave her with this family. Then they thought of what their little daughter would say if they went home empty-handed after finding her. The sign on the fence had suggested that her finders were willing to see her return to her own home. So her owners took Puddin back up the mountain.

As they were driving up they pondered the story the old lady had told them and concluded that Puddin had imbibed the compassion of the Good Samaritan in her home at the convent. (Judith)

Lord... through the prayers of Mary and of her husband Joseph, unite our families in peace and love (Prayer over the Gifts)



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peoplespeak focuses on seeing the light of the gospel in daily events. By listening to the stories people tell of how the gospel illuminates their lives we become aware of the presence of Jesus within us and in those we meet.

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Readers' contributions welcome.

Raise your voices

Entrance antiphon: The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Response to the psalm: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among us.

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 2 & 3 JANUARY
THE EPIPHANY**

6:00 PM

Readers: Violeta Montoro
Terri Aguinaldo
Head Spec Min: Dorothy Bartolo
Spec Min: Dominic Bui
Mary Rose Spiteri
Marlene Bartolo
Pam Norris
Nanette Micallef-
Grimaud
Reno Bartolo

9:00 AM

Reader: Fred Storage
Leanna Surrao
Head Spec Min: Phuong Ung
Spec Min: Kim Bui Quang
Pauline Storage
Doris Gatt
Gordon Walsh
Arleen Walsh
Mary-Anne Schembri

11:00 AM

Reader: Ed Cablao
Roslin Botlero
Head Spec Min: Mary Giuffrida
Spec Min: Johanne Dajic
Marilyn Medina
Mena Vasquez
Isabella Barreca
Tony Randich
Beth De La Cruz

6:00 PM

Reader: Charles Laririt
Head Spec Min: Tess Elano
Spec Min: Joanne Azzopardi
Ralph Perena

PIETY STALL 6 pm J Gatt;
9 am J Gatt
11am H. Maddela &
L. Disco

CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning 28 December:
Group 1 Dany Thomas
Kim Truong
Nilani Vejiraj
Jerry & Millette Zaldarriaga

LOAVES & FISH ROSTER

Volunteers & Vietnamese
community from 6 January.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tues 29 Dec 9.00am Mass
Wed 30 Dec 9.00am Mass
Thurs. 31 Dec 9:00am
Fri. 1 Jan 9.00am; 12:30pm
Sat. 2 Jan 6:00pm Mass

DAILY GOSPEL READINGS

Mon: Mt 2 :13-18
Tue: Lk 2 :22-35
Wed: Lk 2 :36-40
Thu: Jn 2 :16-21
Fri: Lk 2 :16-21
Sat: Lk 2 ::17-22

NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am

12:30pm (Vietnamese)

HOME BLESSINGS

January is a good time for a blessing of homes. A New Year and a new blessing. The blessing is a reminder of God's care and love of a family. The Christmas Season embraces the feasts of the family, when we will bless all married couples at the Mass. The feast of the Epiphany and that of the Baptism of the Lord, when all will renew their baptismal promises.

FOOD BANK

Food Bank reopens on Wednesday 6 January 2010. Volunteers needed for a couple of hours from 2pm to 4pm Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Contact Fr Peter or just come to the Office.

REFUGEE (NILS) NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME

Parishioners are invited to donate to the Loan Scheme for the next 12 months. New subscribers are welcome to donate \$10 or more per month to assist funding loans to refugees. Application forms in the foyer.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Prizes yet to be claimed:

Ticket Yellow F26- Bistro set
Ticket Black E24 - Box of 6 wines
Claim prizes from the Presbytery.

PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

New contributors always welcome! Pledge cards are available on the table in the foyer for you to fill in if you wish to take part in the parish fundraising program.

CENSUS

New to the Parish? Let's know who you are by completing a Census card – found in the foyer. Please hand to Fr Peter.

PARISH OFFICE

Re-opens on Friday 22 January 2010, however Fr Peter will be around during staff holiday leave.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Herta Todero, Anna Kotula, Angela Costa, Connie Agius, Kam Camilleri, Charles & Lonza Briffa, Baskel Saliba, Viviana Santos, Sam Tabone, Peter Vu, Cecilia Bozickovic, Tennous Boulus, George Aquilina, Louis Thewma, Joseph Duca, Tom Milinkovic, Peter Disco, Tess Micallef, Ursula Tolhurst, Teresa Vojtek.

**SUMMER SCHOOL OF
EVANGELISATION**

10-17 January 2010 at Lady Northcote Recreation Camp, Rowsley (near Bacchus Marsh) Summer School provides a chance to go on retreat for a week with other young people, learn more about our faith, discover the place that the Holy Spirit wants to play in our lives, and take hold of the chance to make a difference in our world. Call Katherine Stone MGL 98578177 or Roger at 98083417.

**3RD NATIONAL FAMILY
GATHERING – SHARE THE DREAM**

Friday 15 April – Sunday 17 April
Xavier College, Barkers Rd. Kew.
Join us in helping to build a new culture of life and love through Christian family life.

Sponsored by the Australian Catholic Bishop's Commission for Pastoral Life, together with the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

More information from: Life, Marriage & Family Office 9287 5579.

**ACHIEVING PREGNANCY
NATURALLY**

For a free information leaflet, please contact Bills LIFE on 1800 335 860.

**PRAYER IN HONOUR OF THE HOLY
FAMILY**



*Lord Jesus Christ,
who, being made subject to Mary
and Joseph,
did consecrate domestic life by His
virtues;
grant that we,
with the assistance of both,
may be taught by the example
of the Holy Family
and may attain to its everlasting
fellowship.
Who lives and reigns forever.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke



His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Please Pray for Priests

Dear Lord,

we pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,

"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory

