



Dear Parishioners,

This weekend our Pastoral Assistant, Aileen Budge, steps down from her role to enable her to spend more time following other pursuits. Aileen took on the role in a volunteer capacity and has worked very hard to meet the many needs of our parishioners, especially the elderly. She has been an invaluable support to myself and Fr. Tadgh, as well as to the parish staff and many, many parishioners and I thank her sincerely. She will be sorely missed in the role, but of course we will still see her smiling face around the parish.

The Feast of the Holy Family, which we celebrate at this weekend's liturgies, is one which should be particularly significant for us. Here in Australia, as in much of the western world, the family is increasingly under threat. Marriages fail and families are broken or many young people decide not to marry or not to have children at all; relationships take second place to individual desires.

The Holy family are a wonderful example to us of what makes a marriage work and what makes family life fruitful. Firstly, both Mary and Joseph entered into the relationship on a basis of complete trust: "Let it be done to me as you have said." Mary accepted the news that she would bear a child with calm serenity and trust in God's plan for her. Joseph also surrendered his misgivings, trusting that the Lord would be in the relationship with him, Mary and the child. With trust in the Lord, they had the courage to leave their homeland, leaving all their family and friends behind them, for the sake of the child Mary was carrying. Nowhere in the stories about the holy family do we see either Mary or Joseph thinking about themselves; their actions were always for the other, in obedience to God.

This is why I am always so happy to have young people come to me, requesting to be married in the Church and within the nuptial Mass. Family life is never easy and so we need God to be right there in the relationship with the husband and wife, giving them the grace to be good partners and good parents.

Let us spend some time this weekend meditating on the example of the Holy Family and reflecting on the health of our own family relationships, asking God to enter into them and make them fruitful and whole.—Fr. Sunny

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS— please collect your new roster from the foyer this weekend, thank you.—Annette Nathanielsz, Co-ordinator.

NEW YEAR'S EVE / DAY MASS TIMES:

New Year's Eve:
Monday 31st Dec - Masses at 7am and 9am

Adoration: Monday, 31st Dec - Please welcome the New Year with us... 11pm—12 midnight.. Please join us for a cuppa after.

Mary Mother of God: Tuesday, 1st January 2013 - Masses at 7am and 9am

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Next weekend, 5th/6th January, the sisters will be present to accept your donations towards their work with the elderly at their home in Glendalough. Please come prepared to give generously to this work of charity and love. Thank you.

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased: Vittoria Pisano;

Anniversaries: Fr. Hubert, OCD, John Lagan, Olive Giltrap, Leonard Struther, Jim & Genevieve Donnelly, Maria Nguyen;

Deceased: John Do;

The Sick of the Parish: all who are in need of our prayers.

"as a child You were persecuted and driven into exile; save all

PARISH OFFICE AND PARISH CENTRE CLOSURE

The parish centre will be closed to all groups from Christmas Day until **Monday 21st January, 2013**. The parish office will be closed from Christmas Day until **Monday 14th January**.

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