



ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Taylor

Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Galea

Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 11am

Weekday Mass times: Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am and before 9.15am weekday Masses

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday 28 December 2014



Readings for this week: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Reading for next week: Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Liturgical Jottings

The Presentation of Children for Baptism at the Sunday Mass is an interesting development in our parishes. Parents have the opportunity to share with the community the joy and pride they feel for their child. Noticeably the congregation responds warmly and very positively to this. The Baptism that follows whether during or after Mass initiates the child into a lifelong journey of faith as a member of the family of God. A journey entrusted primarily to the parents but also to the parish.

Joy of the Gospel

I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage one another: "By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium n 99

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Looking at the Readings

There is a particularly inspirational flow of thought running through the readings for the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The timeline of this flow is suggested by the opening verse of the Letter to the Hebrews, "In the past God spoke to our Fathers through the prophets. Now he speaks to us through his Son."

The Gospel reading sets the scene for our celebration of the life of the Holy Family, "The parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." This was a requirement of the Jewish faith much as we present our children for the sacraments of initiation today.

In the temple an elderly man named Simeon took Jesus in his arms and, inspired by the Holy Spirit, thanked God saying, "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace ... because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see." Mary and Joseph were surprised by these words but even more so when Simeon added that this child would become "a sign to be rejected."

After they had completed the ceremonial requirements Joseph and Mary returned to the town of Nazareth where Jesus grew to maturity and wisdom while working as a carpenter with his Father. This story has no doubt contributed to the decision of Pope Francis to dedicate his ministry to affirming the key role of the family in life today. "The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children." In the case of Mary and Joseph that was the faith of the people of Israel.

Prayer for the Week: Inspired by Love

Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory is to stand before the world as your own sons and daughters, May the simple beauty of your Son's birth and his life with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth inspire us to love what is most deeply human in our lives and to see your Word made flesh reflected in those whose lives we share.

On the Lighter Side

A priest noticed that baby Jesus was missing from the Christmas Crib. He went outside and saw a boy pulling a new red wagon with baby Jesus in it. He asked him, "Hi, there, what are you doing?" The boy answered honestly, "Well, I prayed to the Lord Jesus and asked him for a wagon for Christmas. I told Him that if He gave me one, I'd take Him for a ride in it."



Welcome to St Brendan's Parish

The Feast of Jesus, Mary and Joseph The Holy Family

"The Holy Family is an icon of the domestic Church, which is called to pray together. The family is the first school of prayer where, from their infancy, children learn to perceive God thanks to the teaching and example of their parents. An authentically Christian education cannot neglect the experience of prayer. If we do not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this gap later. I would, then, like to invite people to rediscover the beauty of praying together as a family, following the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth".

~ Excerpt of an address given by Pope Benedict XVI on
28th December, 2011.



Image from Catholic Online www.catholic.org

Fr Rob's Farewell next Sunday 4th January

Farewell Mass 11am followed by picnic
on the Parish lawns to farewell Fr. Rob. *BYO picnic
lunch, rugs, chairs.* Tea, coffee, water provided.
All welcome.



Farewell

For the month of January, the weekend bulletin will be produced in this smaller one page A4 version.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will not be held over the school holidays and will resume when school begins.

Gluten Free Hosts If you would like to receive Holy Communion but have trouble with coeliac or food intolerances, we have a supply of gluten free hosts. Please see Father before Mass so a pix can be arranged for you.

New Years Eve—All Night Adoration

St. John the Baptist Church, Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah
Wednesday 31st December. All night Adoration commencing with Mass at 7.30pm, Rosary by the Hour, Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3am
Concluding with Benediction & Mass 9.15am on New Year's Day. For information contact Alfred Seiter 58621740.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Bishop Joseph Grech, John Mahony, Kevin Lancaster, William Linehan (Senior), Annie Linehan, William Linehan, Marie Coppinger, Kevin Coppinger.

Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm (Resumes 8th January, 2015)
Lectors & Commentators 3rd & 4th January
6pm J Howley, A Leahy
8am K Demase, JM Mupenda
11am G Jelliff, B Carey

Christmas Liturgies

Special thanks to all who helped in the preparation for our Christmas Liturgies -

- * Team at the Parish house
- * Team for the Stadium Mass
- * Musicians and Sacristans
- * Liturgical ministries and all who helped to make our Liturgies special.

Colouring Sheets for young children

These are located on the clipboards at both entrances. Parents are encouraged to take time to discuss the colouring sheet with their young children and perhaps display them or make a booklet to share with your child. They follow the story of Christ's birth, the Holy Family and the Baptism of Jesus.

Fr Rob's FAREWELL CONCERT & CD LAUNCH

Thursday 22nd January 2015 at Eastbank

Tickets available at the Parish office.

Also available from Riverlinks, Radiant Star Book Shop and Notre Dame College. \$22 or \$18 concession. Also featuring Gary Pinto, from X Factor, Natasha Pinto, recording artist and Genevieve Bryant, Christian artist.

CD's available at the Parish office for \$20.

The Journey Catholic/Christian Radio Program

Right through the Summer Holiday Period, "The Journey Summer Series" will run weekly. It is a "Best of the Journey" program with all of the best inputs and interviews with Sr Hilda Scott, Dr Francine and Byron Pirola, Bruce Downes - The Catholic Guy, Trish McCarthy, Peter Gilmore, Sam Clear and Fr Dave Callaghan. Tune into LIFE 105.1 FM Saturday 4pm or listen in via podcast anytime at www.radio.dow.org.au