

FR EDEN FAREWELL: Fr Eden's last day is **Sunday, 1 January** and a Farewell Morning Tea will follow 10am mass. Please join us as we thank Father most sincerely for his contribution to our Parish over the last 6 months and wish him all the best in his new Parish, Holy Spirit in Gungahlin, Canberra. Hopefully Father will look back fondly of his time spent at Sacred Heart, Moruya and we'll look forward to his visits.

MASS TIME CHANGES: Please note there will be **no masses at Sacred Heart next Tuesday and Wednesday**. Mass times will be Thursday, and Friday at 9:15am and also the 1st Saturday of the month 9:15am.

NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Sts Peter and Paul's Goulburn

Volunteer for just 2 hours a month: You will be joined by another volunteer to welcome pilgrims and visitors to the only Greenstone Church in the world. Join us in this exciting adventure. For more details and to register, visit the Archdiocese website or scan this code.

HOW TO OBSERVE WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1. Pray for peace

When nothing else can be done, one can always pray for peace. One can always pray for those who are distressed, are in agony, or are away from home. A simple prayer for the welfare of those people can make a difference.

2. Learn about peace

Without knowing the unrest in the world, the social and political issues in the world, a person would be oblivious to the face of how much the world needs peace. Learn about these issues from different sources, and think about how the world can be made better.

3. Act for peace

After all your prayers and learning, act. Play your part in the effort to achieve peace. Teach others about the issues and help the distressed people in your area. Save someone from their misery caused by social and political issues. Spread awareness.

“Let us preach the peace of Christ like He did;

He went about doing good” — Mother Teresa



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr Eden Langlands

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9am—2pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 5:15pm-5:45pm before Mass

Tuross Mass: Sun: 8am

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am Adoration 40 mins before weekday Mass



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- YEAR A -

December 31 & 1 January 2023

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

World Day of Peace

The **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ, whom she had circumcised on the eighth day after his birth according to Levitical Law. Christians see him as the Lord and Son of God.

The feast is a celebration of Mary being the mother of Jesus. The English title "Mother of God" is a literal translation of the Latin title *Mater Dei*, which in turn is a rendering of the Greek title Θεοτόκος (*Theotokos*), meaning "Bearer of God" dogmatically adopted by the First Council of Ephesus (431) as an assertion of the divinity of Christ. The Second Vatican Council stated: "Clearly from earliest times the Blessed Virgin is honoured under the title of Mother of God" and at an early stage the Church in Rome celebrated on 1 January a feast that it called the anniversary (*Natale*) of the Mother of God. When this was overshadowed by the feasts of the Annunciation and the Assumption, adopted from Constantinople at the start of the 7th century, 1 January began to be celebrated simply as the octave day of Christmas, the "eighth day" on which, according to Luke 2:21, the child was circumcised and given the name Jesus.

In the 13th or 14th century, 1 January began to be celebrated in Rome, as already in Spain and Gaul, as the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord and the Octave of the Nativity, while still oriented towards Mary and Christmas, with many prayers, antiphons and responsories glorifying the maternity of Mary



World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1 every year, is a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this occasion, Popes generally make authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings (C.S.T.). The theme of the feast has always been about creating a culture of care. The Pope and the Vatican Church stress the need to care and share tolerance for each other, and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others. The benefits of a peaceful society have been the emphasis of every year's World Day of Peace.

World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitised and oriented for peace and understanding. Inspired by the papal letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio", the Pope recommended that the church play a greater role in our search for world peace, and so this day, January 1, was appointed as a holy day to celebrate efforts for world peace. According to the letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio," the Church and the Pope would focus on working toward achieving peace by developing order in four major areas: The relationship of an individual with other human beings, the relationship of an individual with particular states, the relationship of states among states, and the relationship of individuals and states with the worldwide community. The church determined that in order to achieve actual peace, a culture of understanding and tolerance must be developed, beginning from the individual up to the state and then the global level.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:16-21

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Communion Antiphon: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

THE WORD AND LIFE ... this week

Today we begin a new year according to the secular calendar. And even though much of the rest of the world has begun "de-decking" the Christmas decorations, the Church continues to celebrate the Christmas season. The Gospel for this Feast of Mary, Mother of God is the account of the shepherds travelling to Bethlehem to give homage to the Child Jesus.

How did the shepherds know where to find the child Jesus? In those days there was no GPS system to guide them on their trip. However, the shepherds did have a brilliant start to lead them to Jesus. After worshipping the Child Jesus, the shepherds departed and spread the "good news that a child had been born." Interestingly enough, no one questioned the shepherd's announcement; rather, everyone who heard the announcement were filled with joy and amazement.

One of the most profound statements in this Gospel is: "Mary kept all these things in her heart and pondered them." What is in your heart that you ponder? It may be an event or occasion, or encounter that brought you great joy. Or perhaps you may reflect on a difficulty or challenge in your life. In today's fast-paced world, we need to choose to deliberately ponder and reflect on our lives. Pondering is not always easy. When we are hurting or feeling alone, the last thing we may want to do is to reflect on our pain or loss. It may be more comfortable to simply numb the pain. Yet, God invites us to ponder our gifts, our joys and our sorrows.

At various times Mary experienced the gamut of emotions in her life: from great joy to confusion, as well as great sorrow and loss. Mary deeply experienced the joys and sorrows that life holds. Pray to Mary; her presence and strength may gift us with a peace that will calm our hearts and our minds.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, and the sick members of our Parish: Ben Pollock, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry, Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Jenny McCaskill, Annette Moore, Annette and John Nader, John Harnett, Ross Hay, Bernard Carroll, Taine Woodford, Jaijing Greenwood, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales and Lyn Timms.

JAMBEROO RETREAT 2023: The dates for next year's retreat are 20-23 March and payment will be required late January. For more detailed information including prices and accommodation and/or to express your interest, please contact Susie McCosker 0426 820 860.