

Catholic Parish of St Patrick Guildford

Est. 1933

Fr. Peter Blayney - Parish Priest

Sr. Helen Cunningham OP

Pastoral Associate

32 Calliope Street

Guildford NSW 2161

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Email:

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Website:

www.guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au



**To Live, Love and Act
Like Jesus**

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 3:00pm

Friday: 8:30am to 2:00pm

Closed daily: 12:30pm to 1:00pm

St. Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Mr. Philip Mahony

Phone: 8728.7300

Email:

stpatsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website:

www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au

**22 & 23 December 2018
4th Sunday of Advent - Year C**

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

8:00am and 10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 7:30pm

Wednesday: 9:15am

Thursday: 9:15am

Friday: 9:15am

Saturday: 9:00am

Confessions:

Saturday: 9:30am to 10:15am

5:00pm to 5:45pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- ◆ Every Saturday following the 9:00am Mass until 10:30am, including Prayer for Priests (Vocations).
- ◆ Every 1st Sunday of the month from 11:00am to 12:30pm.



Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office to arrange. Baptisms, held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15am, or during any Sunday Mass, to be negotiated with the Parish Priest. Baptism preparation is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Parish Office. **Booklets need to be obtained from the Parish Office prior to the preparation.**

In his Christmas Day Sermon (189) St. Augustine (354-430), Bishop of Hippo, North Africa said:

'And so let His mercy come to be in our hearts. His mother bore Him in her womb; let us bear Him in our hearts. The virgin was big with the incarnation of Christ; let our bosoms grow big with the faith of Christ. She gave birth to the Saviour; let us give birth to praise. We mustn't be barren; our souls must be fruitful with God.'

Augustine is making reference to the physical features of Mary as she carried Jesus in her womb. This leads us to ponder on what kind of young woman (probably aged twelve) Mary was in her faith and love of God. Augustine encourages his congregation to be people who are full of faith in God, comparing such faith to being big hearted and proud. Just as we feast materially on Christmas Day, equally, or even more, let us be people who are rich in the fruitful graces of God.

Another year of pilgrimage has almost gone. As a parish family, we have gathered each Sunday at least at the tables of the Word and the Eucharist to be fed and nourished for our journey to our heavenly homeland. We have farewelled some members of our parish family and pray they spend eternity with the Lord. We have welcomed new members through the Sacrament of Baptism. We have provided for the spiritual needs of many through our participation in the Sacraments (Penance, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick). We have tried to be good people by the way we treat others we know and do not know. We readily acknowledge that none of us is perfect. We seek the forgiveness of God and others and do our best to extend that forgiveness to those whom we have hurt.

On Christmas Day we celebrate with exultant joy and praise the God who came among us as one of us. As Augustine would say, let our hearts be big with His mercy. We celebrate also with those whom we love: family and friends. Our family is the Church we have at home. We cherish Christ in the midst of our Church. Let us cherish Christ in the midst of our family too.

May all parishioners have a happy and holy Christmas.

~ Fr. Peter Blayney



LITURGY OF THE WORD 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C



1ST READING: MICAH 5:1- 4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19

Response: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

2ND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



PARISH NOTICES

MORNING TEA AFTER SUNDAY 10:00AM MASS: During January 2019, there will be **no** morning tea on the first and third Sundays.

THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION APPEAL: Thank you for your generosity in contributing to The Catholic Foundation Appeal on 1-2 December. The total amount collected by our parish was \$5,912.00.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: Envelopes are available at the back of the Church for parishioners who would like to make a Christmas offering.

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER: The new Altar Society Roster for January 2019 to March 2019 is now available for collection from the Sacristy.

MASS INTENTIONS: To prevent confusion and assumptions, could parishioners clearly identify if a Mass intention, for publication in the Bulletin, is either **Recently Deceased, Anniversary or Deceased**. Printed envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Thank you.

LEGION OF MARY — PARISH VISITATION: Anyone who would like the Legion to call on them or if you know of anyone you think might appreciate a visit by our Legion Ladies, please call Tina on 0432 043 365 or the Parish Office on 9632.2672.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH GUILDFORD

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - 2018

Christmas Eve - Monday, 24 December

6:00pm Children's Vigil Mass

PLEASE NOTE: NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Day - Tuesday, 25 December

8:00am and 10:00am

NO WEEKDAY MASS, CONFESSIONS OR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION BETWEEN WEDNESDAY, 26 DECEMBER AND SATURDAY, 29 DECEMBER.

NORMAL WEEKEND CONFESSIONS AND MASS TIMETABLE RESUMES AT 5:00PM ON SATURDAY, 29 DECEMBER.



Mass Intentions



Recently Deceased:

Maria Ilardi, Audrey Morna King, Monika Vakalepu Lakalaka, Rita Galea

Anniversaries:

Edna Adams, Tom Adams, John Ellson, Taleb, Rose & Joe Nasr, Boutros & Annie Boutros, Dante & Serafina Letta, John Lane, Rosie Watts, Alberto Ramundi

Deceased:

Mary Jane Axiak, Les Romero & Family, McQuillan Family, Tony & Odette, Pierre, Janette & Eid Majed & Hanna Family, Albert Gray & Dawson Family, Mother Maria Nguyen, Hanna & Majed Families, Tokavahua, Falaeo & Faupala Families, Leah, Sononefa & Keletaona Families, Doris Kikanoi, James Phillip Tattam & Family, Victor D. Mitchell & Family, Alfred Xuereb, Albert Vella, Tony & Fadala Aflak, Michael Grima, Emilia Apap, Carmen Theuma, Morgan Family, Friends & Neighbours, Holy Souls in Purgatory

Parish Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council: Meet bi-monthly on a Thursday evening (6:00pm-8:00pm) in the Parish Office.

Social Justice Group: Meet monthly on a Wednesday evening (6:30pm) in the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): For enquiries, please call the Parish Office on 9632.2672.

Music for Worship: Meet once a month at 10:00am in the Parish Office.

Welcome Committee: Meet Bi-Monthly on a Monday at 9:30am in the Parish Office.

The Manning Foundation: Meet 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the Parish Office - Mobile Number: 0497 973 311.

Catechists: Meet 2nd Tuesday of each term at 9:30am in the Parish Office.

Children's Liturgy: Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, during the 10:00am Mass, except during school holidays or when otherwise advised.

Legion of Mary: Meet every Wednesday (after the 9:15am Mass) in the Parish Office.

Sacred Heart Society: Meet 1st Sunday of each month at the 8:00am Mass.



Pope Francis

Joy, prayer and gratitude are three ways that prepare us to experience Christmas in an authentic way.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTMAS 2018 MASS TIMES: Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: www.parracatholic.org

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING THE COMPASSIONATE FACE OF CHRIST TO HOMELESS YOUNG MOTHERS AND CHILDREN IN CRISIS: Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, CatholicCare and Houses to Homes thank you for supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your kind-hearted generosity, Houses to Homes can provide more homeless mothers with the shelter, support, independent living and parenting skills programs they desperately need. Please pray for the wellbeing of all mothers and children in Houses to Homes' care. **If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit:** yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

ST. PATRICK'S GIFT SHOP: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is bringing Christmas cheer by opening an on-site gift shop. Opening hours will be 10:00am–3:00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. **For more information visit:** <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS: Feast of the Holy Innocents will be held on **Friday, 28 December 2018 at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville** (8 Diana Avenue). Starting with Holy Mass at 11:00am in the parish church followed by a procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville. Lunch available. Please bring a plate to share. **Enquiries:** 9629.2595.

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE - THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI: The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January 2019 and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and join parishioners in daily Mass, Adoration, prayer, catechesis and fellowship. **To register for all or part of the pilgrimage visit:** www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. **For updates and to follow the journey see:** www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW - AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION: **Date:** Sunday, 20 January 2019. **Time:** 4.00pm to 6.00pm. **Place:** Holroyd Function Centre, 17 Miller Street Merrylands. Parking available on site. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. All welcome to join the Maltese community to celebrate Australia Day.

ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH, UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS: We will be celebrating two special Masses early next year: **Sunday, 20 January** Santo Niño holy Mass and celebration according to the Filipino tradition (English language). The Mass will take place at St. Canice's Church, Katoomba at 12:00pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome. **Sunday, 10 February** Holy Mass in Spanish. The Mass will take place at St. Canice's Church, Katoomba at 12:00pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

THE ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY SEASON that we Christians celebrate is not simply the observance of events from the past nor is it a sentimental birthday of 'baby Jesus'. It is much more. It is a celebration of God's self-revelation in Jesus the Christ, *Emmanuel* – God who was with people in the past, with us in the present and for all time into the future. God's love is made visible to us in and through Jesus. Our celebration of Christmas cannot be separated from the Paschal Mystery – the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, his ascension into heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit. For three hundred years the Church only celebrated this Paschal Mystery. The crib, the cross and the crown are interwoven and cannot be separated.

PARISH PRAYER

Loving God we thank you for being with us always. Open our hearts to hear your voice.

Help us, Lord, to make this Parish a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, respected, forgiven and encouraged.

In your love and wisdom, help and guide all of us to be good ambassadors for Christ, both in service to others and in proclaiming the Gospel.

Send your Holy Spirit among us Lord so that we may be filled with your grace and peace as we go about our lives in this world.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

ST. PATRICK'S SENIOR CITIZENS

Hello everyone! St. Patrick's Senior Citizens Club will be closed from 10 December and resumes on 4 February. We wish you all a merry and holy Christmas and happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2019.