

The Baptism of the Lord YEAR A

SUNDAY January 12 2014

I was born in 1958 in Kamien Pomorski, the northwest area of Poland which was part of Germany until after World War II. At the age of seven, I began eight years of primary school, before commencing at a secondary school which accentuated technical subjects. At the end of high school, I passed the special examination which allowed students to continue their studies at university level. Instead of beginning at university, I worked for several months with a company which explored for oil. Then I was eventually called up to perform compulsory National Service in the Polish army. I served in the Communications Service for two years. The last four months of my National Service took place during a period of martial law. It was a very unpleasant time for all Poles. After National Service, I decided to enter the seminary. In 1984, with more than 30 other young men, I entered the novitiate of the religious order of The Society of Christ. The novitiate year prepared me for further education at the Seminary which was located in the picturesque historic town of Poznan (west Poland).

In 1991, along with the others in my class, I took the holy orders at Poznan's St Peter and St Paul Cathedral. My first posting after ordination was Chociwel, a little town located among the beautiful lakes and forests of north-west Poland. Chociwel was not far from my family village, so I could visit my parents from time to time.

One event in Chociwel's recent history is worthy of mention. The wonderful 16th century church escaped destruction during World War II, *because of vodka!* During the Russian offensive, Polish slave workers (who worked in Chociwel during the war) gave the Russian artillery commander much vodka, and asked him not to destroy the church while he bombarded the rest of the city. The officer proved to be an honest man and kept his promise. The church providentially remained untouched, and is still as beautiful as ever. Can anyone deny God his sense of humour and that He works mysteriously in our lives?

In 1992, I was asked by my superiors to go to Australia and on the 3rd of January 1993 I arrived in Sydney. While in Sydney I was working with the Polish community, it was not easy for 'a country boy' to fit into a new life in such a large city, with a different culture and a different language. Next came a transfer to Cooma on the edge of the Snowy Mountains. I consider that the wonderful people of that town have helped me to fit into the Australian way of life. There I worked with Father Hilton Roberts who shepherded me and gently corrected my English.

In 1994 I moved to Queensland to spend three years working with the Polish community in Bowen Hills. In 1997, I decided to join the local church as a diocesan priest. Accordingly, after I received a release from my order in 1998, I was sent to St Mary's at Beaudesert. I spent almost three wonderful years in Beaudesert with Father Bernie Gallagher. In 2001, I received my second post in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. From the "desert", I moved to the "sea", namely Stella Maris at Maroochydore, serving with Father Joe Duffy. In 2004, I moved from the coast to my new posting of St Mary's at Ipswich.

Moving from the coast to Ipswich (which can be dry and cold) was a kind of reverse transfer from my previous shift from Beaudesert to Maroochydore. Ipswich – with its beautiful St Mary's – has become another amazing experience in my journey of faith. In 2007, I was back to the "sea", this time at Burleigh Heads Parish with Father Pat Maloney. In September 2011, after the departure of Father Chris Hanlon, I was appointed to Wilston to look after St. Columba's parish until a new Parish Priest could be appointed. When clergy appointments were announced in late 2013, I learned that I have been appointed to Southport Parish. Again from the "inland" to the "sea" and I am looking forward to minister to the Parishioners of the Southport Parish and to share with you my experiences of faith and my Polish background.

Father Jan

Fr. Jan Bialasiewicz
Parish Priest

Fr Teri Nueva
(Associate Pastor)

Fr Domenico Muscari
(Associate Pastor)

Leeanne Human
(Parish Manager)

Sr Helen White RSM
Sacramental
Coordinator
07 55 102 296

Sr Elisabeth
Keane IBVM
(Pastoral Associate)

Daloras Howes
(Parish Secretary)

Donna Stubbins
(Admin Assistant)

Aquinas College
07 55 102 888
Maryanne Finder
(Principal)

Guardian Angels'
School
07 55 100055
Terry Gimpel
(Principal)

De Paul Villa
07 55 827 250
Julie Madden
(Director of Aged Care)

De Paul Manor Estate
07 55 827 999
Bob Birrer
(Village Manager)

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St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade,
Labrador

Sunday Mass

7.00 am
8:30 am

Weekday Mass

Monday -7.00am
Wednesday-7.00am

Guardian Angels' Church

99 Scarborough St
Southport

Saturday

6.00pm

Sunday Mass

7.00 am
10.00 am

Weekday Mass

Friday - 12.30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday - 4.30pm

Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive
Ashmore

Sunday Mass

8:30 am & 6.00pm

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.00pm
Every last Saturday 6pm
Tuesday 7pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday - 9.00am
Thursday - 5.30pm



AUSTRALIAN GUILD OF SAINT STEPHEN

Invites all Altar Servers and their families to the final Mass of the Altar Servers Conference Saturday, January 18, 9.00am at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen, Brisbane

The Principal Celebrant:

His Excellency, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Papal Nuncio all attending will need to be vested in their albs by 8.30 After Mass participants will go to Dreamworld.

If families are going to Dreamworld it will only cost \$50 per person plus \$13 for a special lunch.

Anyone wishing to attend the Conference January 15-18 on a day-program basis would be most welcome.

For more details and to register for the Mass or the Conference, please call as soon as possible 0417 259617

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOUTHPORT CONFERENCE



The conference would like to sincerely **THANK** our very kind parishioners and members of our local community for their extreme generosity in enabling us to help so many deserving Southport and Labrador families with deliveries of both 100 toy and food Christmas hampers. Without your support it would not be possible to bring joy to children and place food on their table at this special and holy time of the year.

Also we **THANK** the members of our 'Vinnies' team who gave their support and time to make this a happy time for so many.

Barry Litfin, President Southport Conference

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE COMMUNION?

To receive Holy Communion one must be fully incorporated into the Catholic Church and be in the state of grace, that is, not conscious of being in grave sin. Anyone who is conscious of having committed a grave sin must first receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before going to Communion. Also important for those receiving Holy Communion are a spirit of reconciliation and prayer, observance of the fast prescribed by the Church, and an appropriate disposition of the body (gestures and dress) as a sign of respect for Christ.

VATICAN REAFFIRMS TEACHING ON DIVORCE, REMARRIED CATHOLICS

The Vatican's highest doctrinal official has reaffirmed church teaching barring divorced and remarried members receiving Communion without an annulment of their first, sacramental marriage. But Archbishop Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, acknowledges that many Catholics' first marriage might be invalid, and thus eligible for annulment.

Speculation about a change in practice has grown since Pope Francis told reporters accompanying him on his plane back from Rio de Janeiro, that the Synod of Bishops would explore a "somewhat deeper pastoral care of marriage," including the question of the eligibility of divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Communion.

Pope Francis added that the church law governing marriage annulments also "has to be reviewed, because ecclesiastical tribunals are not sufficient for this. 'Such problems', he said, exemplified a general need for forgiveness in the church today. The church is a mother, and she must travel this path of mercy, and find a form of mercy for all," the Pope said.

The Vatican announced on October 8 that an extraordinary session of the Synod of Bishops will meet to discuss the "pastoral challenges of the family in the context of Evangelisation".

OUR LADY OF FATIMA REQUESTS

In her final appearance Our Lady identified herself as the Lady of the Rosary. Why did she repeatedly insist on the praying of the Rosary? First of all we should note that praying this devotion is much more than the automatic repetition of words. It is primarily a mental prayer. This is why one of the 20 mysteries—joyful, sorrowful, and glorious—is announced at the beginning of each decade of the Rosary.

THE VOICE OF NATURE

Before this panorama of meadows, woods, streams and mountain peaks that touch the sky, we all discover afresh the desire to thank God for the wonders that he had made and we wish to listen in silence to the voice of nature, so that we can transform our admiration into prayer. For these mountains awake in our hearts the sense of the infinite with the desire to raise up our minds to what is sublime. *Pope John Paul II 1990*

WHY BOTHER PRAYING

Through praying, we become more compassionate, joyful, grateful, forgiving and loving. Prayer gives us a deeper relationship with Christ and is transformative. Remember!

1. Each day some prayer is better than no prayer.
2. Prayer is not about performing, but about creating a space within which we can encounter the love of God. Prayer also provides the place wherein God can find us.
3. If a particular method of prayer does not work for you, try another.
4. Remember when praying, that 'God does not need us..' 'God wants us.'
5. There is only one absolute rule: Is what I am doing deepening my relationship of love with God, my neighbour and myself?

OUR GREATEST DISTRESS

'There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realise of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at the moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress.' *Pope Francis, November 2013.*

CARITAS—CAN YOU HELP



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

In January 2011, after decades of fighting, in Sudan a referendum on independence was held. Over 98% of the South Sudanese Population voted to secede and independence was officially announced in July 2011. Although the initial transition to Independence proceeded relatively smoothly, inter-ethnic tensions and fighting in Sudan and along the border soon erupted. Fighting has forced more than 400,000 people from their homes. South Sudan is also fighting internal struggles against at least seven armed groups in nine of its 10 provinces as well as incursions from neighbouring states.

You can help Caritas continue their life-saving work in Africa by donating to their African Emergency Appeal. Donations of \$2 are tax deductible. Donate by calling toll free 1800 024 413 or go to: www.caritas.org.au/donations

For more about the Sudanese Program, head to,

www.caritas.org.au/act-cartias

Pope Francis said in July 2013. "Poverty calls us to sow hope... Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures."

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Archdiocese Children's Ministry Team will facilitate a Training Day for all volunteers on **Saturday, February 1.**

Children's Liturgy Volunteers from all parishes in the Gold Coast Deanery are invited to gather from 9.30am to 3.00pm at Sacred Heart Parish, Clear Island Waters.

Please RSVP to Sister Helen helenw@scp.org.au

by January 25.



Today we welcome into God's Family

Tori and Kira Russell children of Rory and Sayaka Russell

Jackson Mateo Ryall son of Gregory and Yudian Ryall

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE FATHER.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARY: James Phelan

ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK AND IN NEED: Kobi Pescud, Christine Wheldon, Lynn Rann, Bernadette Fagan, Bong, Tanie and Gie Ubaldo, Babes Valenzuela, Vicky Smith, Lee Henry, Mary Porrill, Sheila Galvin, Dean Lewis, Kitty McIntosh, Susanne Howarth, Patrick Guillon, Phyllis Miller, Julie Rowen, Janine Wharton, John Stowers, Ross McAlpine, Gary O'Connell, Carter Family, Jack McAlpine, Joe Buttigieg, Phillis Elshaug, Peter Platell, Cal Zinkel, Marie Hancock, Natasha Byrne, Ron and Evelyn Martinac, Laurie, Emelita and Adam Woodley, Mathew Byrne, Caroline Pember, Michael Skinner, Tim, Tracy and Vicki Howard, Angela Taylor, Gary Burdett, Christopher Lewis, Zenaida Irisary.

Lord Grant your people protection and grace. Give them health of mind and body. Amen

THE VALUE OF HUMOUR

In his book, *Between Heaven and Mirth*, Fr James Martin SJ writes of the value of joy, humour, and laughter in the spiritual life: 'Wherever I speak, what people want to hear about the most was the way the saints were joyful people, enjoyed lives full of laughter, and how their holiness led inevitably to joy. It was almost as if they'd been waiting to be told it's okay to be religious and enjoy themselves, to be joyful believers.'

WORTH A SMILE

A little boy at children's liturgy was asked what commandment he would break if he stayed home from Mass on Sunday. He replied, The fourth one: Keep the Sabbath Day Holy.

Then he was asked what commandment he would break if he took his friend's bicycle. He replied, 'The eighth: Do not steal.' Then he was asked what commandment he would break if he pulled the dog's tail. He hesitated, then said, 'I don't know the number, but it goes like this: What God has joined together, let no man pull apart.'

FEAST DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday, January 13, St Hilary. Beginning of Ordinary Time.

Hilary was Bishop of Poitiers (now France) and is a Doctor of the Church. He was sometimes referred to as the 'Hammer of the Arians' His name comes from the Latin word meaning happy or cheerful.

Friday, January 17, St Anthony of Egypt

After the death of his wealthy landowner parents Anthony, at the age of 34, felt called to follow the word of Jesus: Go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and come follow Me.' From then on he spent his time living the life of a desert hermit. He is notable for being one of the first ascetics to attempt living in the desert proper, completely cut off from civilization—and has hence been called 'the founder of Christian monasticism'.

OLD STATUES

Do you have any old statues tucked away somewhere that you no longer require? Any unwanted statue would be appreciated. Saints-Immaculate Conception-Sacred Heart St Joseph-St Patrick anything you may no longer require. Laura Ashbrook from Labrador is in need of old statues for a project in Fiji. If you can help call Laura on 55 292 446.

CHOIR PRACTICE

After your magnificent performance over the Christmas period you can now take a well earned rest. Choir practice will commence again on **Monday, February 3**, when we will commence preparation for Easter. The Choir would love you to join them. If you let sister Elisabeth know on 55 102 222 or lis@scp.org.au there will be music waiting for you at the first practice on Monday, February 3.

PARISH DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2014

First Sunday of each month, Morning Tea at the "Annex" after 8.30am Mass at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador.

Each First and Third Sunday of the Month, 11.30am Charismatic prayer Meeting, Guardian Angels Church.

Bridge, every Wednesday 10.00am to 1.00pm Meeting Room at Mary Immaculate. Beginners welcome.

Southport Parish Book Club. Meet in the meeting room at Mary Immaculate on the 1st Monday of the month from 10.00am to 12 noon.



SPY. Southport Parish Youth. Meet in the meeting room at Mary Immaculate on the last Friday of each month. 6.30pm

Tuesday, **January 28**, School Resumes
Thursday, **June 12, 2014**. Confirmation
Sunday, **June 15, 2014**. First Eucharist
Sunday, **In July**, ARTICO Concert.

MARY IMMACULATE BRIDGE CLUB



Enrol **NOW** for our new beginners class. Commencing early February
Lessons each Wednesday
from 10.00am to 1.00pm \$10 per lesson
For more information call

Cheryl 55 388 821 or Leanne 55 102 222

It's easy to learn; you don't need a partner!!

Meet lots of new friends.

LOST AND FOUND

We have a **Pink Rug** left behind after the Christmas BBQ. It can be collected from the Parish Office.

We also have several items of property left in Mary Immaculate Church. They are in the Priests Sacristy. Ask one of the Greeters if you have left anything behind at Mary Immaculate.

FRANCESCO ITALY'S MOST POPULAR BABY NAME

Moved by the election of Pope Francis, the name "Francesco" has leaptfrogged to Number 1 on the list of most popular baby names. The study, conducted by Enzo Caffarelli, who researches the origins of names at Rome's Tor Vergata University, also showed a trend towards re-naming streets, town squares, and parks for St Francis of Assisi, the pontiff's namesake. There are now more than 2,000 public places in Italy named after Francis. 300 of them were named in 2013.

HYMNS

COME TO THE WATER

Refrain

***Come to the water, you who are thirsty!
Though you have nothing,
I bid you come
And be filled with the goodness
I have to offer! Come listen! Live!***

Why spend your money on what cannot fill
The emptiness deep in your heart?
Listen to my word and you will enjoy
Goodness and peace in your heart! **R**

Just as the heavens are high above earth,
My ways and thoughts beyond you!
Call me your Father and know I am near!
I will be Father to you! **R**

Just as the rain falls to water the earth,
Just as a seed becomes bread,
My word upon you can never return
Until my longing is filled! **R**

GLORY TO GOD: (Mass of St Francis)

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God,
almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us

You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the most High,
Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God
the Father.

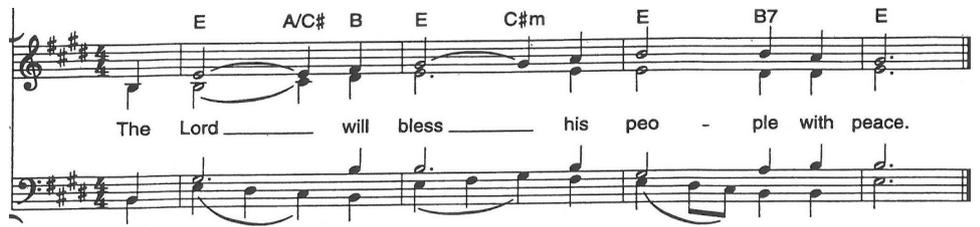
Amen, Amen.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR NEXT
SUNDAY
Isaiah 49:3,5-6
1Corinthians 1:1-3
Gospel 1:29-34

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sponsored by **MAX'S MITRE 10**
Australia Fair, Pacific Fair.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia.

You are born of water and the Spirit,
Fountain of our dreams. Lord Jesus
Christ!

Alleluia, Alleluia.

GIFTS PROCESSION

WATER OF LIFE

Refrain:

***Water of Life, cleanse
and refresh us;***

Raise us to life in Christ Jesus.

All you who thirst,
come to the waters,
And you will never be thirsty again.

As rain from heav'n, so is God's word,
It waters the earth and brings
forth life.

Dying with Christ,
so we shall rise with him,
Death shall no longer have pow'r
over us.

Turn to the Lord,
cast off your wickedness,
You will find peace in his infinite love.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this bread and drink
this cup we proclaim your death O
Lord, until you come again.

AMEN

Amen, Amen, Amen

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

BAPTIZED IN WATER

Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit.

Cleansed by the blood of Christ
our King:

Heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise.

Faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit.
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit.
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father, we are his children.
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.

BREAD OF LIFE, (Bobby Fisher)

Bread of life, and cup of hope,
we come as gift to you,
change our hearts fill us with peace
Transform our lives anew
Open our eyes so that we might see your
presence in one another
Your life poured out in love today
Unites us all in you

Loving lord creator God
Open our eyes to see
The good that lives in each of us
That called the world to be
and when we fail to see the good
when friendships falter and crumble
give us the courage to forgive
that we may live in peace

Living word o son of God
Your love shows us the way
That we may live in harmony
And from you never stray
Wipe all oppression from our midst
give us a love for all people
Your song of justice sing in us
To live for peace today

RECESSIONAL

WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE

Refrain:

***We are called to serve,
we are called by grace
to cherish Christ in every face.***

***We are called to serve,
we are called by name and in all
we are God's love proclaim.***

Called beyond our human understanding,
Called before the world came in to view.

Within your mother's womb,
your name was known to me,
For you did not choose me, no,
I chose you **R**

Called to be a light amid the darkness,
Called to help a doubting world believe.

"Empowered by my Spirit,
anointed with my love,
You are called to give and share
what you believe." **R**