

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

SUNDAY December 14 2014

It's the most wonderful time of the year..."

Each year, Andy Williams' Christmas carol reminds us that this season is the most wonderful time of the year! And "when friends come to call it's the hap-happiest season of all."

A few weeks ago, I read an article suggesting that for many people the weeks leading to Christmas are not the most wonderful time of the year. The author, Father Siebert, S.J. asked: What is it about the most wonderful time of the year that also makes it the most stressful time of the year?

Last weekend, many parishioners would have seen and heard reports from the Drought Debit Crisis Summit. Over 400 people gathered in Winton to discuss the impact of the prolonged drought on farmers, families and rural communities in Queensland. Certainly for all those people struggling with years of drought, the weeks preceding Christmas will be a very stressful time.

But why do many families in urban areas find these weeks so stressful? Many causes have been suggested: the hours we spend looking for and wrapping presents, crowded days and nights when we try to fit in too many social activities and not enough sleep, hours decorating our homes and cooking copious amounts of food. Do you identify with any of those causes?

Although any of the above activities could raise your stress levels, the author believes there's another time-honoured Christmas tradition that raises the stress barometer. Strange as it may seem, Father Siebert maintains that often conversations with relatives or in-laws, especially with those we may not often meet, frequently become very tense. Why would this situation develop in some families during the Christmas Season when it's meant to be "the hap-happiest season of all"?

One way to avoid some hassles during this festive season is to reflect on how we're spending our time during the remaining days of Advent. In this the third week of Advent, the readings urge us to rejoice and to keep praying. John's presentation of John the Baptist as a witness to the Messiah, a witness to speak for the light, also offers a role model for us.

Perhaps another way to ensure our Christmas will be 'the most wonderful time of the year' is to follow the advice recently presented on a poster; "Keep calm and keep Christ in Christmas."

Sister Helen

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 \\
helenw@scp.org.au

Sr Elisabeth
Keane IBVM
(Pastoral Associate)
lis@scp.org.au

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

Parish email address
info@scp.org.au

Parish fax number
07 55 102 244

Newsletter Editor
Eddie Doherty
edju01@optusnet.com.au
0428 761 110

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

**Each Friday-10.30am
Mass at Gold Coast
University Hospital**

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 Last Saturday
of the Month 6.00pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday - 9.00am

Thursday - 5.30pm

Holy Hour. First Thursday
of the Month 4.15pm

Third Sunday of Advent



Third Sunday of Advent

Our week begins with The spirit of joy from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose coloured, and the rose coloured vestments used at the Eucharist. The second part of Advent begins on December 17 each year—this year, in 2014 it is Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent. For the eight days before Christmas, we are now challenged to listen to the Voice of God, a voice that challenges and inspires us to prepare a way for the Lord. The way of the Lord is not always open and easy, oftentimes it is a path in the wilderness. The challenge of witness is a challenge of 'withness', to be with and for others in a true sense of Christmas solidarity. Such solidarity will be evidence in and through our actions, our attitudes and our option for the poor. We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask: Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday, December 24

Guardian Angels Church: 6.00pm and Midnight

Mary Immaculate Church: 6.00pm Children's Mass

Christmas Day

St Joseph the Worker Church: 7.00am and 8.30am

Guardian Angels Church: 7.00am and 10.00am

Mary Immaculate Church: 8.30am

Friday, December 26 Boxing Day

St Joseph the Worker Labrador 9.00am

Make sure you collect your Christmas Mass Times Card from the table at the Church entrance.

Peace Lamps from the Holy Land



Our shipment of Peace Lamps has arrived. They are available for collection from the Parish Office during the week or after the 8.30am Mass at Mary Immaculate today and Tuesday.

The price will be \$30 and not \$25 as previously stated. The reason being they had to be paid for in US Dollars and the rate of exchange has fallen. As well Australian Customs has charged us \$1500 import duty. If you feel you do not want to pay the extra \$5 please ring the Parish Office to cancel your order.

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Mass at Mary Immaculate

Thanks to all parishioners who have offered to be ministers at the 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Several more volunteers are required to be Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ushers and Collectors at this special children's Mass at 6.00pm in Mary Immaculate Church. Please contact me if you would like to help in any of these ministries on Christmas Eve. Thank you *Sister Helen* helenw@scp.org.au

Young Adult Group

'Jesus offers us something bigger than the World Cup! He offers us the possibility of a fulfilled and fruitful life; ... But He asks us to train, 'to get in shape', so that we can face every situation in life undaunted, bearing witness to our faith. How do we get in shape? By talking with Him: by prayer... By the sacraments... By loving one another, learning to listen, to understand, to forgive... Dear young people, be true 'athletes of Christ!' - Pope Francis, 2013.

If you want to learn more about your faith and relationship with God **come along to our group that meets every second Wednesday at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room at Mary Immaculate for dinner, discussion and prayer.** The group is for people aged 18-30ish. The next few meetings will be on December 17, January 14, and January 28. Contact Alice (text or call) on 0411449895.

Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 16, Ashmore 9.00am to 10.00am
Frs. Rafal and Albert

Wednesday, December 17, Labrador 7.00am to 8.00am
Fr Rafal

Thursday, December 18, Ashmore 5.00pm to 6.00pm
Frs. Rafal and Albert

Saturday, December 20, Southport 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Usual Saturday Reconciliation.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2014

Thank you!

Appeal Envelopes: Cash donations give us the flexibility to give the right hand up needed by someone doing it tough. You may hand the envelopes in at the Parish Office, put them on the plate at Mass, or post them to us. Tax receipts issued on request.

Christmas Giving Trees: The trees will have gift tags on them. Please take a tag home, purchase the gift, and place the gift with the tag under the Christmas tree.

The last day for leaving gifts under the Tree at Mass is today **Sunday, December 14.** However they can still be left at the Parish Office until Thursday.

We pack the hampers on Saturday December 20 at Guardian Angels Primary School Hall.

Contact Nerida if you want to help pack, hand out or deliver hampers. nerida.smith@bigpond.cpm, 0417 606 639

Helpers Needed: St Vincent de Paul Donations at Dan Murphy's

A big fundraiser is collecting donations at Dan Murphy's Varsity Lakes (Christmas Eve) and Parkwood Tavern (New Year's Eve). We collect at the door plus bring back trolleys (shoppers often donate for this service). We need 3 - 4 people aged 18+ per 2 hour slot 10 am - 6 pm both days. This is a great chance for our young (and not so young!) adults and their friends to help others before celebrating these special Eves. Contact Nerida 0417 606 639 nerida.smith@bigpond.com.

Angels Kitchen



Angels Kitchen Co-ordinator and all other Volunteers wish Parishioners every Joy and Blessing of our Infant Saviour during this Holy Season, and trust the New Year will be kind to everyone. Gratitude goes to the most wonderful Donors who continue to provide the cash, without which Angels Kitchen could not exist. Grateful thanks goes to the Parish Staff who have so ably assisted with the Bookkeeping/Accounts this year, and we look forward to this mutually satisfactory arrangement continuing. Always we have a shortage of **Cooks** and again send out an **SOS** as our cooks number only 5 for both Main Course and Desserts. Anyone who can help, please contact our Co-ordinator, Noela, on 55 745 862

Could all Credit Card Planned Givers please check their cards expiry date, if it is out of date, please contact the Parish Office with the new date. We have experienced some difficulty in drawing funds from Credit Cards.



Today we welcome into God's Family

Jake Tahi Tobin son of Bean and Amanda Tobin

Summer Grace Yates daughter of Christopher and Andrea Yates

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mrs Maria De Jesus Rodrigues Serrono, mother of Fr Nacho Gutierrez, Parish Priest at New Farm Mr John Taylor brother of Fr Brian Taylor, Fr Leonard O'Rourke of Rockhampton Diocese, Marlene McLaughlin, John Traynor

ANNIVERSARY: Dorothy Murphy, William Power.

ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK AND IN NEED: Rita Tessari, Tim Howard, Trudi de Vries, Suzi Lim, Janine Wharton, Freddie Morgan, David Carter Angela Taylor, Michael Skinner, Noelene Owen, Margaret McGinness, Tony Bauer, Elijah Howes, Laurin Bliss Beverley Wilson, Valerie Atkins, Paula Greco, Mary Weerasinghe, Anne Volp, Bong, Dannie, and Gie Ubaldo, Yvonne See, Babes Valenzuela, Vicky Smith, Loreto Macato Cabading, Patricia Saclamitao, Serioza, Doss O'Neil, Candy, Patrick, and Francis Guillon, Evelyn and Ron Martinac, Elizabeth Anderson, Gary O'Connell.

Immaculate Heart of Mary we trust to your gentle care and intercession those who we love and those who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God

This Weeks Saints

Wednesday, December 17, St Olympias

Olympias was born into a wealthy, noble, Constantinople family. She was orphaned when a child and was given over to the care of Emperor Theodosia by her uncle. She married but was widowed soon after, refused several offers of marriage, and had her fortune put in trust until she was thirty by Emperor Theodosius when she also refused his choice for a husband. When he restored her estate, she was consecrated deaconess and with several other ladies founded a community.

Worth a Smile

A teddy bear is working on a building site. He goes for a tea break and when he returns he notices his pick has been stolen. The bear is angry and reports the theft to the foreman. The foreman grins at the bear and says "Oh, I forgot to tell you, today's the day the teddy bears have their pick nicked."

.....
Bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it!

.....
Murphy says to Paddy, "What are you talking into an envelope for?" "I'm sending a voice mail you thick sod!"

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

In the Catholic tradition in many parts of the world, feasts of saints or faith mysteries associated with the local churches have always been a great occasions to pray, honour the life of a particular saint and have a fiesta. At Mary Immaculate Church, after the 8.30am Mass last Sunday we did just that. Over 300 parishioners enjoyed a great feast of food wine and champagne in honour of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady. The food was so well prepared and presented that some people were heard to ask who the caterers were. They were our great parish team of volunteers who worked from 5.00pm on Saturday evening and returned at 6.00am on Sunday morning to have it all ready. This feast is a public holiday in many countries in the world including, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, East Timor, Guam, Italy, Malta, Monaco,, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, and Spain. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in Ireland, the Philippines and the United States. It is celebrated as Mothers Day in Panama. So it is only fitting that we should celebrate this feast as our Church is named in Her honour. Father Jan extends his Thanks to all who attended and a Special Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen.

.....
·This is a request for parishioners, especially High School students, to help prepare Mary Immaculate Church for Christmas. Help is needed from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on Tuesday December 23. If you are able to help prepare the church please email Sister Helen helenw@scp.org.au

PARISH DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2014/ 2015

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 9.30am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room at Mary Immaculate. Beginners welcome.

Rosary and Novena at 6.00pm every Wednesday, followed by Mass at 7.00pm on the First Wednesday of the month at St Joseph the Worker.

Catholic Women's League, Meeting Second Friday of each Month, 11.00am Guardian Angels Church, Meeting Room, followed by Mass

Care and Concern, Meet Fourth Monday of each month, Mary Immaculate Meeting Room, 10.30am

Young Adults Group, Meet in the Parish Resource Centre every second Wednesday at 7.00pm

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

Tuesday, **December 16, Advent Adventures.**

Saturday, **December 20**, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 2.00pm at De Paul Manor.

Sunday, **February 8**, World Marriage Day. St Benedict's Church Mudgeeraba. 11.00am.

Thursday, **June 4 2015**, Confirmation.

Sunday, **June 7 2015**, First Eucharist

.....
Parish Pastoral Council

In the process of establishing the Parish Pastoral Council, nominated Parishioners attended a meeting facilitated by Lorraine Wynne from Evangelization Brisbane. Following the information part of this meeting, nominated Parishioners had the opportunity of accepting or declining their nomination.

Parishioners who accepted nomination and who will form the Parish Pastoral Council are: **Jim Donaldson,**

Eleanor Amores, John Wintour, Christine Wintour,

Rebecca Cook, Michael Kyle, John Murtagh,

Zelda Bickerstaff, Eddie Demarco and Eddie Doherty.

I congratulate and thank these Parishioners who have accepted nomination and I am looking forward to working with our new Parish Pastoral Council.

The new Parish Council will begin its work in January after the Christmas holidays.

Father Jan

HYMNS

YOUR LIGHT WILL COME JERUSALEM

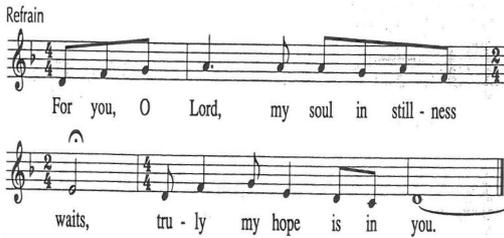
Refrain: *Your light will come,
Jerusalem;
for on you will dawn the glory
of the Lord,
and all nations will walk in your light,
alleluia, alleluia.*

Christ is the light of the world,
A light dispelling the darkness.
May we, his body reflect that holy light. **R**

His light is mercy and peace,
A peace surpassing all telling.
May we, his body, be instruments of
peace. **R**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

My Soul in Stillness Waits 280



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (to be said)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

This News Sheet is proudly sponsored by
MAX'S MITRE 10
Australia Fair.

THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR NEXT SUNDAY
2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

A Big Thank you to everyone who supported the fund raising theatre night at the Gold Coast Little Theatre. It was an outstanding success both financially and socially. Funds will pay for one Obstetric operation, and many parcels to the poor at the centre run by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady.



GIFTS PROCESSION OPEN THE HEAVENS

Refrain
*Open the heavens, Lord,
Come to your people,
Hide not your face, O God.
Open the heavens, Lord.
Come to your people,
Open the heavens and come.*

Look on the sheep of your pasture, Lord.
Water your vineyard again.
Scattered and broken, return to our aid,
open the heavens and come. **R**

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

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until
you come again.

AMEN

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

MY SOUL IS JOYFUL

My soul is joyful; my spirit is glad
Jesus is my Saviour! He is my Lord!
Deep is His mercy, gentle are His
ways!
He has filled me with gladness all my
days!

I am His servant; He is truly my God!
I will serve Him forever; strong in His
love!
From this day onward all people will
see
God has fashioned His Handmaid;
God lives in me!

Holy is His name! Mercy given to all
Sure and simple His wisdom! Proud
hearts will fall
Good news for children! Food for all
who need
Strength and life in the Spirit given to
me!

LIKE A SHEPHERD

*Like a Shepherd he feeds his flock
and gathers the lambs in his arms,
holding them carefully close to his
heart,
leading them home.*

Say to the cities of Judah:
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Go to the mountain top,
Lift your voice;
Jerusalem, here is your God. **R**

I myself will shepherd them,
For others have led them astray.
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds
And pasture them, giving them rest. **R**

Come unto me if you are heavily burdened,
And take my yoke upon your shoulders,
I will give you rest. **R**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

PRAISE TO YOU O CHRIST

(Bernadette Farrell)

Refrain:

*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

You are the Word who calls us out of
darkness;
You are the Word who leads us into light;
You are the Word who brings us through the
desert:
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! **R.**

You are the one whom prophets hoped and
longed for;
You are the one who speaks to us today;
You are the one who leads us to our future:
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! **R.**

COPYRIGHT WORD OF LIFE LICENCE 129/130

DePaul Manor Estate



**Only a few new luxury apartments left.
Come and join this Vibrant Community.
To clear the stock
Prices start from \$380,000
Be quick they won't last at this price!
Phone Sue on 1300 732 306
To arrange an inspection.**