

Holy Trinity

CATHOLIC PARISH

Churches:

Holy Trinity Church Star of the Sea Holy Family Church
34 Stevens Street 68 John Dory Drive 101 Hitchcock Ave
Queenscliff Ocean Grove Barwon Heads

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Richardson.

Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary: Miss Dale Holland.

Email: dalehollandi@outlook.com

Presbytery & Office – 34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff

Tel: 5258 1673 Fax 5258 3937

Parish Website: <http://pol.au/queenscliff/Home.aspx>

Baptisms & Marriages: by appointment, Tel. 5258 1673.

Parish Care Group: Belinda 0425 855 996,
Angela 0412683193

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius' Queenscliff: Ms. Fiona Dawson Tel: 5258 1736

Star of the Sea Ocean Grove: Ms. Rhonda Boyd Tel: 5255 4308

Notices to be submitted to presbytery by 4 p.m. Thursday

30th. Sunday in Ordinary Time 29.10.17

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

BARWON HEADS: 6pm Saturday vigil Mass

OCEAN GROVE: 9 am Sunday morning

QUEENSCLIFF: 11 am Sunday morning

WEEKDAY MASS

OCEAN GROVE: Tues @ 9.15 am

QUEENSCLIFF: Wed & Fri @ 9.15 am

QUEENSCLIFF CEMETRY:

Thursday, Nov2 @ 9.15 am: All Souls' Mass

**Geelong: St. John of God Hospital Thursdays
@ 11.30 am. Chapel is located near Café Costa**

MASS TIMES IN THE GEELONG REGION

<http://geelongdeanery.cam.org.au>

RECONCILIATION:

20 MINUTES BEFORE EACH WEEKEND MASS

People who are gluten intolerant are asked to speak to Father Michael before Mass so that he can arrange for them to receive the Eucharist from the Cup



Liturgy of the Word:

FIRST READING: Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely

cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.

He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

SECOND READING: 1 Thes 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Recently Deceased: Gwen King, Hons Gornheimer, Anne Rutledge, Fr. Anthony Guelen
Anniversaries 28.10-3.11.17: Bill Chappey, Lorna Mc Mahon, Howard Reed, Noreen Wohlfahrt, Raphael Omeaku, Anne Phipps, Leo Hillis,, George Weston, Peter Jarman, Christine Martin, Mary Alice O'Loughlin, Herman Denneman, Michael Walsh
Sick: Sharon Kingsbury, Ross Gilham, Lorna Taylor, Peter & Maris Williams, John Poullos, Bill & Betty Rushton, Mary Jo Robinson, Laurance Hodgkinson, Belinda Monterosso, Joan Glen, Max Reed, Steve Retallick, Adam Wilde, Declan Shine, Lachlan Mc Kinnon, Cheryl Leonard, Arnie Bench, Nell Fraiseux, Willow Hanan, Patricia Liston , Mary Pace & Josh Walsh

BAPTISM ARRANGEMENTS:

QUEENSCLIFF: Sundays @ 12 noon.

OCEAN GROVE & BARWON HEADS:

Sundays @ 2 pm

Congratulations to those baptised last weekend:

Maddock Mathe, child of Rory & Jessica Nicol

Jack Graham & Oliver Stephen

children of Andrew & Susan McLeish



Ministry Volunteers Nov 4 &5

If you are unable to met your obligation on this day

PLEASE ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE!

COMMENTATORS/ LECTOR (C/L) SPECIAL MINISTER (S.M)

WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

BARWON HEADS: Nov 4 @ 6 pm:

(C:) M. Fitzgerald (L) M. de Been (SM) T. Dunell

(W) M. Frisch, R. Kavenagh

OCEAN GROVE: Nov 5 @ 9 am:

(C) N. Calnin (L) S. Griffin

(SM) L. Dillon, P. Healy ((W) H. Pearce, P. Waters

SPECIAL MIINISTER TO HOMESTEAD: Wk1 Nov 5

G. Malone, J. Altamore

QUEENSCLIFF: Nov 5 @ 11 am

(C) :S. Hurley, (L) L. Rodger (S.M) L. Rodger (W) M.C. Hoare

COUNTERS: Nov 5

L. Frances, M. de Been, J & S. Casey

Holy Trinity Parish Survey Web Address:

<https://goo.gl/r4r1vt>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Anam Cara is running the Palliative Care Victoria training course in October. To learn more or express an interest email Tess Davis at: t.davis@achg.org.au or ring 5225 5831, Mon- Fri, 9am-5pm.

The Bishops' Pastoral Letter about Assisted Dying is available in the Churh porch/narthex

PARISH DIARY

Oct 29, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in BH

Oct 31, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews

Nov 2, Thurs @ 9.15: All souls' in Cemetery

Nov 2, Thurs : Communion in Homestead Lakes

Nov 5, At all Masses: Pray for Persecuted Church

Nov 5, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in OG

Nov 8, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare

Nov 8, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board meeting

Nov 9, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Mass in St. J of God.

Nov 10, Fri : St A's & Olss Mission Fetes

COMING EVENTS:

ADVENT AWAKENINGS

.Geelong Deanery Formation, in St. Mary of the Angels' Basilica, Tues, Nov 21, 11.30 am-8 pm, featuring:

1.Liturgical Ministry Workshops: Formation & training for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at Mass (Block 1) & Readers of God's Word. (Block 2)

(Please note: Participants require an endorsement from their PP & will receive a certificate of attendance)

2. Personal reflection & formation: Entitled 'Witnesses to the Light' this workshop will draw on the richness of the Advent Readings & include input, personal reflection & discussion.

3. Advent Preparation: Learn about this year's Advent resources over a delicious meal at the Centre Hotel.

(Personal cost for meal is \$35)

Programme:

11.30 am: Registration & Light lunch

12.00: Opening Prayer & Welcome.

12.15: Workshops Block 1: 2.00 pm: Afternoon Tea

2.30 pm: Workshop Block 2: 4.30 pm: Workshops end

Evening Session:

Centra Hotel (formerly Carrington, 131 Yarra St; Geelong.

5.30 pm: Gather 6.00 pm: Presentation 'Advent

Awakening' Dinner 2 course meal . 8.00 pm Close

Cost is \$50 per Parish for 5 people or more. Contact Fr. Michael by Sunday Nov 12 if you wish to attend

St. Joseph's College Old Collegians Association

Remembrance Mass is on Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 10 am in the

College Chapel, followed by light refreshments. RSVP:

<https://www.trybooking.com/SPHT>

A BBQ PARISH DINNER IN BARWON HEADS

TO WELCOME BISHOP MARK EDWARDS:

Is on November 25, after 6 pm Mass in Holy Family Church, at the home of Leo & Loretta Mithen, 12 Hogan Dr; Barwon Heads. Please bring a salad or a sweet to share. BYO drink.

RSVP: Loretta / Leo on 52541212 or 0408 030200

LADIES' GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER at 'Mr Grubb, Oakdene on Wed, Dec. 6 @ 6.30 pm. Cost is \$39 for a 3 course meal. Menu is available on the website:

<http://www.oakdene.com.au/cafe> RSVP by Nov 21 to:

Gerry on 0417 126 995 or Liz on 0411 69000

LADIES' GROUP NOVEMBER DINNER is Wed, Nov 1, at

Leopold Sportsmans Club, 135 Kensington Rd., Leopold.

RSVP: Angela 0400 836 909 or Sandra 5255 4404by Mon,

Oct 30

The Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga has short term budget accommodation in Melbourne. It is on the 96 tram route, Nicholson St., Fitzroy and is close to hospitals. For bookings & more information, please ring 9417 3379

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is on **Tuesday evenings, @ 7.30 pm, in OLSS School staff room.** (except in school holidays). At present we have 7 starters. Would you like to be a sponsor, or a specific prayer person for one of the candidates? A sponsor comes to some of the meetings and helps make their 'charge' feel welcome. Enquiries: Sandra on 52562978 or Kerin on 5254 1114.

LESSONS FROM THE ROYAL COMMISSION: A Time for Listening: - A Public Conversation with Francis Sullivan, CEO Truth, Justice and Healing Council, responsible for coordinating the Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse is on Thurs, Oct, 19, 7-9 pm, in Pioneer Room, St. Mary's Parish, 150 Yarra St; Geelong. It is an opportunity to: 1. Better understand the crisis & the reality of what happened. 2. Gain insights into the findings of the Royal Commission & 3. Hear what this means for the Church & our Parishes. This event is free. For more information contact St. Michael's Parish Office on 5278 1343.

College will celebrate its 125th. Anniversary in 2018. If you are a former student, the Alumni Development Office Maria Cleve wishes to hear from you. Her contacts are: 03 57835 343 or email; maria.cleve@assumption.vic.edu.au

INITIATIVES TO CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF MERCY:

Weekend November 18 & 19: World Day of the Poor

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WORKERS.

The Diocese of Broome, W.A., requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church in the Kimberley. There are various tasks: administration, maintenance, gardening, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are for 6 month periods for Balgo, Bidyadanga & Warmum. Accommodation & food is provided. Enquiries: Anneliese Rohr on 08 9192 1060 or email: volunteers@broome diocese.org

GEELONG DINERS' CLUB meets On Tues, Oct 10 @ 6.15 in Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St. Appetizers & 2 course meal cost \$ 33. Guest speaker is Chris Hanson. Bookings by Oct 6, to Michael Belleville at 0431 959 584.

MEMBERS OF HOLY TRINITY HOSPITALITY GROUP are invited to a meeting in Eva Millie's home on Monday, Oct. 16 @ 10 am. This is to plan the catering for the luncheon with Bishop Mark Edwards.

YEAR of YOUTH in YOUR PARISH Nov 2017- Dec 2018: Parish priests, pastoral associates & parish leaders are invited to come and explore how your Parish can use the Year of Youth to 'Open new horizons for spreading joy'. Join us on Saturday, Oct 21, 9.30-3.30, at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. When we equip Parishes with ideas, tools and resources. Cost is \$20 each or group of 4 \$60.00. To register: WWW.CAM.ORG.AU/YOUTH/YEAROFYOUTH RSVP: by October 8 to Fr. Michael

LESSONS FROM THE ROYAL COMMISSION: A Time for Listening: - A Public Conversation with Francis Sullivan, CEO Truth, Justice and Healing Council, is on Thurs, Oct, 19, 7-9 pm, in Pioneer Room, St. Mary's Parish, 150 Yarra St; Geelong For more information contact St. Michael's Parish Office on 5278 1343

It is an opportunity to: 1. Better understand the crisis & the reality of what happened. 2. Gain insights into the findings of the Royal Commission & 3. Hear what this means for the Church & our Parishes. This event is free.

The ADVENT HEART: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St; East Melbourne, Oct 10 & 17, 7-9pm
Session 1. Tues, Oct 10, : Keynote (2x45 mins)
An introduction to the Gospel of Mark by Fr. Frank Moloney sdb
Session 2. Tues, Oct 17: Keynote:
Exploring the Readings in Year B by Fr. Frank Moloney;
Workshop option 1: Liturgical environment facilitated by Cathy Jenkins. **Workshop Option 2.** Selecting Music settings facilitated by Dr. Paul Taylor (Dir. Music St. Patrick's Cathedral) Cost: \$25 pp for 2 sessions; \$15 pp individual session (includes light refreshments @ 6.30 pm) Register online at: <https://www.trybooking.com/RNLL> by **Tues Oct 3** Parish will reimburse attendees on receipt

PARISH DIARY 2017

Jan 15, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in O.G
Jan 17, Tues @ 9.30 RCIA @ Fox's
Jan 19, Thurs @ 2pm Working Bee @ RSL
Jan 20, Fri @ 6 pm: Anniversary Mass & Dinner
Jan 21, Sat @ 10am: Cleaning Bee @ RSL
Jan 22, Sun @ 9am: Baptism O.G
Jan 22, Sun @ 2 pm: Baptism O.G
Jan 29, Sun @ 12: Baptism In Q'Cliff
Jan #0, Mon: St. Bernard's Mass
Jan 31, Tues; RCIA
Feb 2, Thurs: Priests' Zone Meeting
Feb 5, Sun @ 12 Noon: Baptism in Q'cliff
Feb 7, Tues: RCIA
Feb 9, Thurs @ 11,30: Mass in St. J of God Hospital
Feb 14, Tues @ 4 pm: RCIA
Feb 17, Fri @ 2-pm: Wedding in Barwon Heads
Feb 18, Sat @ 3.30 pm: Wedding @ Rusty Gate
Feb 21, Tues: RCIA
Feb 22, Wed: Arcsre
Feb 23, Thurs @ 7.30 pm in OG; Parish Council Meeting
Feb 24, Fri @ 9.15 Mass: St A's Grade 3 & 4
Feb 26, Sun @ 9 am: Welcoming & Commissioning Mass for OLSS School
Feb 26, Sun @ noon: Baptism Q'cliff
Feb 28, Tues: Fr. at Seaviews
Feb 28, Tues @ 4 pm: After School R,E begins
Mar 1, Wed @ 9.15 am: Ash Wed Mass
St A's whole school coming
Mar 1, Wed @ 12 noon: Ash Wed.Mass at O.G
Mar 1, Wed:Fr at Homestead & Arcare
Mar 2, Thurs: Fr @ Homestead Lakes
Mar 3, Fri @ 9.15: St A's 1 & 2 at Mass
Mar 3, Fri : World Day of Prayer: 10 am Q'cliff Uniting Church; Barwon Heads: 2 pm Holy Family
Mar 5, Sun : Carly's Baptism @ 9 am Mass, OG
Mar 5, Sun: 2pm: Baptisms in OG.
Mar 7, Tues @ 6.30 pm: OLSS Reconciliation Info Night
Mar 7, Tues: St A's Board Meeting
Mar 8, Wed: Fr. @ Arcare
Mar 8, Wed @ 4.30pm: TAR Meeting@ Bridge St; Q'cliff
Mar 8, Wed @ 7 pm: OPLSS Board Meeting
Mar 9, Thurs after 9.15 Mass:
St V de P Meeting OG Narthex
Mar 9, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Fr R has Mass in St. J of God
Mar 9, Thurs 1-3 pm: Fr R at Meeting in Bell Park
Mar 10, Fri @ 9.15: Grs 5 & 6 at Mass in Q'cliff:
Mar 12, Sun @ 2pm: Baptisms in Ocean Grove
Mar 14 Tues: Fr at Seaviews
Mar 16, Thurs: Fr at Homestead
Mar 16, Thurs @ 5.30 pm: Wedding rehearsal in B/Heads
Mar 17, Fri @ 3.30 pm: Wedding in B/Heads
Mar 19, Sun @ noon: Baptism in Q'cliff
Mar 22, Wed @ 9.15: St A's Preps at Mass
Mar 22, Wed: Fr. at Arcare
Mar 24, @ 5pm: Wedding Rehearsal Q'cliff
Mar 24, Thurs@ 7.30 pm: Parish Council Meeting in O.G
Mar 25, Sat @ 4.30 pm: Wedding in Q'cliff
Mar 26, Sun @ 2pm: Baptisms in O G
Mar 26, Sun @ 5.30 pm:

Deanery Commissioning Mass in St. Mary's, Geelong.
Mar 28, Tues: Mass. @ Seaviews
Mar 28, Tues @ 7 pm: OLSS School 1st. Reconciliation
Mar 29, Wed: Fr. at Arcare
Mar 29, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS School 1st. Reconciliation
Mar 30, Thurs: Priests' Zone Meeting in G'long
Apr 2, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in O.G
Apr 6, Thurs: Fr @ Homestead Lakes
Apr 9, Sun @ 2pm: Baptisms in O.G
Apr 11, Tues: Mass in Seaviews
Apr 12, Thurs: Communion at Arcare
Apr 13, Thur after 9.15 Mass: St V de P Meeting OG Narthex
Apr 13, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Fr has Mass in St. J of God
Apr 14, Fri: Good Friday services.
Apr 15, @ 6 pm: Easter Vigil in O.G Church
Apr 16, Sunday: Easter Sunday
Apr 20, Thurs @ 7.30 pm: Parish Council in O.G narthex
Apr 23, Sun @ noon: Baptisms in Q'cliff
Apr 25, Tues: Mass in Seaviews
Apr 26, Thurs: Fr R, Communion Service in Arcare
Apr 26, Thurs @ 7.30 pm: Parish Council Meeting in O.G
Apr 29, Sat @ 3.30 pm: Wedding in Barwon Heads
Apr 30, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in O.G
May 4, Thurs; Fr; at Homestead Lakes
May 9, Tues Mass at Seaviews
May 10, Wed: Communion at Arcare
May 10, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board Meeting
May 11, Thurs after 9.15 Mass: St V de P Meeting OG Narthex
May 11, Thurs @ 11.30: Mass in St. J of God Hospital
May 11, Thurs @ 3.45pm: Mass in Karenga Prison
May 17, Wed @ 7pm: St A's Reconciliation
May 18, Thurs : Communion at Homestead
May 18, Thurs @ 4.30 pm: Mass in Marngoneet Prison
May 21, Sun: Chaplaincy Sunday
May 23, Tues : Mass in Seaviews
May 24, Wed: Communion at Arcare
May 24, Wed @ 7 pm: Reconciliation
May 28, Sun @ 9 am: OLSS School 1st. Eucharist
May 30, Tues: Mass at Seaviews
May 31, Wed: Communion at Arcare
June 1, Thurs: Homestead Lakes
June 5, Mon-Fri June 8 No Masses Fr at Priests' Conference
Wend June 10/11: Propagation of the Faith collection
June 13, Tues: Mass at Seaviews
June 14, Wed: Fr. at Arcare
June 14, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board Meeting
June 15, Thurs@ 7 pm: Deanery Dinner at Capri
June 18: St V De P Winter Collection
June 15, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in O.G
June 20, Tues @ 6.30 pm: OLSS Confirmation Info night
June 22, Thurs @ 7.30pm: Parish Council
June 25, Sun: Peter's Pence Collection @ all Masses
June 25, Sun @ 2pm: Baptisms in O.G
June 27, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews.
June 28, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
July 6, Thurs : Communion @ Homestead Lakes
July 11, Tues @ 11 am: Mass in Seaviews
July 12, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
July 13, Thurs @ 11.30: Mass in St J of God

July 16, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in B.H
 July 18 Tues @ 6.30 pm: St A's Board Meeting
 July 18 Tues @ 7pm: Confirmation Info Night
 July 20, Thurs @ 11 am: Mass at Homestead
 July 22, Sun @ 2pm: Baptisms in B.H
 July 23, @ 9 & 11.30: Confirmation Masses in O.G
 July 25, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews
 July 26, Thurs @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 July Thurs, 27 7-9pm: Know your parish Lecture in Catholic Leadership Centre. Cost \$15. Brendan Reed
 July 30, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in O.G
 Aug 1, Tues @ 6.30 pm: Eucharist Info Night @OLSS
 Aug 2, Wed @7 pm: St A's Eucharist Info Night
 Aug 3, Thurs @ 11 am: Communion @ Homestead Lakes
 Aug 3, Thurs: Priests' Zone meeting
 Aug 6, Sun @ 3pm: Baptism in O.G
 Aug 8, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews
 Aug 8, Tues @ 6.30 pm: St A's Board meeting
 Aug 9, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Aug 10, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Mass in St. J of God
 Aug 13, Sun: Catholicare collection @ all Masses
 Aug 13, Sun @ 11 am: St A's First Eucharist
 Aug 13, Sun: Annual Pilgrimage
 Aug 16, Thurs @ 7pm: Combined Schools' Board Meeting
 Aug 17, Thurs : Communion at Homestead
 Aug 19, Sat @ 6 pm: OLSS First Eucharist in B.H
 Aug 20, Sun @ 9 am; OLSS First Eucharist
 Aug 20, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in Q'Cliff
 Aug 22, Tues @ 11 am: Mass in Seaviews
 Aug 22, Tues: RCIA resumes
 Aug 23, Wed 10-4 pm: Clergy meeting @ Moonee Valley
 Aug 25, Wed, @ 11 am: Mass in Arcare
 Aug 24, Thurs @ 7.30 pm: Parish Council in O.G narthex
 Aug 26: Wedding at Eumerella Scout Camp Anglesea
 Aug 27, Sun @ 9am: OLSS First Eucharist
 Aug 29, Tues @ 11 am: Mass in Seaviews
 Aug 30, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Aug 31, Thurs @ 7.30 pm: Parish Council meeting in OG
 Sept 3, Sun : Priests Retirement Foundation @ all Masses
 Sept 3, Sun @ 9 am: OLSS First Eucharist
 Sept 5, Tues @ 6.30 pm: St A's Board meeting
 Sept 6, Wed @ 7pm: Emergency Drill Meeting
 Sept 7, Thurs: Communion @ Homestead Lakes
 Sept 10, Sun @ 9 am: OLSS First Eucharist
 Sept 12, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews
 Sept 13, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Sept 13, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board meeting
 Sept 14, Thurs @ 11.30: Mass in St. J of God
 Sept 14, Thurs @ 7 pm: St. V de P Festival Mass Bell Park
 Sept 16 & 17: Catholicare special collection
 Sept 21, Thurs : Communion at Homestead
 Sept 24, Sun @12: Baptism n Q'cliff
 Sept 26, Tues @ 11 am: Mass in Seaviews
 Sept 27, Thurs @ 11 am: Mass in Arcare
 Sept 28, Thurs: Priests Zone Meeting
 Oct 1, Sun @ 12: Baptism in Q'cliff
 Oct 5, Thurs: Communion at Homestead
 Oct 7, Sat @ 11 am: Baptism in Q'cliff Visiting priest
 Oct 7, Sat : Emergency drill @ B.H
 Oct 8, Sun : Emergency drill in O.G & Q'cliff
 Oct 10, Tues @ 11 am: Mass in Seaviews
 Oct 10, Tues @ 7.30 pm: Liturgy Meeting in OG narthex

Oct 11, Wed, @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Oct 11, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board Meeting
 Oct 12, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Mass in St J of God
 Oct 12, Thurs @ 7pm: Emergency Meeting in OG narthex
 Oct 14/15: Child Safety w/end
 Oct 15, Sun @ 2pm: Baptisms in OG
 Oct 17, Tues @ 6.30 pm: St A's Board Meeting
 Oct 19, Thurs: Communion at Homestead
 Oct 19, Thurs @ 7 pm: St. Ignatius' Mass
 Oct 19, Thurs @ 7 .30 pm: Parish Review
 Oct 19, Thurs @ 7 pm: Francis Sullivan's talk in St. Mary's
 Oct 22, Sun: World Mission Sunday
 Oct 22, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in OG
 Oct 24, @ 11 am; Mass at Seaviews
 Oct 24, Tues: TAR Meeting
 Oct 25, Wed @ 11 am : Mass at Arcare
 Oct 26, Thurs @ 7.30 pm: Parish Council Meeting in O.G
 Oct 26, Thurs, 11.30-6 pm:
 Liturgical Formation Day in St. Mary's
 Oct 28, Sat @ 3 pm: Wedding in B.H
 Oct 29, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in BH
 Oct 31, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews
 Nov 2, Thurs @ 9.15: All souls' in Cemetery
 Nov 2, Thurs : Communion in Homestead Lakes
 Nov 5, At all Masses: Pray for Persecuted Church
 Nov 5, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in OG
 Nov 8, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Nov 8, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board meeting
 Nov 9, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Mass in St. J of God.
 Nov 10, Fri : St A's & Olss Mission Fetes
 Nov 12: Catholic Deaf Collection
 Nov 12, Sun – Thurs 16: Clergy retreat
 NO MASSES 13-17 NOV
 Nov 14, Tues @ 11 : Mass at Seaviews
 Nov 14, Tues @ 6.30 pm: St A's Board meeting AGM
 Nov 17, Fri 2 4 pm: Wedding Rehearsal @ BH
 Nov 18 Sat @ 3.30 pm: Wedding in B.H
 Nov 19, Sunday: World day of the Poor.
 Nov 21, Tues, 11.30-8 pm: Geelong Deanery Formation
 Nov 22, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Nov 23, Thurs – Sunday Nov 26: Bishop visitation
 Nov 25, Sat @ 4.30pm: Nuptial Mass in B.H
 Nov 28, Tues @ 11 am; Mass in Seaviews
 Nov 29, Thurs @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Dec 5, Tues, 5.30-7.30pm: OLSS School Concert
 Dec 7, Thurs: Communion @ Homestead Lakes
 Dec 7, Thurs: Priests Zone meeting
 Dec 10 Sun: Melbourne O'seas Mission Coll. All Masses
 Dec 12, Tues @ 11 am: Mass in Seaviews.
 Dec 13, Wed @ 11 am: Mass in Arcare
 Dec 13, Wed @ 7 pm: OLSS Board Meeting
 Dec 14, Thurs @ 11.30 am: Mass in St J of God
 Dec 14, Thurs @ 7 pm: Christmas Penitential Service
 Dec 12, Thurs @ 2pm: OLSS School Year end Mass in OG
 Dec 17, Sun @ 2pm: Baptism in OG
 Dec 21, Thurs: Communion at Homestead
 Dec 21, Thurs @ 2pm: OLSS School Yr end Mass
 Dec 26, Tues @ 11 am: Mass at Seaviews
 Dec 27, Wed @ 11 am: Mass at Arcare
 Dec 24, Sat: Christmas Eve
 Dec 25, Sun, Christmas Day

Sunday, 1 Oct 2017: Twenty-sixth Sunday in
Sunday, 22 Oct 2017: Twenty-ninth Sunday in
Ordinary Time - Year A
Liturgy of the Word
First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Sunday, 29 Oct 2017: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary
Time - Year A
Liturgy of the Word
First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the
Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966,
1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd
and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission
of the publishers.
The English translation of the Psalm Responses,
the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten
Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries,
and Conclusion of the Readings, from the
Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968,
International Committee on English in the Liturgy,
Inc. All rights reserved.

Bottom of Form

Gospel

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the
Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966,
1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd
and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission
of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses,
the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten
Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries,
and Conclusion of the Readings, from the
Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968,
International Committee on English in the Liturgy,
Inc. All rights reserved.

Bottom of Form

Top of Form

Sunday, 15 Oct 2017: Twenty-eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time - Year A
Liturgy of the Word
First Reading
Bottom of Form

Sunday, 29 Oct 2017: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

New Testament Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM

What belongs to God?

Before looking at the Lectionary reading it is helpful to place this passage in its Gospel context. In the Gospel last Sunday we read about the Herodians and Pharisees trying to trap Jesus with a trick question about taxes. The Gospel follow this incident with a further trick question this time asked by the Sadducees about the resurrection, since they do not believe in resurrection. Then today's Gospel returns to the Pharisees.

In these disputes we get a small glimpse into the type of disputes Jesus would have experienced with those in religious leadership. While others could claim some sort of credentials for their leadership roles – either the

school where they were taught or their membership within a priestly tribe – Jesus had no such claims. He did not rely on learned credentials, or on a recognised position. And yet he gathered crowds to hear him and he spoke with the authority of his own personal experience of God and integrity. No wonder he was unpopular with the religious leaders of his time.

The Pharisees were a lay group within Israel. They were not priests and they sought to live a pattern of life devoted to the teaching of Moses. They were not necessarily legalists for they were open to re-interpretations of the written law and they tried to answer new questions that the written law had not spoken about e.g. resurrection. In many ways Jesus would have looked somewhat like a Pharisee in that he also was a lay person and was re-interpreting the Law of Moses. By the time Matthew is writing his Gospel the Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed and so the Sadducees, the party of the priests, no longer had a significant role to play. It was the Pharisees who were leading the people of Israel to a new way of living without the Temple. The early Christians would therefore have had most struggles with this group. Some of the conflicts between Jesus and the Pharisees we see in the Gospels most likely reflect the later conflicts between the early Church and the Rabbis after the destruction of Jerusalem – as both groups claim to be the true heirs to Israel.

The question the Pharisees put to Jesus lies at the very heart of the Torah – the Law. Jesus' response is the great prayer of Israel, the Shema. 'This then is the commandment... that the Lord your God has commanded, "Hear Oh Israel! The Lord your God, the Lord is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength."' (Deut 6:1, 4) Jesus ties to this the command from Leviticus, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. (Lev 19:18) Love of God and love of neighbour is the essence of the Law.

If you recall last week I asked the question 'What belongs to God?' This week Jesus gives the answer – your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind. That's all!

I find the above paragraph quite overwhelming. God wants so much and there seems no room for compromise – your whole heart, whole soul, whole mind. I want to negotiate this a little. 'How about you have 90% and leave me with 10%? That sounds reasonable and very generous really.' But God's reply is unequivocal – 'whole, 100%'. When I hear these words I am reminded of weddings I have attended and the marvel I feel as two people give themselves entirely to each other without reserve – sickness and health, richer or poorer, till death. This is 100%, whole heart, whole soul, whole mind. Love makes such total surrender both desirable and possible.

Perhaps this is what this Gospel is expressing. God desires us with such 100% love and wants us to respond to this love wholeheartedly. Again I consider that marriage offers the best image of such mutual self-giving and receiving. Part of the problem with God's love is that it seems so unbelievable. How could God possibly love me 100% when my life is so messy; parts of it I don't like so how can I expect God to like it? Surely God just likes the good bits, the successful bits, the public bits. But then I come back to the marriage commitment and the Gospel words. Love means the whole of me; richer or poorer, good times and bad; whole heart, whole soul, whole mind.

© Mary Coloe

Sunday, 29 Oct 2017: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Scripture Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSS

The first reading reveals the humane nature of the law. It exhorts the Israelites to be especially attentive to those within their community who are the most vulnerable, defenceless and disadvantaged. It singles out the alien, the widow and the orphan as examples of groups who did not enjoy the rights and privileges of free adult men in a patriarchal society. The laws of Israel forbade taking advantage of those who were unprotected by social structures. They are also concerned with those within the community who are burdened with financial hardship. The reason God gives for this kind of concern is: I am gracious! I am compassionate! I am concerned about those who are vulnerable! God is the God of the oppressed.

The psalm of praise for deliverance is a composite of direct address to God and a description about God addressed to someone else. Perhaps its most noteworthy aspect is the array of metaphors that characterise God. They include: rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold. Although each has its respective meaning, they all embody some aspect of strength, trust or deliverance. The God who has been the defence of the psalmist has also secured victory for the king. The victory cry 'The Lord lives!' is a cultic formula that extols God's dynamic activity. What begins as a hymn of thanksgiving now becomes a doxology, a prayer in praise of God's mighty accomplishments.

Paul sketches the route taken by the gospel message as it passes from one group to another. As important as oral teaching may be, the gospel is principally handed down by the example of life. The lifestyle of Paul and his missionary companions converted the Thessalonians. It made such an extraordinary effect on their lives that they in turn made a comparable impact on the lives of others. Paul challenges the Christians to follow his example and that of Jesus. The missionaries proclaimed the gospel from the midst of affliction, the tribulations associated with the endtime; it was from within such circumstances that the Thessalonians accepted it; and it is from within such circumstances that they give witness to others.

The Pharisees, an influential lay group known for its knowledge and piety, set out to trick Jesus. A lawyer asks Jesus to identify the most important commandment. (There were 613 commandments, 365 prohibitions – one for each day of the year, and 268 prescriptions – one for each bone in the body). This question was of considerable interest to rabbis, and one about which there was little agreement. Jesus singles out no particular statute, but endorses the summons that constitutes the *Shema*, the most significant Israelite prayer (see Dt 6:5). To this he adds a citation from Leviticus (19:18), thus showing that the entire religious tradition and genuine fulfilment of the law flow from love of God and love of others.

© Dianne Bergant CSS

Sunday, 29 Oct 2017: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Our religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

© Dianne Bergant CSS

Sunday, 29 Oct 2017: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful

General Sample

Priest: Brothers and sisters, the Lord is our fortress and our strength. Let us bring our needs before the God who saves us.

Reader: That the Church's life and mission will be built on God's law of love.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations will show compassion for strangers and refugees.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who counsel and care for others will be richly blessed for their work.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the community will be attentive to the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we will show our love of God in the way we deal with others.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick, including N..... will hold fast to the Lord who is their strength.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will be raised to eternal life, especially N.....

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Compassionate God, you are a refuge for the poor and helpless. Hear our prayers and place in our hearts the desire to live your commandment of love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

© Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd



^{30th}. **Sunday in Ordinary Time: OCT 29**

THEME FOR LECTOR

Give to God the things that are God's: Jesus is the model for giving to God what is His. He teaches, cares, loves and heals. Everything He does is grounded in the originating and up holding love of God, and Jesus response is to emulate that love. So too, must we in our world, by practising the kingdom values of love and compassion, justice and honesty.!

*Before we commence today's liturgy let us take time together to reflect silently as a community of faith **1 minute silence***

Let us pray together our Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, Holy Trinity Parish is your family committed to praying and growing together as we build on the gifts of our past, the living of our present and our hopes for the future.

Lord Jesus, we are nourished by prayer, the word and sacraments especially the Eucharist. We recognize and trust in each other's spiritual gifts. We will strive to be a visible sign of God's love for the world.

Holy Spirit, baptized in your name, we accept the challenge to live as Jesus did. We will celebrate our lives and gifts in service to others, welcoming all people and sharing our talents and resources. As a parish we will endeavour to make present the Kingdom of God, here and now. AMEN

Please stand now together for our entrance hymn

Celebrant: God who is mighty has called each of us by name. With confidence let us bring our prayer before the Lord of all.

1. We pray for Pope Francis, our Bishops, priests and all leaders of all religions. May they carry out God's redemptive plan in the world with conviction..

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

2: We pray for nations under attack. May peace and justice will prevail.

(pause) **We pray to the Lord.**

3: We pray our parish community .May we always give God thanks for the many blessings we have received.

(pause) **We pray to the Lord.**

4. We pray for the leaders of our nation. May they promote human dignity and religious liberty.

(pause) **We pray to the Lord.**

5 : We pray that those who died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Simon Maronian, Margaret Mc Glynn, Bob Young, James Richardson, Alex Fraser, William Roberts, Merle Duffy, Jack Roberts, Maureen King, Terry Roberts, Doreen Miller, Christopher Rush and Dot Neville. May they be at peace in the love of their God.

(pause) **We pray to the Lord.**

Celebrant: God most holy, there is no other beside you. Hear the prayers of your people and help us to be transformed by the standard of the Gospel in every sphere of our lives. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PARISH BAPTISMS TO CHANGE IN 2016:

First Sunday of the Month: Barwon Heads @ 2pm

Second Sunday of the Month: Ocean Grove @ 2pm

Third Sunday of the Month: Queenscliff @ 12 noon.

Fourth Sunday of the Month: NO BAPTISMS

Fifth Sunday of the Month: Ocean Grove @ 2 pm.

V: Virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son-
Emmanuel

E: Emmanuel- a name which means 'God with Us'

N: Nativity- the day Christ was born

T: Temple-the place where Jesus worshipped

THE GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month – Mar 9 - at Berkley Lodge, 258 Pakington St; Geelong, for a 2 course meal (\$30) & stimulating guests speakers. For more information & Bookings phone Michael on 0431 959 584 or jmflatt@bigpond.com.net.au

The Catholic Diners' Club meets on Tuesday, Feb 14, 6.15 pm, in the Capri Receptions, Separation St; . Cost is \$33 per head. Guest Speaker is Bernard Clancy, author, journalist & playwright. For reservations phone or text Michael on 0431 959 584 by Friday Feb. 10

TRUTH JUSTICE HEALING COUNCIL-
To contact the Truth Justice & Healing Council;
email admin@tjhcouncil.org.au

ADVENT

A: Awaiting the Coming of Christ

D: Dawn of a new beginning

Top of Form

HOLY THURSDAY,

Mar 24 @ 7pm, in Ocean Grove Church:
Mass of the Lord's Supper
incl. Washing of the Feet,
followed by 'Watch & Pray' for 30 mins after Mass
and Reconciliation..

GOOD FRIDAY, Mar 25:



Queenscliff:

10.30 am: Stations of the Cross in the Church

All Churches @ 3 pm:

(Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove & Queenscliff)

Liturgy of the Word;
Veneration of the Cross:
Communion.

HOLY SATURDAY Mar 26 @ 7 pm:

Ocean Grove: ONLY VIGIL MASS:

Ceremony of Light,
Readings,
Blessing of Baptismal Waters,
Baptisms, Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY

6.30 am: Ecumenical Services

at Ocean Grove Lookout & Pt. Lonsdale Beach

MASS TIMES:

OCEAN GROVE: 9am & 10.30 am

QUEENSCLIFF: 9.30 am & 11 am (in the Hall)

BARWON HEADS: 6 pm Sunday evening

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

OCEAN GROVE: THURS, MAR 31 @ 9.15 am

QUEENSCLIFF: FRI. APRIL 1, @ 9.15 am

Sunday, 1 Jan 2017: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

New Testament Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM

Our Mother. Our Sister.

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

In first century Israel, the custom was for a young woman to marry as soon as she reached puberty, so we need to remember that Mary would have been around thirteen years old when Jesus was born. Throughout her life Mary, a young woman and mother, must have pondered many things as she learnt what motherhood meant in all its joys and sorrows. We know nothing of the years in Nazareth before Jesus' baptism by John. But from the glimpses of Jesus' adult life we know he must have been raised in the religion and traditions of Israel. He would have watched his mother prepare the Sabbath meals and pray her prayer of blessing over the Sabbath lights. He would have learnt from her the stories of his ancestors – Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth, Naomi and Esther. The home of Nazareth would have been his first place of schooling. Mary was not only the physical mother of Jesus, she, along with Joseph, was also the nurturer of his personal faith.

During Jesus' ministry we seldom hear of Mary's presence for the Gospel's focus on Jesus' new family of disciples. John's Gospel names her standing at the cross and Luke presents her in the midst of the disciples at Pentecost. These glimpses assure us that Mary was both mother and faithful disciple. As mother, her role was unique. As disciple she is both mother and sister to all of us. May we all, like Mary, ponder God's mysterious ways in our hearts and nurture the seeds of faith and life within.

A painting of the Annunciation by an American artist, Henry Tanner, captures for me, something of the mystery and vulnerability of Mary's life. This painting brings out Mary's humanity and awe, which I often find missing from other depictions of this young woman. (The image can be easily found on the internet.)

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul places the birth of Jesus within a long and evolving history. When he writes, 'When the appointed time came,' ... the suggestion is there that from the beginning of time Jesus was always part of God's plan. Paul then moves from the simple statement of Jesus' birth to what this birth means, that all people now, in and through Jesus, are drawn into his relationship with God, all can now be sons and daughters of God. For Paul, this is the meaning of the Incarnation, that in becoming human, all humanity has been incorporated into the very life of God.

Sunday, 1 Jan 2017: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Scripture Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSS

The blessing found in the first reading (Nm 6:22-27) may be one of the oldest pieces of poetry in the Bible. It is introduced by a brief statement that gives the content of the blessing both Mosaic and divine legitimation. Although it is the priests who ultimately bless the people, it is Moses who receives the blessing from God and who delivers it to Aaron and his sons. Moses and Aaron and Aaron's sons play important mediatorial roles. The blessing itself is quite crisp and direct. There is little difference in the petitions. They all ask for some dimension of peace, the fundamental characteristic of Jewish blessing, the condition of absolute wellbeing.

The psalm (Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8) begins with a slight adaptation of the first words of the blessing used by Aaron and the priests who descended from him. The use of this blessing in a congregational prayer suggests that the favours once promised to the priestly family are now sought for the entire people. The good fortune of this nation will testify to God's salvific activity. The psalm moves from an acknowledgment of God's rule over one particular people to an announcement of God's universal governance. Fulfilling the promise made to Abram (Gen 12:2-3), this one nation becomes the source of blessing for all. The psalm ends with a prayer that God continue to bless the people so that all nations will continue to revere God.

The focus of Paul's teaching (Gal 4:4-7) is Christ's mission to the world. He contrasts servitude under the law with freedom in Christ. He uses the social custom of legal guardianship to show how the law functioned until 'the designated time had come'. With the coming of the only Son of God, Christians are no longer minors bound to the tutelage of the law. They are legal heirs, adopted children of God. According to Paul, the law was a necessary guardian that carefully watched over minors until they were mature enough to take care of themselves. It was binding in order to teach; it restricted in order to instruct. Though it is inferior to the spirit of Christ, the law was faithful and trustworthy.

The gospel for today (Lk 2:16-21) is essentially the same as that of the Christmas Mass at Dawn. However, the inclusion of the circumcision and naming of Jesus shifts the focus away from the shepherds onto the child and his parents. Circumcision was the ritual that initiated the males into the community of Israel. It was enjoined by God on Abraham and all of his descendants, and from that time forward it was considered a sign of the covenant (Gen 17:9-11). At this time, the child was also named. Jesus, the name given by the angel when Mary was told that she would bear a child, means saviour (cf. Matt 1:21). Mary ponders all of these things, waiting to see what it all might mean.

© Dianne Bergant CSS

Sunday, 1 Jan 2017: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

© Dianne Bergant CSS



St. Mary's Theatre Movie Programme: March 5- 31
