



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021

Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm

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Email: stalbanssouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.holyeuchariststalban.org



THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, YEAR B

30 & 31 DECEMBER 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

Fr Joseph Xuan Hieu Nguyen CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P. Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ Tues-Fri: 9:00am
- ♦ Saturday: 6:00pm
7.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ Sunday: 8:45am, 10:00am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun. Sudanese Mass 3pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed after Friday 24th December 2023 and will be opened again Tuesday 22nd January 2024.

FOODBANK CLOSURE:

Last day for was 15th December 2023.

It will reopen in February.

Please contact the Parish Office 03 9366 1310

SOCIAL OFFICE:

Office will be closed during the Christmas and New Year period.
Contact 03 9366 1310

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Congratulations to our parishioners who braved rain and cold to attend our Christmas Masses. To see our Parish Church filled to overflowing was a wonderful sign of the importance of this feast, and the place it holds in our hearts.

My thanks to our great choirs, our Readers. Commentators, Collectors, and all who were part of the Christmas liturgies. Special thanks to the Preca community and our youth who, in performing the Christmas story, allowed us to experience the beauty of this Christmas night.

May you all enjoy this holiday time and may it be filled with the Lord's peace and blessing.

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Monday 1st January 2024

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD.

There will be a Mass for the **1st of January 2024 at 10am**. Please join us in offering the new year to our God's providence. Thank You!

BAPTISM: There will be no Baptism celebration in the month of January, the next Baptism will be on the **3rd of February 2024**.

ANointing MASS: There will be no Anointing Mass in the month of January. Anointing Mass will start again on **2nd February 2024 9am**.

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104 (105):1-6,8-9

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works!

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Remember the wonders he has done,

his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,

O sons of the Jacob he chose.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

The faith of Abraham and of Sarah

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him,

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a time to think about what family means, to reflect on the successes and struggles of the past year and to consider the inevitable challenges of the year to come. It can be a difficult time for families facing financial or other concerns. It can be a time to connect with those who are alone or struggling in some way. Few families are exempt from the "sword" that pierces the soul.

The first and second readings for today engage the family story of Sarah and Abraham, of God's promise to give them a child, and of the fulfilment of that promise in the most unlikely of circumstances. The wonder of God's ways and the need to trust in God are at the heart of their story. At the same time, there is humour reflected in Abraham's choice of name for their son: 'Isaac' means "he laughed". Does Abraham detect God's humour in providing a son for an elderly couple? Does he laugh for sheer joy at the birth of the child who will hold the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future? Whatever about this, the family story of Sarah, Abraham and Isaac foreshadows the even more extraordinary family story to be found in today's gospel.

Luke depicts Mary and Joseph as observant Jews bringing their child to the Jerusalem Temple in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Law, even if the Law applied only to the woman who had given birth and not to the man. Two prophetic figures, Anna and Simeon, recognise God's saving and redemptive purpose at work in this child who is presented in the Temple. Mary and Joseph listen in wonderment at what is said of their child. When they have "fulfilled the demands of the Law", they return to their hometown of Nazareth.

In the care of Mary and Joseph, the child Jesus grows to maturity, is filled with wisdom and God's favour is with

him. Luke's summary statement introduces us to the wonderful world of a grace-filled family home. It invites us to ponder the wisdom that both Mary and Joseph had to share with their child. They taught him to pray and told him the stories of his people. They filled him with wonder at the goodness of God and of God's creation. They mediated the grace and favour of God and watched him grow and gain the strength he needed for life. They allowed him the freedom to develop his own personality and to find his own Spirit-filled way on the earth. Finally, they had to let him go so that he might follow a path that was beyond their imagining when they came to the Temple in fulfilment of the Law. In other words, while they did what so many parents would want to do for their children, they knew the pain involved even in the best of parenting

By Veronica Lawson RSM

POPE FRANCIS - CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



“Tonight, our hearts are in Bethlehem, where the Prince of Peace is once more rejected by the futile logic of war, by the clash of arms that even today prevents him from finding room in the world,” Pope Francis said, calling to mind the war in the Holy Land and the ongoing violence in the place of Jesus’ birth.

His Message to the world

Today the world’s darkness has been overcome by the light of God, which “enlightens every man and woman” (Jn 1:9)

Rejoice, you who find no peace of heart, for the ancient prophecy of Isaiah has been fulfilled for your sake: “a child has been born for us, a son given to us, and he is named... Prince of Peace” (9:6). Scripture reveals that his peace, his kingdom, “will have no end” (9:7)...

How much violence and killing takes place amid deafening silence, unbeknownst to many! People, who desire **not weapons but bread**, who struggle to make ends meet and **desire only peace**, have no idea how **many public funds are being spent on arms**. Yet that is something they ought to know! It should be talked about and written about, so as to bring to light the interests and the profits that **move**

the puppet-strings of war.

Isaiah, who prophesied the Prince of Peace, looked forward to a day when “nation shall not lift up sword against nation”, a day when men “will not learn war any more”, but instead “beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks” (2:4). With God’s help, let us make every effort to work for the coming of that day!

To say “yes” to the Prince of Peace, then, means saying **“no” to war**, to every war! A defeat without victors, an inexcusable folly! To say “no” to war means saying “no” to weaponry. The human heart is weak and impulsive; if we find instruments of death in our hands, sooner or later we will use them! And how can we even speak of peace, when arms production, sales and trade are on the rise? Today, as at the time of Herod, the evil that opposes God’s light hatches its plots in the shadows of hypocrisy and concealment.

May it come in Israel and Palestine, where war is devastating the lives of those peoples. I embrace them all, particularly the Christian communities of Gaza, the parish of Gaza, and the entire Holy Land. My heart grieves for the victims of the abominable attack of 7 October last, and I reiterate my urgent appeal for the liberation of those still being held hostage. I plead for an end to the military operations with their appalling harvest of innocent civilian victims, and call for a solution to the desperate humanitarian situation by an opening to the provision of humanitarian aid. May there be an end to the fueling of violence and hatred. And may the Palestinian question come to be resolved through sincere and persevering dialogue between the parties, sustained by strong political will and the support of the international community. Brothers and sisters, let us pray for peace in Palestine and in Israel.

My thoughts turn likewise to the people of war-torn Syria, and to those of long-suffering Yemen. I think too of the beloved Lebanese people, and I pray that political and social stability will soon be attained.

Contemplating the Baby Jesus, I implore peace for Ukraine. Let us renew our spiritual and human closeness to its embattled people, so that through the support of each of us, they may feel the concrete reality of God’s love.

May the day of definitive peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan draw near. May it be advanced by the pursuit of humanitarian initiatives, by the return of refugees to their homes in legality and security, and by reciprocal respect for religious traditions and the places of worship of each community.

Let us not forget the tensions and conflicts that trouble the region of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and Sudan, as well as Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

May the day draw near when fraternal bonds will be consolidated on the Korean peninsula by

undertaking processes of dialogue and reconciliation capable of creating the conditions for lasting peace.

From the manger, the Child Jesus asks us to be **the voice of those who have no voice**. The voice of the innocent children who have died for lack of bread and water; the voice of those who cannot find work or who have lost their jobs; the voice of those forced to flee their lands in search of a better future, risking their lives in grueling journeys and prey to unscrupulous traffickers.

A JUBILEE YEAR

Brothers and sisters, we are approaching the season of grace and hope that is the Jubilee, due to **begin a year from now**. May this time of preparation for the Holy Year be an opportunity for the conversion of hearts, for the rejection of war and the embrace of peace, and for joyfully responding to the Lord's call, in the words of Isaiah's prophecy, "to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners" (61:1).

Those words were fulfilled in Jesus (cf. *Lk* 4:18), who is born today in Bethlehem. Let us welcome him! Let us open our hearts to him, who is the Saviour, the Prince of Peace!



HOLY EUCHARIST SCHOOL

Important Date:

- ⇒ **Mon 29th Jan** -Staff return to school
- ⇒ **Tues 30th Jan** -Students in Prep to Year 6 return to school

Week starting 3rd January 2024 Group 12 - South Sudanese Community - Peter & David



READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 02-01-24

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 03-01-24

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri

Thurs 9:00 AM, 04-01-24

Reader: Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 05-01-24

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 06-01-24

Lit. Coordinator: Charlie Pace
Commentator: Alastair Surrao
Readers: Miriam Vella
Anthony Naidu
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri
Josephine Cassar
Reno Attard

Sun 8.45 AM, 07-01-24

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen
Commentator Salve Nidea
Readers: Wilma Marmur
Mini Eddy
Eucharistic Min: Shirley Krizmanic
Helen Maddela
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:00AM, 08-01-24

Lit. Coordinator: Christine Pedroso
Commentator: Rita Martin
Reader: Samoan Choir
Samoan Choir
Eucharistic Min. Christine Pedroso
Br. Noel Debono
Br. Anthony Gatt

Sun 6.00PM, 08-01-24

Lit. Coordinator Larnie Mendoza
Commentator Rod Lalunio
Reader Xuan Duong
Lani Laririt
Eucharistic Min. Rod Lalunio
Xuan Duong
Lani Laririt

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 7th January 2024

- ♦ 6.00pm – Volunteer

Sunday 8th January 2024

- ♦ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
- ♦ 10.00am - Samoan Choir
- ♦ 6.00pm - Exxemos

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Marlene Ferdinand, Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Arnord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Death Anniversaries

Marko Dorinko(1st Anniv.) Jan & Jovan Vala, Elizabet & Jan Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Zammit, Ivica Krizmanic, Nihal Ellawala, Ananda Wickrema, Maria Nguyen Thi Dao, Joseph Formosa, Hoang Family (Fanxico, Maria, Maria & Teresa) & Nguyen Family(Joseph, Anna & Maria), Nazareno & Josephine Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Cornelio Maddela, Grazio (Horace)Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, Mac-co Ngo Van Thinh, Lucia Huynh Thi Kim Hue, Phero Ngo Minh Truong, Maria Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le Nghia, Matta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le Quang Tuan, Theresa Nguyen Ngoc Giang Thu, Dominico Le Ngoc Son, Maria Tran Thi Huong, Mary Camilleri, Richard & Connie Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Duong Family, Do Family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Mollie Rice (Marie), Raymond Abela and All Souls

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW

Unless your family loves you, nothing else makes sense. In your family your vocation can grow in wisdom, age and grace

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.