

The Christmas edition of The Catholic Leader is available for sale @ \$4 and well worth a leisurely read. Articles include

- Messages from the Bishops of Qld
- Pope Francis visits refugees in Greece
- Brisbane starts online Parish
- Book Reviews; Puzzles; Trivia Quiz
- Real life stories from everyday people who have made a difference where it has been appreciated.



Another year has almost run its course and we pause to reflect on the busyness of life and offer a vote of thanks to the many people who are actively involved in so many ways here at St Mary's. Some admit they are tired whether due to age or ill health, some are doing more than necessary because there aren't enough helpers and others just keep on going no matter what simply because that's what they do. I am sure you can relate to this.

While I realise that it is not always a good idea to mention particular people in case you miss someone, I wish to give recognition to friends who have been willing to assist when they see a need which in turn has eased my workload throughout 2021. I am getting 'older' too so please forgive me if I do not mention you by name.

- to Beverley & Lou for collecting and folding the newsletters every Friday.
- to Con for sweeping up the leaves and generally tidying up the grounds.
- to Michael & Geoff who attend to the banking each week and to the collectors at the weekend Masses. (more people required to make up a roster)

- to Gary for organising or attending to lots of jobs not covered in my job description role and for mowing, painting, repairing statues and whatever else cropped up.
- to Lita for setting up for Baptisms and letting me know when to order supplies for the church.
- to Beverley for checking the parish hall a couple of times a week to make sure all is in order, not to mention the hours spent in the garden.
- to the sacristans who set up for Mass and take the cloths home to wash.
- to Gerry for supervising the altar servers and to the parents/guardians who make sure they are here in plenty of time for Mass.
- to Barry for taking time out of his already full schedule to attend to welding jobs i.e. windows and the new noticeboard sign.
- to my husband Rob who has been roped into so many jobs in the last six months simply because he is one of those 'handy men' that has the know how and tools to fix almost anything. The fact that he is now retired may also have something to do with it! I should have made a list of the numerous repairs he has done. Only this week he managed to locate two latches for the small windows along the side of the church that have been closed for a very long time (more breeze for you Paddy!)

Well that's filled up a good section of the page. I would ask you to consider how you may be able to assist in any areas where you see a need. Also, the mowing of the grounds is a top priority. Peter McGovern has offered to give a few people instructions on the safe use of the ride on mower sometime in January so if you are willing to learn, please let us know.

The year has been a blur in lots of ways with one thing or another but I have survived with the help and practical support of so many of you who have kept me sane. Please accept this as my personal thanks. *Mary Kirkpatrick*

Entrance: Father Welcomes Robin Mann

**Refrain: Father welcomes all His children
To His family through His Son.
Father giving His salvation,
Life for ever has been won.**

Little children come to Me,
For My Kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give:
Mercy for your sin. **R/**

In the water, in the Word,
In the promise be assured:
Those who are baptised and believe
Shall be born again. **R/**

Let us daily die to sin.
Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Live in the peace of God. **R/**

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Communion: Table of Plenty

D. Schutte©1992 Daniel L. Schutte

Come to the feast of heaven and earth!
Come to the table of plenty!
God will provide for all that we need,
Here at the table of plenty.

O, come and sit at my table,
where saints and sinners are friends.
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely,
to share the cup of my love.

O, come and eat without money;
Come to drink without price.
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit,
with faith and fullness of life.

My bread will ever sustain you,
through days of sorrow and woe.
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness,
to flood the depths of your soul.

Your fields will flower in fullness;
Your homes will flourish in peace.
For I, the giver of home and harvest,
will send my rain on the soil.

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Thanksgiving: What Child Is This? W.C. Dix (1827-1898)

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?

**Refrain: This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.**

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

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Recessional: Angels We Have Heard on High
Traditional French carol (Les Anges dans nos Campagnes)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, In excelsis Deo, Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the Angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of Angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Public Domain

Roster Date	Sunday 26th Dec	Saturday 1st January	Sunday 2nd January
Welcomer	T Hagan	P Domin	K Ogilvie
1st Reader	C Chu	J Kelleher	K Perronnet
2nd Reader	M Kirkpatrick	A Gilbert	T Hagan
Communion	R Parker	M Bryant	R Parker
Servers	Isaac Xavier	Thu Han Andre	Sophie Nicholas Andrew
Musicians	Justin	Bong & Jearan	Robyn
Singers	Majella	Filipino Choir	Theresa
Mass set up	Lita Rebecca	Carmel	Lita Rebecca

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 1) The office will be closed from noon Christmas Eve to Tues 4th Jan.
 - 2) The usual weekday Masses will not be celebrated. Instead.....
- * There will be an end of year Vigil Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 31st December at 6pm.
- * There will be a Mass to welcome in the New Year on Saturday 1st January at 10am followed by morning tea in the hall. Please bring a small plate of goodies to share.
- 3) The Masses for the weekend of 1st/2nd January 2022 will be as usual.

We take this opportunity to thank the businesses listed below for their continued sponsorship of the newsletter in 2021. This is very much appreciated and, in turn, we hope that parishioners will keep these businesses in mind when the opportunity arises.

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We remember in our prayers:

Those in ill health: Anna Pecar, Margaret Twomey, Laurel Dingle, Fay Richards, Ame Cox.

The Recently Deceased:

Martin Baker, Patrick Berrell.

Anniversaries of Death: Alice Bertram, Christopher Archibald, Terry Dart, Martin Rodrigues, Barry Foot.

Mass Offering envelopes are available in the church if required.

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PARISH SECRETARY

Mary Kirkpatrick
OFFICE HOURS
8.30AM TO 2.30PM TUESDAY - FRIDAY

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Ron Wroe 0455 433 335

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Mary's Primary 41 215705
St Mary's College 41 902200

SPECIAL MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK ONLY

31/12/2021 Friday Vigil 6.00pm
Thanksgiving Mass
01/01/2022 Saturday 10am
Mass to welcome the New Year followed by morning tea in the hall
01/01/2022 Vigil Mass 6.00pm
02/01/2022 Sunday Maryborough 8.00am

Reconciliation 5.00 - 5.30pm each Saturday

This weekend's Readings:

1st - Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
Psalm Response:
How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.
2nd - St John 3: 1-2, 21-24
Gospel Acclamation (sung):
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - Luke 2: 41-52

Next weekend's Readings:

The Epiphany of the Lord
1st - Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm: 71
2nd - Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel - Matthew 2: 1-12



26th December, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Jesus the Reason for the Season

As we celebrate Christmas this week, we remember the best gift that we ever received. It is the gift of love from God. He sends His Only Son Jesus Christ to the world as our Saviour and Lord. John's Gospel today has it: "God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life," (John 3:16). It is also the gift of the Son who chooses to make His dwelling among us and to become like us that we may become like Him.

Christmas, which literally means 'Christ's Mass' is nothing less than God wanting to be with us. Our Church finds this day so important that she gives us three Masses: at midnight, at dawn and at daytime and each with its own readings. For midnight and dawn the gospel readings are from Luke's familiar telling of the Christmas story. For the daytime Mass we have the opening of John's first gospel, his 'prologue' which tells us about the coming of the Almighty God into our world. The cold and comfortless cave of Bethlehem was where the Eternal Word stepped into human history and becomes a member of our human race. This shows us how great the love of God to each one of us is. With joy, let us take this awe-filled blessings of Christmas to the ends of the earth shouting Alleluia!

The Holy Family

This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family. We are offering this Mass in thanksgiving for that great love of God and also for the many blessings we have received during this year. Though it has been a challenging year for families as the Covid-19 continues to ravage the whole world but the Holy Family suffered for the truth and so will we.

Let us not give in to the demons of discouragement, skepticism, cynicism and doubt. Let us cast them out in the Name of Jesus Christ. Let us not ask "when will You make it end," but rather ask, "what can I do dear Lord to help teach Your children the Truth of Your love for them and teach them who they truly are and the blessedness of the family of mother, father and children? What can I do to help heal them and rebuke the evil confusing our society?" He is always ready to help us with His Divine Grace; all we need to do is ask for it. Let us therefore ask the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to strengthen our faith in the transforming and healing power of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Fr Lucius