

## St. Joseph's Parish, Northcote

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Minh Tran  
**140 Westbourne Grove**  
**Northcote - 3070**  
**Ph: (03) 9489 8008**  
**Website:** [pol.org.au/northcote/Home.aspx](http://pol.org.au/northcote/Home.aspx)  
**Parish Secretary:** Caterina Bosevski  
**Parish Office E-mail:** [northcote@cam.org.au](mailto:northcote@cam.org.au)  
**Pastoral Worker:** Franca Henger  
**Pastoral Worker E-mail:** [northcote.pastoral@cam.org.au](mailto:northcote.pastoral@cam.org.au)  
**Child Safety Officer:** Naomi Brammer (c/o Parish office phone & email)



**St. Joseph's Parish Primary School**  
**Principal:** Mary Kearney  
**Ph: (03) 9481 7166**  
**Website:** [www.sjnorthcote.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjnorthcote.catholic.edu.au)  
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**f** Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephNorthcote>  
**t** Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SjnChurch>  
**i** Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sjncatholicchurch/>

### **Weekday Mass Times:**

8.45am-9.10am Rosary, followed by  
9.15am Mass on Monday—Friday.

### **Weekend Mass Times:**

**6.30pm:** Saturday—Vigil Mass.  
**8.45am:** Sunday—Italian/English Mass.  
**10.30am:** Sunday—Family Mass.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

**Saturdays:** 10.00am - 11.00am &  
6.00pm or feel free to phone Fr Minh.

### **First Wednesday of the Month:**

**7.00pm:** Baptism Preparation  
Meeting in the Parish House.  
Appointment Required.

### **Last Friday of the Month:**

**2.00pm:** Seniors' Mass at the Parish  
Centre.

### **Catholic Religious Education:**

**Wednesday:** 4.00pm—5.00pm R.E.  
classes for State Primary and Secondary  
School children in the Parish House.

### **ROSTERS:**

#### **SATURDAY 29/12: 6.30pm**

**Commentator:** Moses El-Fakhri.

**Reader:** Sr. Therese Denny.

**Communion Minister:** Licia Marchese.

**Musician in charge:** Peter Jordan.

#### **SUNDAY 30/12: 8.45am**

**Commentator:** Kevin Fell.

**Reader:** Raffaele Capetola (I) & Kevin Fell (E).

**Communion Minister:** TBA.

#### **SUNDAY 30/12: 10.30am**

**Commentator:** Donna Sookramanien.

**Reader:** Audrey Van Haltren.

**Communion Minister:** Winston Van Haltren &  
Iris Avery.

**Musician in charge:** Nick McKinnon.

### **CHURCH CLEANING (31st Dec—5th Jan)**

Sean Pinder.

**Thank you for your generous support of  
our parish:**

**1st Collection: House: \$ 496.00**

**2nd Collection: Thanksgiving: \$ 1394.50**

**Recently Deceased:** Kieran Otto, Waddad Doumani & Hani Jamil  
Rahme.

**Death Anniversaries:** Daniel Hanna Fakhry.

**Sick:** Ray Farr, Angelina DeFazio, and Joe Bains.

### **Diary Reminders:**

**Mon 24th Dec: Christmas Eve:** 6.30pm—Family Mass, 9.00pm—Carols  
& 9.30pm Vigil Mass.

**Tue 25th Dec: Christmas Day:** 8.45am—Mass (Eng/Ita) & 10.30am  
Mass.

**Wed 26th Dec: Boxing Day:** No Masses on this day.

### **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to the people who enjoy his favour" Lk 2: 14**

Dear parishioners, friends and visitors,

We, with people around the world, have prepared to celebrate Christmas.

Traditionally, Christmas is a time for coming home to our family and friends. It is a wonderful time to be close to those who are close to us. Also, St. Joseph's parish community gathers as a family to express its faith in the birth of Christ, symbolized in most churches by the presence of the Crib. As we stand before the Crib, we reflect on God's infinite love and uniting himself with humanity as one like us.

In the Crib there are many different figures of various sizes. But it is important that everyone looks at the central person, Jesus, as did Joseph and Mary, with the ox and the ass, (representing nature) and see in the birth of Jesus the "Saviour of the world."

Although everything in the crib is simple, poor and humble, it teaches us this is the way God relates to us – a faith in Jesus who became flesh in order to save every human being. Each one of us is represented in the Crib. The question we need to us is: where am I?

Christmas is a time of grace joy, as we welcome Jesus into our hearts and show our love for him in the love we have for one another.

2018 has brought its sadness and joys in different ways to each of us and our families.

Let us open our hearts to care for one another, especially, those we are aware of who have lost a loved one since last Christmas, or have experienced any other burden such as sickness or family problems.

Christmas is a chance for me to thank the many parishioners who have given plentifully of their talents and time to make our parish the vibrant and Faith-filled community it is. Let Christ's light shine in the middle of our joy and our struggles. To these volunteers who are the heartbeat of our parish. I sincerely thank you all. This is my first Christmas at St. Joseph's and I would like to mention some highlights of 2018:

- We celebrated St. Joseph's day with our school and many people participated on this feast day.
- We welcomed five new volunteers into the Gardening team and other volunteers who helped in different ministries in our community.
- The celebration of Easter when the whole community came together to express our faith in the Resurrection of Christ.
- The celebration of the 125th anniversary of our Parish. This event brought many former parishioners, priests and ex-students back together.

I take this opportunity to thank the Principal and staff of our parish school who have done a great ministry in developing the faith of our children. They also have contributed greatly to all parish events.

I also thank the wellbeing ministry, finance ministry and parish staff for their support throughout the year. I thank all parishioners and friends of St. Joseph for helping me along the journey.

As we stand before the Christmas Crib, let us pray quietly before the Lord, asking Jesus for the gift of faith, love and hope in each of us and our community.

I wish you and your families a most blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas, and Happy New Year.

**Fr. Minh Tran**

*Unto Us  
a Child is Born*



**Fourth Sunday of Advent / Year C (16th December 2018)**

**First reading:** Micah 5:1-4

**Second reading:** Heb 10:5-10

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 1:39-44**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

**Reflection on the Gospel**

**"BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED"**

Today's Gospel brings us to the threshold of Jesus' birth. Presuming our knowledge of the Annunciation to Mary, it describes the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In this "Visitation" story, the two women share their remarkable experience, and faith overflows in new insight, knowledge and celebration.

Mary has surrendered in faith to the extraordinary role that Gabriel has announced to her. In faith, too, she has obeyed the angel's additional command to go and seek out the "sign" consisting in the pregnancy of her elderly cousin. Biblical faith does not presuppose signs already given; it acts, goes on its journey, and then discovers confirmatory signs. This is how Elizabeth's pregnancy functions for Mary. The lesser wonder brought about by God's power (the conception of a child to parents of advanced years) confirms her faith in the far greater marvel: that with God's Spirit taking the role of male parent she is to become the mother of her people's Messiah.

As soon as she hears Mary's greeting, Elizabeth experiences within her womb the infant John leaping with joy. Already he is beginning his role of pointing to the Messiah. Hence Elizabeth confirms what Mary has hitherto simply believed: that she is indeed pregnant with the Messiah whose role and destiny Gabriel had announced.

Elizabeth insists that Mary is "blessed", not simply because she is "the mother of my Lord", but in her believing ("Blessed is she who believed"). As supremely in her case, faith is the channel through which God's power flows into the world.

**Brendan Byrne**

**Child Safety matters - what's coming up in 2019?**

In 2019, we can look forward to receiving further support and assistance from the CAM Professional Standards Unit in relation to child safety matters, including:

- additional child safety workshops and training opportunities
  - online training modules for staff and volunteers
  - resources to help with the selection, screening, and recruitment of parish staff and volunteers
- strategies and examples for assessing potential risks and empowering children and young people. In anticipation of new national Child Safety Standards and regulations, the Archdiocese will also be releasing an updated Child Safety Policy. Watch this space for details!

In the meantime, I wish you and your families a happy, peaceful, and safe Christmas.

**Naomi Brammer**

**Important things to note for 2019:**

- The Parish Office will be closed from 26/12/2018 to 29/1/2019. Please call the office on 9489 8008 and leave a message if there is anything urgent.
- There will no longer be Monday morning Masses, this new arrangement will start Monday 7th January 2019.
- There will be no morning Masses starting Monday 7th January until Tuesday 15th January. We will have communion services instead, during this period, on Tuesday 8th January, Thursday 10th January and Tuesday 15th January, at 9.15am. Morning Masses will resume on Wednesday 16th January at 9.15am.

**Thank you to the parishioners of St Joseph's!** We were able to donate a grand total of 57 gifts to Ray White for their 'A Little Ray of Giving' Appeal. I'm sure that 57 more children will have a smile on their face this Christmas, when they receive your generous gifts.