

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 11  
2nd February 2020  
Year A

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*  
Fr Kieran Adams OP

*Assistant Priests*  
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP  
Fr Mannes Tellis 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](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)  
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*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

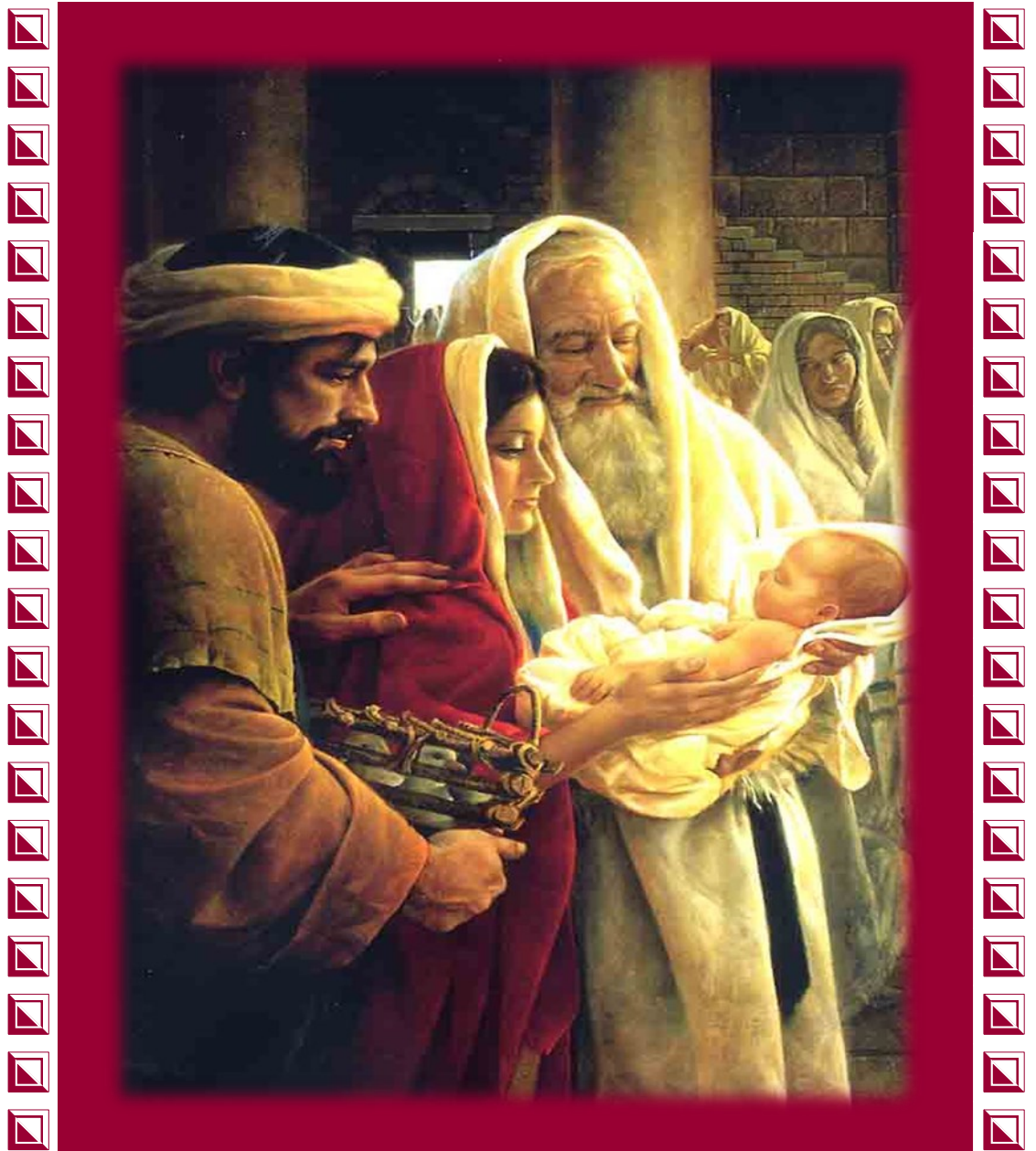
**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**  
9am Mass Saturday & Public  
Holidays  
excluding Mondays

*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  
and 4pm—4.30pm

*ACU Chapel Signadou*  
Thursday—12.30 pm

# Presentation of the Lord



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

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

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.
<b>READINGS</b>	Malachi 3:1-4    Hebrews 2:14-18 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

### PSALM: 23:7-10

Who is this king of glory?  
It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?  
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,  
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?  
He, the Lord of armies,  
he is the king of glory.

Who is this king of glory?  
It is the Lord!



### BAPTISM



#### *Amelia Tuckwell*

will be baptised this weekend.  
May her life  
be filled with God's peace,  
and her heart with God's love...  
on this Baptism day and always.

### BLACKFRIARS PARISH BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Blackfriars Parish will be making a contribution to the Parish of Batemans Bay to help the seven families in the Parish who have lost their homes. Our Parish will sponsor one of the families.

- Envelopes are provided over the next few weeks for your contribution to these families.
- If you wish to pay by Credit Card please fill-in your details on the back of the envelope.
- The envelopes can be put on the second collection plate.
- Contributions can be made by Electronic Funds Transfer to:  
Blackfriars Parish Watson  
BSB: 062 786  
A/C : 000013341

Reference: Bushfire Appeal & Name

This donation is not tax deductible. Your generosity is most welcome.

### URGENT - ALL PARISHIONERS

Do you have any photographs of Fr Kieran that you would be happy to loan to the parish for display at Yowani Country Club on the occasion of Fr Kieran's farewell dinner on Saturday 22nd February.

We would endeavour to display all photographs submitted. Photographs would need to be received at the parish office no later than Sunday 16th February. Please write your name on the back of **ALL** photographs for safe return. Photographs can be collected from the foyer of the church the weekend of 29th February or from the parish office after that date. Thank you.

Somehow along the way, we must learn  
that there is nothing greater than to do something for others.

### PARISH FAREWELL DINNER

The Parish will hold a dinner to farewell our Parish Priest Fr Kieran.

Date: Saturday 22nd February

Venue: Yowani Country Club

Cost: \$50.00 per head (Drinks not included)

Time: 6.30pm

Bookings are essential. Places are limited because of venue size so book early. To book, contact the Parish Office.

Payment **MUST** be made at the time of booking.

**Closing date - 14th February.**

**No late bookings can be accepted. There will not be any places available on the night.**

First preference will go to Holy Rosary Church parishioners.

For our young parishioners and those who are unable to attend the dinner there will be a sausage sizzle farewell on Sunday 23rd February after the 10am Mass.

### PARISH RENEWAL

Over the past year, a group of parishioners, inspired by Plenary Council conversations, have been praying and reflecting on

Parish Renewal in Blackfriars Parish. As part of this process Fr. James Mallon's book "Divine Renovation" was the focus of two parish reading groups over the last couple of months. Now, following on from this, there is a desire to explore running an Alpha course in the parish next year. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith based on a series of short films. Each film looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. It is run in cafés, churches, universities and homes around the globe. The three key elements are: food, a talk and good conversation. It is currently being run in several dioceses in Australia, including ours. If you are interested in participating in Alpha in the parish, you are warmly invited to get in touch with Roger Paul 0421612572; rpaul2572@gmail.com or Siobhan Tanzer 0432 292 498 for more information.

### REFLECTION

Simeon had some ominous words for Mary, the mother of Jesus. "This child is destined for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and your soul a sword will pierce too) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." This is the paradox of Jesus. He comes as Saviour bringing life for the whole world and yet there will be people who will reject his message of truth and life. His own people will be deeply divided over him. This will be a source of deep pain for the Mother, something she will not realize fully until she sees him die in agony before her eyes.

<http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/f0210/>

### NOTE

'When Joseph and Mary presented the child Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized the Lord's presence in his temple. Through eyes of faith he said the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers of the people of Israel. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles". Jesus came not only as "light and salvation" for the people of Israel, but for all nations as well.'

Excerpt from <http://www.dailyscripture.net/>

<b>In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:</b>	Elizabeth Cronin, Greg O'Neill, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Bernard Slammon, Fr Ellis Clifford, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Maureen Blood, Anne Corver, Una Bell, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi, Elsie Lughton, Alexia Harris, June Pollard, Paul Neddrie, Beth Delos Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Pamela Sandy, Elizabeth Webster, Frank Zobec, Zelma McManus, Mary Bui, Mimma Giampietro, Catherine Feehan, Charlotte Woolner, Maureen Dawes, Fr Joe McGeehan
<b>Our deceased</b>	Lyn Horvat, Dominico Pham Khai Hoam
<b>In Memory</b>	Kate Dwyer

## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess.

Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the *Procession*, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the *Solemn Entrance*, celebrated within the church."

*From Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*

## TRANSFORMING HOPE

In presenting the nativity story, Luke moves our gaze backwards into the history of Israel and forwards to the sacrificial death of Jesus and the subsequent Spirit-led growth of the Church. There is another dimension, however, that Luke uses to deepen our vision, and this is best summed up in the image of light. Simeon describes Jesus as a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and afterwards tells Mary that in her child, thoughts out of many hearts will be revealed.

Jesus is the light from above, who enters into the darkness of human history to bring all our deeds, good and bad, to account. Luke directs our gaze upwards, so that we can see how the whole of human history is transformed by the entrance of God into our world in the person of Jesus Christ.

*from a sermon by Fr David Goodill, OP <http://torch.op.org>*

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Our Watson St Vincent de Paul Conference will once again be organising a donation stall at the Canberra Show across the last weekend in February (28 Feb – 1 March). We are calling for volunteers to do 2 hour shifts across the weekend manning the stall and collecting donations. Please contact Tony Malone at either [tonymalone@grapevine.com.au](mailto:tonymalone@grapevine.com.au) or on 0431 542 531.



## THE PRAYERS THE CHURCH STANDS FOR

*Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.*

*Fr Euan Marley OP tells us why the*

*Prayer of Simeon is worth standing up for.*

In the places where the Prayer of the Church is celebrated, there are certain prayers for which we are obliged to stand. This is because these prayers are taken from one of the four Gospels. We stand to show a special respect for the Gospels; but it would also seem appropriate to imagine three of these prayers (the other being the Lord's prayer) being *delivered* by people standing up: The first is the Benedictus, Zechariah's prayer of blessing at the birth of his son, John the Baptist, with the child presumably in his arms. The second is Mary's prayer as she greets Elizabeth after the message of the Angel Gabriel. She is described as standing up and making her way to Elizabeth – the Greek word for standing up also being the word for resurrection. The church stands and recites or sings these prayers at Morning and Evening Prayer.

The third prayer is in today's Gospel on the Feast of the Presentation. It is the prayer of Simeon the priest and it is used at Compline, the last prayer of the day. Simeon takes the child Jesus in his arms, and being in the temple is surely standing to do this.

I said that we stand as a mark of respect but there is more to it than that. Human beings stand up while other animals walk on four legs, which is what is really meant by the phrase 'creeping things' in the seven-day creation in Genesis. So standing up becomes a symbol of our full humanity. It also shows that we are alive. In the great mediaeval paintings of heaven, the saints stand for eternity, without ever growing tired.

It's curious that these prayers, which unfortunately are now largely prayed only by priests, monks and nuns, and not the whole Church as they should be, are prayers involving children. One is part of a joint prayer of praise between two pregnant women, Elizabeth and Mary, while the other two are by men holding babies in their arms. Tertullian, the third century theologian, saw that what really showed the difference the Church had made to the ancient world was in her attitude to babies. It was commonplace for people to abandon unwanted new-born babies in the open. The babies were either left to die or where taken to be used in utterly inhuman ways. Christians took these children to themselves; they embraced them and brought them up, so that they too could stand for the praise of God.

I once heard a radio programme in New York, where the presenter bluntly said to a women caller that men don't want to be fathers. This is, of course, quite wrong, but the sizeable grain of truth in this statement is that while men do want to be fathers, they also want other things and fear other things which can interfere with this desire. The Old Testament contains many stories about men, from Abraham on, who do not easily accept the children they are given. The stories culminate in St Joseph who sums up so much of the experience of the men of the Old Testament, being told not to fear to take Mary as his wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Part of the problem is that men see in the child, consciously or not, a sign of death. The child comes to replace us. Zechariah talks in the Benedictus of those who dwell in the shadow of death. Simeon has been told that he will not see death until he has seen the Messiah, or to put it another way, when he sees the Messiah, then he will die. The paradox is that only by accepting death can we accept life. What about the women then, on this feast of Mary? The strange thing is that Mary's prayer does not address a child. It does speak of the future, of the generations to come and the pattern that God has established for history, where the proud will be laid low. I think that this different focus is because women face a different temptation from men: men are tempted to reject the child; women are tempted not to let go of their child, not to allow their child to face the dangers of the world. This too is to dwell in the shadow of death. The Feast of the Presentation is a feast of light against death's shadow. A man and a woman overcome the fear of death. The man by accepting the child, the woman by presenting the child to God, like Hannah before her, but in a vastly more profound way. Given up to death to overcome death, Christ is the light of nations. Something worth standing up for.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

## IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email, phone or in writing if you would like to a Mass Intention, Memorial Mass, Baptism, or use of the Parish Centre a **minimum two weeks** notice for Wedding bookings **six months** notice is required.

**If you DO NOT book through the Office we cannot guarantee your request.**

If you would like a loved one in the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday 9am** of that week.

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS** - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. **Classes begin Sunday 9 February at 9am.**

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - [www.wccm.org](http://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 at Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our friends & welcome newcomers.

**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. Contact the Office.

**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

**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.

**PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE** for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

**2-6 February - ARCC - PEOPLE'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY**  
A number of groups, including the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, are organising this event, and are hoping to encourage a wide range of people to attend, especially on Sunday 2nd and Tuesday 4th. ARCC is a coalition of faith groups <http://www.climatechange protests.net.au/event/the-peoples-climate-assembly-federal-parliament-canberra>  
For details of the Assembly, google "People's Climate Assembly 2-6 February"  
ARCC's efforts are consistent with Pope Francis' 2015 appeal in **Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home** which was addressed to "every person living on this planet". Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path.  
The organisers of next week's Assembly in Canberra write: In these desperate times, community and religious groups (including ARCC) have come together with passion and conviction to stand up for climate justice. A critical step in the truth being told and real action taking place is the declaration of a climate and ecological emergency. Come join people coming from across the nation to make this a reality.

## ROSTER

9 / 10 February

Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	M. Pentony	J. de Riva O'Phelan
Presentation of Gifts	Tran Family	
EMOE	C. Lewis	
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	N. McGahey	
Readers	N. Clarke	G. Thompson
Presentation of Gifts	P. Zorzi	
EMOE	E. Smith	
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer	
Readers	A. O'Donnell	L. Fardel
Presentation of Gifts	Collett Family	
EMOE	A. Northcote	B. Affas
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	Hall-O'Brien Family	
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca
COUNTERS	G. Gleeson	I. Buckley

## EVENTS

### 3 FEBRUARY - CALVARY HOSPITAL

Calvary Hospital Auxiliary will hold its first meeting for 2020 on Monday 3 February at Calvary Public Hospital, Bruce. Guest speaker will be award winning, internationally best selling Australian author Ms Karen Viggers. Ms Viggers will speak about her latest book, *The Orchardist's Daughter*, her work as a veterinarian and her work and travels in out-back Australia. Meeting at 12.30, guest speaker approx 1pm. New members and visitors most welcome.

### 11 FEBRUARY - CHAMBER PHILAMONIACA COLOGNE

In St Christopher's Cathedral at 8 pm. Vivaldi Concerti virtuosissimi Concerto grosso in D Minor for Strings and basso continuo RV 565 Concerto in E Minor for Bassoon, Strings and basso continuo RV 484 Concerto in B Flat Major for Bassoon and Orchestra KV 191. Tchaikovsky Nocturne for Violoncello and String Orchestra (1884). Paganini Palpitante Theme and Variations for Violin and Orchestra op.13

### 14 FEBRUARY - A PILGRIM'S WALKING RETREAT

From 6.00pm Friday 14th to Sunday 16th at 3.00pm. Enjoy a two-day retreat following the way of the Pilgrim walking the Shalom Labyrinth and around the beautiful Carcoar Valley. This retreat is about reconnecting with your spirituality and your God through the Pilgrim's Camino and the Christian labyrinth. **Cost: \$200 (Includes all meals and accommodation).** Phone: 63673058 Em: [shalomcarcoar@gmail.com](mailto:shalomcarcoar@gmail.com) WWW: <http://shalomcarcoar.com/events/>

### 15 & 16 FEBRUARY - ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit: [www.engagedencounter.org.au](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au) Choose any of the coming Weekends:

**May 2-3, August 1-2, November 7-8.**

**20 April - 16 May - Jesuit led Canberra First Spiritual Exercises Retreat: Inner Peace in Friendship with Jesus.** The retreat in daily life is for: young and old; men and women; married or singles. It is designed to allow you to continue your ordinary daily life with its usual elements, whatever their shape. Within your daily routine, the retreat will guide your prayer and reflection on life. For more details and/or to express interest in attending: <https://www.clcaustralia.org.au/australian-capital-territory/> or 0407147540.