

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

Phone: 9632.2672

Email:

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Website:

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Manning Foundation — 0497 973 311



**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. Steven Jones

Phone: 8728.7300

Email:

stpatsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website:

www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au

26 & 27 December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph — Year B

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Wednesday: 9:15am

Thursday: 9:15am

Friday: 9:15am

Confessions:

By appointment only.

Please call the Parish Office on phone:

9632.2672



Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office by telephone to arrange a Baptism. Baptisms are 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 will be explained when you contact the Parish Office. **Booklets need to be obtained from the Parish Office prior to the preparation.**

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



Mass Intentions



Recently Deceased:

Franca Coffen, Tony, Lamia & Antonio Farah, Sushila Pakoor, Elias Abou-Mehrez, Luka Matkovic, Katalina Liogi, Logalei Pakihimailagi, Johnn Clark

Anniversaries:

Taleb, Rose & Joe Nasr, Boutros, Annie & George Boutros, Rose Watts, John & Dean Lane, Kapelieli Vakalepu, Malino Nau, Alberto Ramundi

Deceased:

Nayef El-Khoury, Jreige Jlalaty, Mary Jane Axiak, Hanna & Majed Families, Leila Mitchell, Ghasoub & Layla Mardini & Deceased Family Members, Joseph Kusitino Tukana & Family, Tokavahua, Falao & Faupala Families, Malia Lani Nau & Family, Joao & Tomazia Alves, Michael & Noeleen Remaili, Holy Souls in Purgatory



LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – YEAR B



1ST READING: GENESIS 15:1-6. 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 104:1-6. 8-9

Response: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **R.**

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

2ND READING: HEBREWS 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: HEBREWS 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



*Loving God, help
us to live as
the holy family,
united in respect
and love for
all people.*

*May we always be
thankful.*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT MASSES AT ST. PATRICK'S, GUILDFORD

The following provisions apply to gatherings in our parish church:

- 70 persons are permitted for Mass or other liturgical services

However, the COVID-19 health conditions still apply:

- Persons entering the church must use the hand sanitizer provided.
- Persons entering the church must record their names and other contact details..
- Persons must keep the "4 square metre" rule.

WEEKEND MASSES

Masses will be celebrated in the Church:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am and 10:00am

Bookings are no longer required to attend Mass each weekend.

WEEKDAY MASSES

The weekday Mass timetable is: Wednesday 9:15am, Thursday 9:15am and Friday 9:15am.

There will be no Masses on Tuesday at 7:00pm or Saturday at 9:00am until further notice.

Sacrament of Penance

Due to physical distancing provisions, it is not possible to celebrate the Sacrament in the Confessional Room. Please telephone the Parish Office (9632.2672) for an appointment with the Parish Priest who will meet with you within a reasonable time.

Pre-Recorded Sunday Mass

Will be available on the parish website after midday Saturday.

PARISH NOTICES

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. It has been a challenging year of pilgrimage as we were hit by COVID-19. It is clearly not over yet. At Church we have met the various restrictions on movement and numbers. By and large, we have done this positively, mainly due to concern expressed by the second of the Great Commandments: love of neighbour. Even so, as a parish family, post-lockdown from the end of May, we have gathered each Sunday at the tables of the Word and the Eucharist to be fed and nourished for our journey to our heavenly homeland. We have farewelled only a few members of our parish family and pray they spend eternity with the Lord. We have welcomed a few new members through the Sacrament of Baptism. We have provided for the spiritual needs of some 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

THANK YOU to all Parishioners and the St. Patrick's School community who generously donated food items during the Advent season. Your contribution will be put to very good use by the Manning Foundation. Many blessings be with you during this Christmas season.

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.



PASTORAL LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF PARRAMATTA DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS AND CHRISTMAS 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Before the news about the COVID-19 cluster appearing in the Northern Beaches of Sydney came out, many of us were feeling a little more confident that we might have put the worst of the pandemic restrictions behind us.

Since our churches are now subject to the 4 metre square rule, the number of faithful that can attend church is, again, limited. For some of our parishes, this number remains relatively few compared to pre-pandemic numbers. Some of our large capacity churches can increase their numbers.

It was on 20th March 2020 that I decreed that, in accordance with Canons 85 and 87, Catholics are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to attend Mass (Canon 1247). This decree remains in force and will do so for the foreseeable future.

I shall await advice from the health authorities and the NSW Government before rescinding this decree. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (Each Sunday, the Feast of the Assumption and Christmas Day in Australia) is fully explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2180-2188).

At this time, the course of how the pandemic will affect us throughout Australia is still unclear. However, there are signs that we as a nation have successfully beaten the worst ravages of this new virus. We can be a bit more confident about social interaction. Therefore, I would encourage you to attend Masses at your local churches or wherever you normally worship as we enter the Christmas season.

We all know how much the celebration of the Eucharist means to nurturing our faith at the best of times. Even at these pandemic times, I suggest you think about returning to Mass each Sunday.

However, if you still feel in any way vulnerable or unsafe in returning to your parish church, then stay at home. You have probably accessed the many offerings online of the celebration of the Eucharist. These are still available.

Remember that the Eucharist is firstly about our community's expression of faith and love for God and in each other. To support this belief, we apply the obligation to attend whenever and wherever possible.

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas in the company of the God who values us, his people, so much that he sent his only Son as our brother and Redeemer in the blessed and helpless baby Jesus of Bethlehem.

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen
OFM Conv**

Bishop of Parramatta

*Given at Parramatta on 22 December 2020
Tuesday of 4th Week of Advent*