



St Peter's Catholic Parish

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Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

1st January 2017

Pastor's Note:

Luke 2:16-21: Incarnation! Emmanuel! Happy New Year!

The world around us celebrates the New Year and the Church highlights this feast of Mary as the Mother of God. It is the oldest of all Marian feasts in our liturgy. We begin a New Year, the public holiday that marks the end of the holiday season, and the beginning of any number of other things from changing calendars to keeping accounts of various sorts. In everyone's eyes it is a special day, a new beginning, a New Year Day. It is a day that begins consciously at midnight on new year's Eve with parties, fireworks, bells, and street theatre, and is ended by the television channels showing how this day, has been celebrated around the world. There are other new year's days, like Jewish New Year, Muslim New Year, Chinese New Year, Sanskrit New Year, and many cultures and peoples have their own new year day, but this is the calendar day that is most widely celebrated and unanimously accepted as the New Year Day around the globe. So a difference is there in the celebration of the world and the Church! This feast is that of Mary's greatest title **Theotokos** (*literally means God-bearer*), and this feast goes back to very early days of the church, honouring Mary in relation to the *Word Made Flesh mystery of Incarnation*.

The Church is focusing on one thing: that in our attempt to understand God, we grow in comprehension of the meaning of the Incarnation in our world and life. It is in this light that we reflect on Virgin Mary, *Theotokos*, Mother of God, mother of Jesus Incarnate. And just as Mary interpreted all things, pondered all things in her heart, so does the church reflect on her and the Incarnation through its liturgy, its writings and its faith. That is why her oldest feast is celebrated within the octave of Christmas, of Emmanuel, of God with us. And we are reminded of the words of Elizabeth, *Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?* (Luke 1:42-43). The Gospel we listen today is almost an exact repeat of what was read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas. In Luke, Mary represents the ideal believer, for she hears the good news and ponders it in her heart and fully responds to it. Her heart becomes the place of discovering Jesus, and who he really is. We are invited at the beginning of a new year that our own hearts must become that place of response to God and the love of God revealed in Jesus, the Emmanuel. Mary's entire life, and the Church's entire life, is centred on that process of pondering who that child that born to us really is. Mary, contemplating her son, becomes the Church reflecting on Incarnation. It is this aspect of Mary's motherhood that is most important to our new year, the year in which we continue our journey of the heart towards God. Mary gives us an example of what our choice as Christians really implies: that each genuine choice we make reveals who we really are and is not simply what we do. Christian, human freedom of choice is not about choosing which film or movie we will go to see, or what we will wear, or what we will own; it is about how we reveal and define ourselves on that journey to God and His love. Finally, Mary's choice was not right or wrong, it stemmed from who she was and new herself to be a daughter of Israel, a child of God. *We open our eyes and hearts on this New Year Day to see the face of God, the Word Made Flesh, born of the virgin Mary. Wish you a Great and Blessed New Year! 2017!*

Fr Jacob Chacko, MCBS

PARISH PRIEST

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HELP CENTRE

Phone 5561 4712

MISSION STATEMENT

"Saint Peter's Parish is a community who lives in faith of Jesus Christ and, moved by the Spirit, continues to grow in our love for God and all people."



IN OUR PARISH THIS COMING WEEK:

MON 2nd January	Sts Basil and Gregory 8.00am Mass <i>Public Holiday: Parish Office closed today</i>
TUE 3rd January	8.00am Mass
WED 4th January	6.30am Mass
THU 5th January	
FRI 6th January	8.30am Rosary 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00—9.20am Reconciliation available 9.30am Healing Mass
SAT 7th January	5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
SUN 8th January	The Epiphany of the Lord 9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass

Wishing all of our parish family a Happy and Holy New Year.

Adoration and Healing Mass will be held this Friday 6th January. Rosary 8.30am, Adoration 9am, Healing Mass 9.30am. Reconciliation available during Adoration. All welcome!

Advertising in our Newsletter: If you would like to advertise your business on the back of our newsletter in 2017 please contact austnews either by phone on 1800 245 077 or email: advertising.austnews.net.au

God's Word 2017—Daily

Reflections is a Liturgical diary which has the readings for every day from the New Jerusalem Bible, inspiring reflections on the readings of the day and even space to note down important events and reflections of the day. only \$10! - from the back table.

Break Open the Word 2017: now available on the back table. Cost \$18 each. *Break Open the Word* is an invaluable resource for anyone in the Reading Ministry to prepare your readings.

Readings Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27 They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib...When the eighth day came they gave him the name Jesus.

Readings for next weekend: The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Volunteers needed: Our parish Ministry groups are serviced by a large number of parishioners who volunteer in various ways to keep our parish functioning. We currently have vacancies on our **church cleaning teams**. We have 8 teams so you will only be cleaning the church once every 2 months. Cleaning is done usually early on a Saturday morning. We ideally like to have 4 or 5 people on a team. Some of our teams are down to 3 and one has only 2 members left!! Please volunteer if you think you could help out.

We are also in need of someone who could **wash and iron the Church linen** once a month. Any helpers would be greatly appreciated.

The **Bereavement group** is also seeking volunteers. The Bereavement group has 2 roles. The first of these roles is to send cards: One person is rostered each month to send sympathy cards to recently bereaved parishioners and anniversary cards to those people marking the first anniversary of the death of a loved one. The second role is to form the team to organize the Memorial Mass for All Souls Day to which all who have lost a loved one in the past 12 months are specially invited. This is a lovely ceremony that those who attend say is a beautiful experience. Please contact Julie in the Parish office if you would like to volunteer in any of our vacant ministries.

Rosters for collection: some rosters still for collection for Home Communion Ministers and Readers and Communion Ministers at Masses.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Some envelopes for 2017 are still to be collected. Thank you to all who give to our Planned Giving Program either through envelopes, Direct Debit or Credit Card or even direct bank transfer. Your assistance keeps the Parish functioning.

We have more envelope packs so if your set is not there or should you wish to contribute or change your current contribution please contact the Parish Office or complete a Pledge Card at the back or the Church and place it on the collection plate or hand it to Fr Jacob or to Julie or John. Thank You

Monday 2nd January is the feast day of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Basil: Born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey). Died there on 1 January 379. First a hermit, then bishop of his native city. **Remembered** for his pioneering monastic rule, and for writings which developed the doctrines of the incarnation and of the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

Gregory: Born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329. Died there in 389. Also a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople. **Remembered** as the "Theologian" because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians. Basil and Gregory are commemorated together because of their friendship in life and their enduring influence on the Church, especially in the East.



Vinnies News: **Raffle:** A BIG Thank You to Carmel Northey-Cherrett and all who contributed in any way to the recent raffle. Just over \$1000 was raised to help us help the needy in our area in 2017. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought and sold tickets. Thanks for your support. Prize winners were: Lyndal Bray-Claridge, Pat Smith, Pauline Angus, Val Holzberger, Anne Scanlon, Rob & Trish Meulman, Catherine Brown and Anna Carver. Congratulations!

"Columban Calendars" for 2017 (cost \$9) available from the St Vinnies piety stall

PCI House Supervisor Volunteers Required: Pregnancy Crisis Incorporated (PCI) who assists mothers confronted with an unplanned pregnancy in difficult circumstances require the services of Volunteer House Supervisors for the Charity's safe house. She (or a married couple) will have a separate suite, free rental, free electricity, water and rates, but beyond that this work is a labour of love. This position is a live-in position which oversees the running of the house including the safety and security of our guests and volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer House Supervisor, relief Volunteer House Supervisor or Volunteer Support Worker, please call the President, Patti Camp on telephone: either 1300 777 777 or 07 3892 7662, alternatively email: pci777@bigpond.com or write to PO Box 427, Moorooka Qld 4105.

Centenary of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Corinda 1917—2017. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brian Finnigan 6pm Sat 28th January 2017 at St Joseph's Church, Corinda. Dinner will follow at the Sherwood Services Club, Clewley St, Corinda. Cost of dinner: \$30 per person. Please contact the Corinda Graceville Parish Office on 3379 1534 or at corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au to make a booking.

Foundations for Lay Pastoral Ministry (FLPM) is a course offered by the Institute of Faith Education (IFE) in partnership with Evangelisation Brisbane. Workshops will be hosted starting from April 29, 2017 at the Francis Rush Centre. For more information see the IFE website ife@bne.catholic.net.au or call (07) 3336 9167 or email: www.ife.qld.edu.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Eduardo dela Cruz

Book of Life & Mass Requests: , Joan Marrinan, Jennifer Ann Lee, Ronald Connors, Kathleen Murray, Daniel Lourigan, John Mackintosh, Ann Praske, Fr Tom Concannon, Ludlow Pettiford, Angelina Cho, Anthony Winter, Thomas Power, Colin Simpson, Eileen Naughton, Gai Hocking, Francis Waters, Ken Evans, Jesse Nicholson, Kane Thorpe, Violet Williams, Trish Pareezer, William Mahony, Patrick Clarke, Greta van Bekkum, Colleen Watt, Michael Sullivan, Isabel McCarthy, John Carvel, Richard Smith, Patrick Kelly, Viktor Brandt, Pauline O'Neil, Michael Sullivan

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Flex Dance, Michael Ah Koy, Monica Ah Koy, Mary Menso, Kevin Kelly, Annette Sparks, Hamish Stuhmeke, Joe Wegener, Roger Byrne, Ingeborg McIntosh, Don Bechly, Brian Button, Ramona Cruz, Bonnie Dematillar, Terri Mills, Johnny Summers

Prayer requests should be recorded on the form on the back table of the church nearest to the lectern.

Please ensure you have the permission of the person who is sick to make their name public.

Roster 7th & 8th January 2017

Communion		Readers		Altar Servers	Musicians
Sat 6:00pm	Faith Coyer John Coyer Joseph Dedigamuwa?	C 1 2	Anthony Della Brooke Della Geoff Hondroudakis	Volunteers please	Tim
Sun 9:00am	Shane Seymour Del Reynolds Alan Scanlon	C 1 2	Kath Seymour Megan Seymour Theresa Cruz	Volunteers please	Rita
Sun 6.00pm	Deacon Mike Jones ?	C 1 2	Helen Graczyk Fiorenzo Matarazzo Lynn White	Volunteers please	Liz

Church Cleaning: 7 Nita Stratton-Funk, Julie Hondroudakis, Kathy Winter

Children's Liturgy: none **This week: Linen:** Celine Phillips **Counting:** Bob's team

Cuppa: Sunday 8th January after 9am Mass: Tongan community & Julie Hondroudakis & Marilyn Mills



Are you new to our Parish? If you've recently joined the Parish, WELCOME!! Please make yourself known to us. We'd like to formally greet you, so please complete a 'New Parishioners Card' at the back of the Church and place it on the collection plate or hand it to Fr Jacob or to one of the Parish Councillors.

Parish Ministry Group Co-ordinators

In our parish we have many ways you can be involved. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to speak to one of our Co-ordinators whose numbers is not listed.

- Baptism Preparation:** Julie Hondroudakis
- Bereavement Group:** Contact the Parish Office
- Care & Concern:** Transport: 0412267337
- Children's Liturgy:** Jodie Baigent
- Family Groups:** Alan & Kristy Scanlon
- Facebook: St Peters Rochedale Family Groups
- Memorial Wall & Gardens:** Les O'Gorman 3341 3862
- Mothers' Prayers:** Trish Bakker
- Music Liturgy Group:** Liz Fort

Parish Pastoral Council:

- Chairperson: Malcolm Carroll
- Play Group:** Kristy Scanlon
- RE Teachers in State Schools:** Rita Bishop
- Rosary Group:** Fridays 9:00am
(1st Fridays 8.30am)
- Social Justice Group:** Erika Meerwald
- Facebook: St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group
- St Vincent de Paul Rochedale Conference:**
John Blake

Our Parish Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative is Malcolm Carroll. If you have any questions or concerns contact Malcolm on 0438 949 099 or mcarroll580@gmail.com

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