

**THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
31ST DECEMBER 2017**

Sacraments and Numbers

Last year around this time the Parish bulletin publicised some statistics referring to the Sacramental Life of our Parish. Similarly, at the threshold of 2018, I'd like to share again with you some figures that tell us about the Sacramental ministry of Southport Parish. To give you a point of reference let me recall the statistics from 2016:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Baptisms	120	83
1st Eucharist	73	101
Confirmation	170	63
Weddings	4	10
Funerals	49	62
RCIA	7	6
Hospital Visits	288	301

As we read these statistics today, let us keep in mind that behind these numbers God's grace was working in mysterious ways, bringing new life to so many people of our Parish and beyond. I want to emphasise that these figures above represent not only the work of priests of our Parish but also many dedicated parishioners who generously give their time and talent in different ministries of the sacramental life of our Parish. Again, if one takes out these beautiful people from the Parish, we priests, would achieve very little. Today, I say thank-you to all those parishioners who generously assisted Fr Van Huong and myself in bringing the people of the Gold Coast closer to God in the last 12 months. "The Church celebrates the sacraments as a priestly community" (CCC, 1132), so the parishioners involvement in the sacramental life of Southport Parish wasn't peripheral or decorative. Quite the opposite, many parishioners with their profound personal experiences of faith played an essential role in bringing back to the Lord those, who for different reasons, distanced themselves from God and the Church.

With these words of thanks, comes the invitation to reflect on these figures. What do these statistics say to us at the end of 2017?

New Year's Day Mass (Mary The Holy Mother of God Solemnity)

St Joseph the Worker, Labrador 9am

St. Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses
7:00am & 8:30am

Weekday Masses
Monday & Wednesday
7:00am

**Gold Coast University
Hospital**
Friday 10:30am

Guardian Angels' Church
99 Scarborough St., Southport

Saturday Masses - 6:00pm

Sunday Masses
7:00 & 10:00am

Mass in Korean
Sunday 5:00pm

Weekday Mass
Friday 12:30pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 4:30pm

Mary Immaculate Church
31 Edmund Rice Drive,
Ashmore

Sunday Masses
8:30am & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses
Tuesday 9:00am
Thursday 5:30pm

**NO Holy Hour
for the Month of
January**

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

Parish email address
info@scp.org.au

Parish phone number
07 5510 2222

Parish fax number
07 5510 2244

Parish Website
www.scp.org.au

31 Edmund Rice Drive
Ashmore Qld 4214

PO Box 216
Ashmore City 4214

Parish Office

Leeanne Human
(Parish Manager)

Daloras Howes
(dalorash@scp.org.au)

Pastors

Fr. Jan Bialasiewicz
Fr. Van Huong Nguyen

Parish Schools

Aquinas College
Peter Hurley
(Principal)
07 5510 2888

Guardian Angels
Stephen Montgomery
(Principal)
07 5510 0055

De Paul Villa

Julie Madden
(Director of Aged Care)
07 5582 7250

**De Paul Manor
Estate**

Jessica Madden
(Manager)
07 5582 7999

Feasts and Saints of this Week

Sunday 31 Dec	Monday 1 Jan	Tuesday 2 Jan	Wednesday 3 Jan	Thursday 4 Jan	Friday 5 Jan	Saturday 6 Jan
The Holy Family	Mary, The Holy Mother of God	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	Feria	Feria	Feria	Feria

Liturgy of the Word for Next Sunday: Numbers 6:22-27 - Galatians 4:4-7 - Luke 2:16-21

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR 2018.

The Sacramental programs for 2018, begin with **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**. Through this Sacrament children who are at least 10 years of age in 2018 (School Year 5) will experience God's merciful love which heals wounds of our sins and wrong choices.

The registration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on Friday, 12th January 2018 and close on Monday, 5th February 2018.

(for Registration Form please email MariaB@scp.org.au)

At the completion of this program, children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (1st Rite) between the 19th - 23rd of March 2018 in the afternoon.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Program preparing children for their **First Holy Communion** will commence in Term 2, 2018 and will be available to children who are 9 years of age (School Year 4) or older.

The registration for this program will open on Friday, 16th March 2018 and close on Friday, 20th April 2018.

At the completion of this Program, the children will receive their First Holy Communion At Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore on Sunday, 3rd June 2018. On this day there will be an additional Mass at 11am.

Young Adults Marian Valley Day Trip for 2018

Planning ahead into 2018 – Our first event of the year!

Where: Marian Valley Day Trip

When: Saturday, 20th January (Save the date)

Who: All Youth, Young Adults and parents welcome

What: Games, deepening faith and a great time!

Feel free to text Catherine on 0466 512 811 for more details or subscribe to the mailing list at southport@venireyouth.com

Filipino Mass - Please come and join us every First Sunday of the Month for a Filipino Mass at Guardian Angels Southport at 12pm. For any enquiries please contact Maryann Boehme on 0416 331 233.

Filipino Mass for 2018

7th of January, 4th of February, 4th of March, 1st of April
6th of May, 3rd of June, 1st of July, 5th of August
2nd of September, 7th of October, 4th of November
2nd of December.

First Wednesday Novena - Please come and join us on Wednesday, 3rd January 2018 for our first Wednesday Novena at 6pm followed by a 7pm mass at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador

Officiate by Bishop Tobias (from Philippines)



In these days of Christmas season, Fr Van Huong and I received numerous cards and gifts from so many parishioners.

Our dining table has been covered with many bottles of wine, boxes of chocolates, biscuits, cakes, Christmas cards, etc. Our fridges and freezers are also filled with so many goodies.

We will be very busy to eat and drink all of this before Lent which begins this year on 14th February 2018.

We thank you for all of these gifts that express your appreciation of our ministry among you. It is a privilege for us to serve you and be your companions on the journey of faith.

Fr Van Huong and Fr Jan

Your Prayers Are Requested For Those In Need And Who Have Journeyed To The Father

Anniversary: Len, Ben and Guido Busuttill

Sick and in Need: Theresa Birmingham, Carmen Buttigieg, Patricia Fisher, Peter Selby, Sheryl Fleet, Patrick Sullivan, Teresita Adrid, Barbara Raymont, Orlean Subramanian, Michael Skinner, Lucio Dumas, Debbie Poulton, Stephanie Alijahn, Douglas Bateman, Robin Bourke, Christopher Browne, Jan Buttigieg, Matthew Byrne, Albert Chandler, Anne Chandler, Amado Dizon, Ely Deganos, Clare Dobozy, Bernadette Douwes, Narelle Dwyer, Patricia Ferguson, Candy Guillon, Patrick Guillon, Shirley Harris, Evelyn Martinac, Maureen McCabe, John Morgan, Mariel Nicdao, Maria Pal, Yvonne See, Angela Taylor, Mladen Topic, Joe Tuesley, David Walters, Alison, Harry Hunter, Victor Williams, Andrei James Celes, Mary Achilles, Bede Lawner, Semeon Illescas, Peter Tsui

*Immaculate Heart of Mary we trust to your gentle care and intercessions
those 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.



The gospel passage for Holy Family Sunday calls our attention to family life.

St. Luke provides a window into a particular event that shaped the life of the Holy Family. Looking first at Simeon's greeting in the Gospel reading for Holy Family Sunday, we find Mary and Joseph confronted by mixed emotions.

The brief encounter of Mary and Joseph with Simeon as they present Jesus in the Temple for the first time highlights the conflicting emotions. Mary and Joseph are at first delighted at Simeon's prophecy, and they marvel at Simeon's words. Jesus is "...destined to be the downfall and rise of many in Israel..."

Simeon then continues the prophecy with an admonition to Mary that leaves no doubt about the suffering in store for both Jesus and her. "This child is destined to be a sign that will be opposed – and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword." For Mary and Joseph, these are puzzling words shrouded in mystery.

In the gospel that is proclaimed on New Year's Day (tomorrow), we will see shepherds gathered with Mary and Joseph around the crib, bowing low in adoration before the newborn Infant and praising God "...for all that they had seen and heard." Once again, Mary and Joseph find themselves in the presence of mystery. What does all this mean? In these two small pictures, Mary and Joseph show us how to approach God's mysterious action in our own lives.

Saint Luke tells us that, confronted by mystery, Mary responded with deep faith and profound trust "...treasuring all these things and reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2: 19) Trusting God for all they did not understand, Mary and Joseph went about faithfully fulfilling the ordinary tasks of family life. This is a lesson they taught Jesus in Nazareth as He grew in wisdom, age and grace. Perhaps, as the New Year 2018 begins, we can resolve in our families to follow the example of the Holy Family.

Sacraments - Calendar 2017

The Sacrament of Reconciliation - will commence in Term 1, 2018. As per the Archdiocese Sacramental program requirements, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is on offer to those candidates who are Baptised Catholic and who are at least 10 years of age in 2018 (School Year 5). **Candidate registration will open on Friday, 12th January 2018 and close on Monday, 5th February 2018.**

The Sacrament of the **First Communion** will be offered in Term 2, 2018 and will be available to candidates who are 9 years of age (Year 4) or older. **Candidate registration will open on Friday, 16th March 2018 and close on Friday, 20th April 2018.**

The Candidates for this Sacrament must be a Baptised Catholic, and **at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic.** Those candidates who are unsure if they qualify. Please contact our Parish Office on 5510 2222.

Children's Liturgy - Anyone interested in assisting with Children's Liturgy can contact our Parish Office on 5510 2222.

Baptismal Preparation Classes - Parents planning to baptise their children in our parish, note that the next Baptismal Preparation Classes will be held on **Tuesday, 8th and 30th January 2018 at 10:30am**, in the **Mary Immaculate Church**, Ashmore.

Marriage Preparation - For parishioners who are going to marry in the coming months, please contact **Abas Supeli** in order to obtain the **Marriage Preparation Course**. Contact by phone on: **0450 221 088** or email: asupeli@gmail.com as the Registered Facilitator for the Ministry of Marriage Preparation in the Southport Catholic Parish.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Public Domain

Glory to God in the highest,

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.

GIFTS PROCESSION

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds worship and angels
sing;
Haste, haste to bring him praise,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Come have no fear, God's Son is here,
His love all love exceeding.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Saviour comes
the babe, the Son of Mary.

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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION^(ICEL)

When we eat this Bread and drink this
Cup we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until
you come again.

COMMUNION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

1835-1893 Phillips Brooks 1831-1908 Lewis H Redner

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet
head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the
sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender
care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee
there.

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1921

RECESSIONAL

Let Heaven Rejoice

Refrain:

**Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad;
let all creation sing.**

**Let children proclaim through every
land:**

"Hosanna to our king."

Sound the trumpet in to the night;
The day of the Lord is near.
Wake his people, lift your voice,
proclaim it to the world. **R**

Rise in splendor; shake off your sleep;
Put on your robes of joy.
And in the morning you shall see the glory
of the Lord. **R**

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