

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 4

24 December 2017

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest
Fr Kieran Adams OP

Assistant Priests
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

Holy Rosary Church
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Office Staff
Jacquie Cortese
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Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9.00am–12.30pm

Parish Council
Andrew Blakey

Mass times
Wed 5.30pm
Tues & Thurs 6.45am
Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 5pm (Vigil)
Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm
9am Mass Saturday & Public
Holidays
excluding Mondays

Pray the Rosary
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass
Saturday after 9am Mass
and First Saturday each month
3.30pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 12pm–12.30pm
and 4pm–4.30pm

ACU Chapel Signadou
Masses are now suspended
until February 2018

If you are in Urgent need of
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

VERITAS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Love

The Lord is with you



A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.
GOSPEL	Alleluia, alleluia!
ACCLAMATION	I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.
READINGS	2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 Romans 16:25-27 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

DON'T FEED YOUR ANGER

'We are challenged to forgive those who hurt us and to forgive them seventy times seven. I used to take this challenge in my stride. Then some years ago I was seriously betrayed by someone close to me. This time it wasn't easy to forgive. 'Later I read a parable about a Native American grandfather who told his grandson how he felt about a tragedy that had befallen him. He said, "I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One is the vengeful, angry, violent one. The other wolf is the loving, compassionate one." The grandson asked him, "Which wolf will win the fight in your heart, Granddad?" The grandfather answered, "The one I feed."
Excerpt from a reflection by Fr Noel Connolly SSC

PSALM : 88:2-5, 27, 29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Fr Ellis Clifford, Philip Bailey, Dion Convine, Edith Jensen, Mary Harrigan, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi, Maureen Blood, Charles Ryan, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Awny El-Ghitany, Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Rosemary Denmead, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Alexia Harris, Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi, Lynn & Richard Bale, Zelma McManus
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Please remember our deceased:	Waqaa Ashraf, Ray Ramsay, Natale Palombi, Mollie Bouquet
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In memory	Bill McManus, Chris Ford
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ST VINCENT DE PAUL - THANK YOU

"Thank you" to parishioners and Rosary School parents for contributions to the hampers. Special THANKS for the assistance from "The Merici Elves - Andrew and his assistants" in the sorting of contributions and packing of the hampers. Thanks also goes to those who delivered the hampers and not the least to St Vincent de Paul members who work tirelessly all the year.

HOUSE OF GOLD

Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Fr Leon Pereira OP

*urges us to accept Our Lady as our Mother,
in accordance with Christ's command.*

Everyone seems to have an opinion on 'What Would Jesus Do', the catchphrase of our times. In contrast, Catholicism is not about what we can do for God; it is about what Jesus does for us. It is not about wondering 'What Would Jesus Do' in this or that situation. Catholicism is the affirmation of what Jesus did do: he founded the Catholic Church, he sent her the Holy Spirit, he established her on Peter and the apostles, he promised that the Gates of Hell would never prevail against her.

The dream for (pre-)apostolic 'purity and simplicity' – one which differs radically from the nature of the Catholic Church – is a vain and fond illusion. Instead, the reality we inherit – of bishops, priests, and deacons, the seven sacraments, the teaching authority of the Church – are all what Jesus left us. If we truly want what Jesus wants of us, we become members of his body on his terms, not ours. It is not something we do for God, but something he does for us. Yet King David, psalmist par excellence, provoked God by conducting a census, the implication being that David – not God – was in charge, and later sought to build God a temple. The Lord, through the prophet Nathan, told David, 'Would you build me a house to dwell in? ... the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house' (2 Samuel 7.4, 11).

In the Gospel, Mary is asked by God to become the Mother of Jesus. And she replies that she is God's handmaid, that without him she would be nothing. Through her God does build himself a house. In fact, God fulfils his promise to David in Mary. Mary knows she cannot do anything without God's grace. The angel greets her 'Hail, full of grace', but this grace is something she has received freely and continued freely to receive. Through her God builds himself a house: the Body of Christ. Jesus and his followers who are part of his body, a kingdom which will never end, the Catholic Church perfected in glory. Our Lord begins his ministry with this challenge: 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days'. But the temple he spoke of was his body (cf. John 2.19, 21). The other temple, the one David proposed to build and his son Solomon completed (and was rebuilt later by others) became theologically redundant. Only the house built by God, the Body of Christ, is to endure. When considering what Jesus actually did do, we should not neglect the fact that He gave Mary to us to be our mother (John 19.27). She, the Mother of the Messiah (cf. Rev 12.5), is revealed also to be the mother of those 'who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ' (Rev 12.17). If what matters is what Jesus actually did, then receiving his mother as our own must rank high in our priorities, no matter our preferences. In her company, we watch and pray for the Lord to come, and that his will be done. Amen.