

## ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

21 – 22 DECEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday: 9am-4pm, Friday: 1pm-5pm)

Corrie (Wednesday-Thursday: 9am - 3pm)

## What part did Mary and Joseph have in God's plan?



God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus.



### JUST MAN DREAMING

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

Rev Prof Michael Tate is currently Vicar General in the Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

### "GOD IS WITH US"

St Joseph listened to the call of God, his vocation was to trust. Today let us pray that many young people from our parishes and families will hear the call of God and trust enough to say 'yes' to priesthood and consecrated life.



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### 24 DECEMBER

6:00 PM - Family Mass;

10:00 PM - Evening Mass of Christmas

#### 25 DECEMBER

10:30 AM - Christmas Day Mass

#### READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10;

Second Reading: Hebrew 1: 1-6;

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

## WEEKDAY MASSES DURING THE SEASON

- 26 December, Thursday (Boxing Day)—no mass
- 27 December, Friday—regular 10:00 AM mass
- 01 January, Wednesday— 10:00 AM (No Anointing)
- 02 January, Thursday—regular 9:15 AM

CATHOLIC MISSION thanks you for your response to the World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity empowers us to witness Christ's love in 160 countries of the world.

**2019**  
St Timothy's Parish  
Forest Hill

*What a great effort for the greater good!*

**\$705.00**  
raised

Catholic Mission thanks you for making a difference

*Thank you*

...to have life and to the full

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## CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**The Parish Office will be closed during the Christmas week and will be back on 7th of January. If you need anything from the parish, please email us at [foresthill@cam.org.au](mailto:foresthill@cam.org.au)**

**From Us to All:  
A Blessed Christmas & A Joyous New Year**

### PLENARY COUNCIL ADVENT PRAYER

*Be still. Be still and know. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know that I am your God.*

*God of this Advent time, as we watch, wait, long and hope, awaken our hearts to your presence. Encourage us in our efforts to listen humbly to each other. Inspire in us the words to speak boldly with each other. Create within us a spirit of discernment. Give us hopeful hearts as we continue our journey to the Plenary Council.*

*We ask this in the name of Emmanuel - God-with-us. Amen.*



<b>ROSTERS:</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>
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#### EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	S. Samarasundera M. Italiano	L. Cigana D. Hickman A. Yee
◆ Next week	P. Naughtin Sr June	E. Mendes C.L. Tay B. Benedict

#### PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week	C: H. Lobo P: P. Kelly	T. Yee T. Fernandes
◆ Next week	C: P. D'Cruz P: R. Grealy	Sr Betty K. Barritt

#### COUNTERS

This Week: Peter Deayton / Lester Steele  
Next Week: Adrian Farrell

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

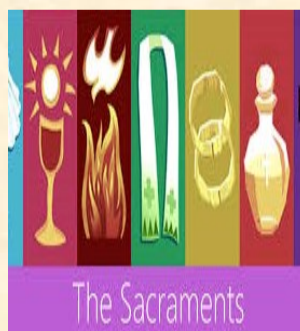
*"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:**  
Zenon Salanowski, Julian Lobo, Alan Hardy, Patricia Bevans, Jack Pirera, Mary Mann, Francesco Boccaccio, Maria Cassano, Eloide Leonard, Ninetta Boccaci, Vita Boccacci, Felicetta Boccacci, Laura Ciritelly, Augusto Tenorio, Eloide Leonardi, Georgina Gleeson, Maria Abadilla.

### SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

- ◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass )
- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



### 2019 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

### MASS TIMES:

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
  - ◆ Sunday: 9:30 AM
  - ◆ Indian Mass: 12:00 NN every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
  - ◆ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
  - ◆ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.**

### WEEKDAYS:

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ◆ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am



## **FRANCIS: ADVENT A TIME OF CONVERSION**

Advent season is a time of conversion and opportunity to make space in one's heart for Christ to come and fill it with joy, Pope Francis said. Source: CNA.

“Advent, a time of grace, tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing to welcome – not a fairytale character – but the God who calls us, involves us, and before whom a choice is imposed,” Pope Francis said in his Angelus address. Pope Francis reminded the children of the meaning of the nativity scene by quoting a passage of his apostolic letter, *Admirabile Signum*, published on the first day of Advent this year:

“The nativity scene is like a living Gospel,” he said. “As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.” The Pope said that the child Jesus in the nativity scene has “the face of our most needy brothers and sisters.”

“The poor are a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God's presence in our midst,” he said.

## **POPE: PRAYERS OF THE OLD ARE POWERFUL**

On the eve of his 83rd birthday, Pope Francis met with a group of his peers – although many were a few years younger – and told them that “old age is a time of grace”.

“Grandparents, who have received the blessing of seeing their children's children, are entrusted with a great task: transmitting the experience of life and the history of the family, the community, the people,” the Pope said yesterday during an audience with members of the Italian National Association of Senior Workers.

Pope Francis, who was born December 17, 1936, told association members that one's later years should be a “season of dialogue,” because “the future of a people naturally presupposes a dialogue and encounter between the old and young to build a society that is more just, more beautiful, has more solidarity and is more Christian”.

As one grows older, he said, “the Lord renews his call to us. He calls us to preserve and hand on the faith; he calls us to pray, especially to intercede; he calls us to be alongside those who are in need”.

“The elderly, grandparents, have a unique and special ability to understand the most problematic situations,” the Pope continued. “And when they pray for these situations, their prayer is strong, it's potent.”

By living one's senior years as a gift and a time for dialogue, he said, the elderly show the lie of “the traditional stereotype of the elderly: ill, handicapped, dependent, isolated, besieged by fear, left out, having a weak identity after losing their social role.”

Active seniors, he said, also fight a system that focuses more on “costs and risks” than on “resources and potential.”

“The future – and this is not an exaggeration – will be found in dialogue between the young and the old,” he said.

“Remember, talk to young people, not to clobber them, no. To listen to them, to sow something. This dialogue is the future.”

## **SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE, BUT KEEPING KIDS SAFE REMAINS TOP PRIORITY**

Catholic leaders have submitted a report to the National Office for Child Safety outlining the Church's ongoing response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The publication of the report from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) coincides with the second anniversary of the release of the Royal Commission's final report. The Church's report, which focuses on progress from November 2018 to November 2019, is itself responding to one of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

“The past year has seen steady and significant progress made across a range of areas, including in education, in governance reform and in responding to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse,” ACBC president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said. “Clearly, any institution that engages with young people must always be vigilant, working to ensure that strong and effective protocols and procedures are in place, generating a culture committed to prompt and decisive action when allegations arise.”

CRA president Br Peter Carroll FMS said the adoption of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards earlier this year was an important moment in the Church's response. “The Standards that religious institutes and dioceses have endorsed build on the 10 key elements as outlined by the Royal Commission, adding an additional layer of requirements that reflect the circumstances of the Catholic Church,” he said.

## **POPE ABOLISHES ‘PONTIFICAL SECRET’ IN ABUSE CASES**

Pope Francis has abolished the obligation of secrecy for those who report having been sexually abused by a priest and for those who testify in a Church trial or process having to do with clerical sexual abuse. Source: CNS.

“The person who files the report, the person who alleges to have been harmed and the witnesses shall not be bound by any obligation of silence with regard to matters involving the case,” the Pope ordered in a new “Instruction On the Confidentiality of Legal Proceedings,” published yesterday.

In an accompanying note, Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, said the change regarding the “pontifical secret” has nothing to do with the seal of the sacrament of confession.

“The absolute obligation to observe the sacramental seal,” he said, “is an obligation imposed on the priest by reason of the position he holds in administering the sacrament of confession and not even the penitent can free him of it.”

The instruction was published by the Vatican along with changes to the already-updated *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela* (Safeguarding the Sanctity of the Sacraments), the 2001 document issued by St John Paul II outlining procedures for the investigation and trial of any member of the clergy accused of sexually abusing a child or vulnerable adult or accused of acquiring, possessing or distributing child pornography.

In describing the procedural norms for how the tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is to be composed and conducted, Pope Francis has removed the requirement that the legal representative of the accused be a priest. The law now reads: “The role of advocate or procurator is carried out by a member of the faithful possessing a doctorate in canon law, who is approved by the presiding judge of the college.”

## **INTRODUCTION TO MASS:**

A man of honour. Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God's plan of salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God's word to him. He is an example for us all.

## **LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

**Commentator:** We bring our Advent Wreath to the full blaze of light, in the hope that we may see clearly all that is made known to us in the coming of Jesus.

**All:** As You come in the stillness of night, Jesus, enter our lives. Overcome darkness with Your light, so that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak and the life to live for You, our Lord and Saviour.

## **PENITENTIAL RITE:**

Lord Jesus, you are the promise of salvation:.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are a light in the darkness .

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your coming brings grace and peace.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

## **FIRST READING:** *Isaiah 7: 10-14*

The book of Isaiah was written at a time when the people of Israel were under threat and had once again fallen away from their covenant with God. Isaiah's messianic prophecy is a promise to the people of the time that God-is-with-us now, and God-will-be-with-us in the future when the Messiah is born of a young woman.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM :**

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is King of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

## **SECOND READING:** *Romans 1: 1-7*

Paul highlights the link between the message of Jesus and the ancient traditions of Israel. However, Jesus is more than human. Through his death and resurrection he has been established Son of God in power. The resurrection uniquely manifested his divine sonship.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia!**

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL :** *Matthew 1: 18-24*

The birth of Jesus, son of God, son and child of Judaism. Matthew's Gospel focuses on Joseph. It is through Joseph that Jesus comes into the House of David. It is Joseph who receives an annunciation that the child has been conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. The future lies hidden from Joseph, as the future of any child lies hidden from its parents. Joseph trusts this future into God's hands.

