

## NORTHERN MISSION

incorporating Queanbeyan, Michalego, Bungendore and Braidwood Parishes.

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com>

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Father Troy Bobbin

**Associate Priest:** Father Peter Day (Braidwood & Bungendore)

**Deacon:** Chris Van Gessel (Bungendore)

**Pastoral Associate, Braidwood:** Br Brian Berg

**Parish Website:** <http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aspx>

**Braidwood Contact Numbers:** Ph. 4842 2444;

**Mobile:** 0408 687 915

**Parish email:** [braidwood@cg.org.au](mailto:braidwood@cg.org.au)

**Br. Brian email:** [bcberg@edmundrice.org](mailto:bcberg@edmundrice.org)

**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Trish Ferlitsch Ph. 4842 2413

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Thurs 9.00am - 5.00pm.



### Mission Sunday Masses:

St Raphael's Q'bn 5.30pm Sat  
9am & 5.30pm Sun

St Mary's Bung. 8.30am Sun

St Bede's B'wood 6.00pm Sat

# Northern Mission



**Feast of the Holy Family  
Year C  
30 December 2018**

### Ministries for our Sunday Mass

	29 December	5 January	12 January
Commentator:	H Hart	P Coady	H Hart
Readers:	W Hart B Beale	A Monkhouse H Bopping	W Hart B Beale
Acolyte:	F Schlager	L Hart	J Gunderson
Sp. Ministers	B Schlager H Pieper	A Monkhouse W Hart	H Bopping volunteer
Welcomer:	G Sutton	C Ffrench	H Pieper
PowerPoint:	H Hart	H Hart	H Hart
Gifts:	Eileen & Dennis	Cathy	Norah

Ministries of Service:	4 January	11 January	18 January
Altar Decorating:	Cathy	Margaret	Fran
Cleaners:	Wendy & Pauline	Felix	Bobbie & Pauline

**Sp. Min hospital:** 1st Sun: Eileen Dempsey. 2nd Sun: Helen Pieper.  
3rd Sun: Brian Berg. 4th Sun: Ann Monkhouse. 5th Sun: Brian Berg.

**Counters:** 1st Sun: K & M Toirkens. 2nd Sunday: G Kain. 3rd Sunday: Wendy Hart.  
4th Sunday: E Hannaford. 5th Sunday: H Bopping.

**World Community for Christian Meditation is held Thursdays** at 10.30am at St Bede's Presbytery. For information please contact Br. Brian on 4842 2444. Newcomers are always welcome. Check out the websites: [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org) or [www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)

### St Vincent de Paul Society Braidwood Conference:

*"Giving a helping hand up"*

**Office Hours: Closed until 18 January 2019.**  
**Please contact BLC if in need of assistance.**



### Readings:

**This week:** 1st: Sirach: 3:2-6,12-14. 2nd; Col 3:12-21. Gospel: Luke 2:431-52.

**Next week: Epiphany:** 1st Is. 60:1-6. 2nd: Eph. 3:2-3,5-6. Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.

*Join us in Prayer*

### Responsorial Psalm:

#### Response:

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!



**Next weekend Mass time:** Vigil Saturday at 6pm in St Bede's Church.

**Weekday Mass:** Resumes 28th January.

**Liturgy of the Word:** in recess until February.

**Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

**Braidwood AA** meets Tuesdays at 7pm & Thursdays at 4.30pm at MPS.

**Social Justice Group** next meeting Sunday February 3 at 10.30am

### **Reflection: The Holy Family**

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile.

Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God. Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow!

We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family.

Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered by the occupying Roman Army.

The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that once she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans.

By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelength, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death.

You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own.

Most families are about being generous, loving, stable and faithful.

They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before.

Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society.

For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today.

So what's the secret?

Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key

As Christians, love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive.

But if my experience is anything to go by, 'I'm sorry' is second only to 'I love you' as the hardest statement to say and hear, in family life.

In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words.

True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

May this feast of the Holy Family, then, give our families the 'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference'. Richard Leonard SJ

**Rosters will be renewed for mid January.** In the meantime, please note that in the absence of the Flores family any ministries that involved them will require adaptation eg. cleaners will be moved up a week. We especially need volunteers on the Commentator/Prayers of Faithful, Power Point operator, cleaner and Special Ministers. Training will be given in any ministry requested. If anyone would like to participate in a ministry please let either Br Brian or Helen Hart know, so you can be included on the new roster.

**Please pray for the sick:** James Clarke, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Matthew Foote, Lindsay MacLean, Claire Whatley, Dick Laurie, Val Biggers, Catherine Sheridan, Marj Byrnes, Diana Wiley, Tony Ryan, Luke Ward, Len Kanowski, Tony Riley, Robin Marsden, Barbara Monaghan, John Sheldon, Sarah Lewis, Richie Simpson, Mark Sisman, Sarah Cree, the residents of Narbethong & the aged care unit and all who need our prayers.

**Please pray for those who have died in recent days:**

Charlie Harrison, Patrick Wiley, Robert Rolf, and our own deceased relatives and friends.