

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 3
30th December 2019
Year C

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest
Fr Kieran Adams OP

Assistant Priests
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address
PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925

Email: watson@cg.org.au
www.cg.org.au/watson

Office Staff
Jacquie Cortese
Jim Smith

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

Holy Family



Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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

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

ENTRANCE	The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.
READINGS	1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

AT YEAR END

As we come to the end of the year, we reflect on how God has been with us every step of the way. We thank God for his gentle, loving presence – and pray that in the New Year we will be more alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, leading us through Jesus into even deeper union with our loving God.



PSALM: 83:2-3,5-6, 9-10

How happy they who dwell in your house,
O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength.

Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

How happy they who dwell in your house,
O Lord.

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms.

It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week. For all other bookings, Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

HOLY FAMILY

The **Holy Family** consists of the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph. Veneration of the Holy Family was formally begun in the 17th century by Saint François de Laval, the first bishop of New France, who founded a Confraternity. The Feast of the Holy Family a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honour of Jesus, his mother, and his legal father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. Since the 1969 the feast is celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas.

THANK YOU

Fr Kieran, Fr Rafael, Fr Bernie
as well as members of the Parish Team
would like to thank all parishioners for
your generosity and help during the year.

We have a huge list of people to
acknowledge. 'Thank You' to members
members of the Parish Pastoral
Council & Parish Finance Council.

'Thank You' to the Acolytes,
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers,
Musicians & Choir, School of
Religion Catechists, Counters
& Collectors, Social Function,
Pastoral Care, Flower Ladies,
Maintenance, St Vincent de Paul,
Altar Linen/Sacred Vessel Carers,
Prayer & Reflection Groups,
Sausage Sizzlers, and all the other
quiet achievers who contribute to
the life of our wonderful Parish!

We share with you the glory, the wonder,
the miracle of this Beautiful Holy Season.



PICTURE PERFECT



Today we celebrate the Holy Family, which quite simply is a picture of a family. It is sadly ironic that some times our reaction to the Holy Family is discouragement. We see a Christmas card of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in which everything is perfect and beautiful, and our first thought is, "My family looks nothing like that!!"

To begin with, we need to be clear – the Holy Family is not a Christmas card. This family, filled with grace as it was, went through unbelievable difficulties, trials, and struggles. Having grown up on a dairy farm, I am very familiar with the sights, sounds, and smells of a barn and it doesn't resemble what you see on Christmas cards! That is what our own families are like certainly

not perfect. This family, the Holy Family, like ours, needed to make choices to love when it was difficult, to be faithful when the way forward was anything but sure. The Holy Family provides an ideal, yes, but one, which is still a real human family, that knows the very same hardships we know. Thus this day is a day of hope, not discouragement.

Fr Todd Koenigsknecht <http://tobinstitute.org>

In Your
Prayers
please
remember
those in our
community
who are ill:

Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Mary Martin
Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi,
Maureen Blood, Ken Rolls, Anne Corver,
Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany,
Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris,
Sharon O'Rourke, Beth Delos Santos,
Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Neddrie, Helen Miller,
Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster,
Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi,
Zelma McManus, Catherine Feehan

In Memory

Bill McManus

OUR EXAMPLE OF FAMILY

The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us by the Church this weekend as a model for our families. We call them "*The Holy Family*" but that does not mean that they did not have problems. Just as every family has to face problems and overcome them, or to put it another way, has to carry a cross, so also The Holy Family had to carry crosses. Their many crosses come to mind as we read the Scriptures.

What kept The Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is 'Love for each other and God'. Jesus' love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father. We can see Jesus' love for his mother when he was dying on the cross and was worried about leaving her behind so he asked his close friend and disciple John to look after her, saying to Mary, 'Woman behold your son', and to John 'behold your mother' (John 19:26-27). What holds our families together also in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking. When discipline needs to be given, if it is not given in love it is reduced to abuse. If ever our families fail in any way, it is because of a lack of love on someone's part. Whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love.

I believe that the greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socializing, or watching TV that we have less and less time for each other. What a pity. There is a story about a solicitor who lived a considerable distance from her elderly father. Months had passed since they had been together and when her father called to ask when she might visit, the daughter detailed a list of reasons that prevented her from taking the time to see him, e.g., court schedule, meetings, new clients, research, etc., etc. At the end of the recitation, the father asked, "When I die, do you intend to come to my funeral?" The daughter's response was immediate, "Dad, I can't believe you'd ask that! Of course, I'll come!" To which the father replied, "Good. Forget the funeral and come; I need you more now than I will then." As I said, I believe one of the greatest threats facing families now is simply that we do not spend enough time together. Spending time together with the family is a way of showing our family that we love them. When we love our family we want to sacrifice ourselves by spending time with them, and all the more so when we realize that by not spending time with them we are depriving them of our love and hurting them.

Just as the Holy Family survived all its crises through love for each other and faith in God, let us pray during this Mass that our families will conquer all difficulties through love for each other and faith in God.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Let us ask for wisdom and knowledge for all families today.

Let us ask that our own personal lives may be completely guided by seeking God. And let us thank God who loves us so much that He has sent His only Son to be our Saviour!

"Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God."



LEARNING TO BE YOUNG

Feast of the Holy Family.

Fr Timothy Calvert OP

preaches on the Holy Family.

A Dominican novice once wrote home to his father, complaining of his many duties and the demands of the divine office, even rising in the early hours to pray. His father was not impressed, and replied:

'My boy, your mother and I have to get up three or four times a night to calm a crying baby [they had just had their *fourteenth* child], and that is less romantic than your night office.'

Many of the capacities and abilities we take for granted as adults and probably never even think of are the fruit of our parent's unromantic sacrifice. Brushing teeth, tying laces, riding bikes: nobody is born with these abilities - someone has had to endure boredom of the highest degree, repeating the same old thing again and again for our sake. How bored my mother must have been spending night after night throwing me in the air whenever I managed to read a word correctly (I had stubbornly refused to start reading), but it worked and I was soon reading without any encouragement. Each one of us all the time carries the fruit of countless acts of generosity and sacrifice. That is what it means to belong to a family, to be part of a context where people give themselves freely so others can grow and develop. I exist against a hidden backdrop of generation after generation, a story of formation in human living of which I am a link in the chain.

Jesus, as the genealogies in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke remind us, is himself part of a family story, he exists against a backdrop of generation forming generation, of sacrifice and generosity. In the Gospel we see Jesus's immediate family context stretched to the limit through anxiety and fear of loss.

Mary and Joseph have searched for three days and three nights for Jesus, and when they find him in the Temple his words must have cast a shadow over the life they lived together: 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house.' The child given to them to raise, to sacrifice for, is destined to be *the* sacrifice of liberation for the whole human race. Jesus's destiny is to hand everything back to the source of creation, so that it may be renewed and recreated. He reveals to us that the backdrop of all things is the patient generosity of the Father, who will sacrifice even his own Son that we may have life.

So the holy family is a family learning to live backwards. The child is often the image of the parents, but in this family Mary is in the image of her Son: without sin she is a mirror for the newness of what God is doing in Christ, and Joseph - like us a sinner - is called to let that image be formed in him patiently, through the graces of the Holy Spirit working within him.

This family, called to form and raise a boy, is a school where the adults are formed through knowing and loving the child. The Gospel contrasts the scribes in the Temple, amazed at the wisdom of the boy Jesus, as so many will be amazed at his words in his earthly ministry - an amazement so compatible with taking offence, rejecting Jesus, putting him to death. Those entrusted with teaching Israel will not want to learn, will not be able to see.

But Mary, we are told, 'kept all these things in her heart.' Mary's humility lets her be schooled by her own child, and so she can be formed ever more deeply in the image of the one who is the true image of the Father. Going back to Nazareth Jesus is obedient to Mary and Joseph, and grows in stature. The holy family is a place of passing on the story of human life, of the old shaping the young. But even more this family is a place where the young shape the old, where the heart must grow younger as it contemplates the face of Christ.

So much of what we do is passing on, passing on the goods of human life and human living to those who will come after us.

Whether it is our savings, the future good of the planet, or a love of great literature, human beings seek to pass it on to others. But not everything is passing away into the future. The child born of Mary has come to renew the human race, to make it young again in the freshness of God's Holy Spirit through the merciful patience of the Father.

Fr Timothy Calvert OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Catechists are still needed to help with the classes. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. Now in recess until February 2019.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at www.wccm.org

CARDS Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

COFFEE GROUP Our monthly coffee group will meet the **third Thursday** of each month Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, newcomers most welcome.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

WEEKLY READER FORMATION Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

PRAY THE ROSARY will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For information - Letty 0418 518 033

CARE OF THE SICK If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

COELIACS Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T- switch on your hearing aid.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

CATHOLIC VOICE WEBISTE - The Archdiocese has launched a brand new **CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE** for current news in the archdiocese this link is <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/>

BLESSING

We often hear the words "bless" or "blessing" in religion. What technically is a blessing? One major dictionary explains it as, "something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being, or prosperity". In the religious sense, it is a prayer that God will confer this happiness, etc. on someone. Moses gave this right (or rite) to his brother, Aaron and his priestly descendants. Certainly it is appropriate to seek God's blessing at the dawn of a new year. But its use in today's Mass has a special meaning. Mary was called "blessed... among all women" by the angel. The manner of this blessing was that she gained an intimacy with God held by no other. *Excerpt from a commentary by Fr Richard Lonsdale*

Let spirituality be your new years resolution,
may God bless you, we wish you the happiest of years
God is all you need to succeed.

EVENTS

31 December - NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL

The Marian Movement of Priests invites parishioners and their friends to the 12th Annual Prayer vigil at St Michael's Church, 2 Tyrrell Circuit, Kaleen at 8.30pm. The First Cenacle will be prayed at 8.45pm (Joyful Mysteries), the Second Cenacle at 9.45pm (Luminous Mysteries), the Third Cenacle at 10.45pm (Glorious Mysteries) with Exposition from 8.30pm until 11.45pm followed by Midnight Mass. For further inquiries phone Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202

31 December — NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION

New Year's Eve adoration vigil at St Peter Chancels, Weston St, Yarralumla with Holy Mass at midnight. Come and adore Jesus in the Blessed sacrament from 8pm until 2am. Mass starts at midnight. For more information call Susanna on 0419 902 293."

6-13 January 2019 - SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION

A week long retreat into the powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, opening up possibilities for deepening faith, peace, healing, joy, freedom and passion for the Gospel of Jesus. An outreach of the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community. St Stanislaus College, Bathurst and other locations around Australia. Email bathurst@summerschool.org.au or Visit <https://summerschool.org.au> for more information.

17 - January "Change The Heart Prayer Service"

Attend the prayer service at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture from 6pm regarding the 26th of January. Light refreshments provided. Contact: Rev Kathrine Rainger, k_rainger@hotmail.com Hazel Davies, hazeldavies@gmail.com, Rev Tracey Matthews, traceyann.matthews@gmail.com. During the service an offering will be taken up to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian ministry through the Grasstree Gathering www.grasstreegathering.org.au.

7-18 June - TEN DAY RENEWAL IN THE YEAR OF LUKE

Join Dr Elizabeth Dowling RSM, an Australian biblical scholar, as she leads participants in an exploration of mercy, compassion and release in the Gospel of Luke at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. Bookings: 02 6380 5222 or info@stclement.com.au

Motor Insurance Claims

'My car got hit by a submarine.'

A true story! The US Navy informed the wife of a submariner that the craft was due in port. She drove to the base to meet her husband and parked at the end of the slip where the sub was to berth. An inexperienced ensign was conning the sub and it rammed the end of the slip, breaking a section away, causing her car to fall into the water. The Navy covered the insurance claim.

We become what we love
Who we love shapes what we become.
St Clare of Assisi

ROSTERS 5 / 6 January 2019

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Tran	
Readers	A. Blakey	M. Cox
Presentation of Gifts	Blakey Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle
Presentation of Gifts	Bandle Family	
EMOE	M. Falk	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	J. Cooke	A. McCarthy
Presentation of Gifts	Barbaro Family	
EMOE	E. Musolino	M. Mastrolembro

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	V. Van der Sanden	
Presentation of Gifts	J. Curnow	
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca
Counters	F. Higgins	N. Higgins I. Buckley