



# St Francis of Assisi Parish

290 Childs Road, Mill Park 3082 phone: 9407 6700

web: www.cam.org.au/millpark email: millpark@cam.org.au

Parish Bulletin The Baptism of the Lord 12th January 2020

<b>PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr Anthony Girolami	<b>ASSISTANT PRIEST</b>	Fr Cruz
<b>PASTORAL ASSOCIATE</b>	Sr Ignacia Coching - 9407 6707	<b>YOUTH MINISTER</b>	Carmel Walsh - 9407 6705
<b>OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Bernice Quinn - 9407 6700	<b>PARISH BOOKKEEPER</b>	Cheryl Langford - 9407 6701
<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPAL</b>	Mark Basile - 9407 3100	<b>DEACON</b>	Rev Simeon Anthony

<b>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</b>	Saturday vigil: 5:00 pm; Sunday: 9:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASS TIMES</b>	Monday – Saturday 9:15 am. Rosary recited after Mass. Wednesday 7:30 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	Wednesday evening after Mass and Novena Saturday 9:45 am
<b>ADORATION</b>	Saturday 9:45 am – 11:00 am concluding with Benediction Wednesday 7:30 am – 7:30 pm

<b>VIGIL MASS:</b>	1st Friday of the month 7:30 pm to midnight.	<b>Next Mass:</b> 7th February
<b>FILIPINO MASS:</b>	2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon.	<b>Next Mass:</b> 12th January
<b>ITALIAN MASS:</b>	2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am. Rosary 11 am.	<b>Next Mass:</b> 11th February
<b>MALTESE MASS:</b>	3rd Saturday of the month at 4 pm. Confession 3:30. Rosary 3:40.	<b>Next Mass:</b> 15th February
<b>ST ANTHONY'S PRAYER GROUP MASS:</b>	1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.	<b>Next Mass:</b> 4th February
<b>INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:</b>	3rd Saturday of the month at 7 pm. (NONE DEC OR JAN)	<b>Next Mass:</b> 15th February
<b>MEN'S NIGHT:</b>	First Wed of the month at 7 pm. Contact Frank - 0414648475.	<b>Next Night:</b> 5th February
<b>MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS:</b>	2nd Sat of the month 6:30 pm. Rosary, Mass, Adoration.	<b>Next Mass:</b> 8th February
<b>NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH:</b>	2nd Wednesday of the month after morning Mass.	<b>Next Novena:</b> 12th February
<b>DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:</b>	Every Friday after 9:15am Mass and 3 pm in the chapel.	
<b>NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM):</b>	Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.	
<b>JESUS YOUTH PRAYER GROUP:</b>	Every Thursday at 7 pm in the Chapel. Contact Lovely - 0411 208 706.	
<b>AGAPE MALAYLEE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:</b>	Every Saturday 6 pm - 8:30 pm in the Chapel.	
<b>CHILDREN'S ROSARY:</b>	First Saturday of the month after 9:15 am Mass in the Chapel.	
<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY:</b>	Sundays 10:30 am Mass during school terms. Contact - mpchildrenslit@gmail.com	
<b>LEGION OF MARY:</b>	Every Thursday at 10:15 am in the parish nook. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.	
<b>JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY:</b>	Every Thursday during school terms at 3:45 pm in the Church. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.	
<b>WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP:</b>	Fridays in the Chapel at 7:30 pm. Contact Nancy 0434 559 352.	
<b>PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP:</b>	Contact Alfons and Helen Glatzel - 9404 2050.	
<b>LIFE TEEN:</b>	Sundays after 5 pm Mass, meet in Church foyer. Contact Carmel - millpark.youthministry@cam.org.au	
<b>PRAYER COMPANIONS:</b>	Resumes in February	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**  
**Recently Deceased:** Flordeliza Del Rosario, Serafina Zappino  
**Death Anniversaries:** Danilo Peralta  
**Those who are ill:** David Wallace, Anthony Lethbridge, Sam Pisani, Maria Concepcion Alcedo, Danuata Plaskota, Rebecca Scaringi, Marina Manabat, Isau Issac, Sharon Barber, Flor Madio, Brian Rooney, John Pathinathan, Alfio & Giovanna Tringal, Zeny Galea, Herve Incoul, Agica Pavlovic.

<b>Reading Roster:</b>	<b>11/12 January (Week 2)</b>	<b>18/19 January (Week 3)</b>
<b>Sat. 5.00 pm:</b>	Sanja Ovens & Cliff DaCosta	Teresa Wong & Anne Young
<b>Sun. 9.00 am:</b>	Carmen Saliba & Sue Spiteri	John Andrews & Febra William
<b>Sun. 10.30 am:</b>	Regina Di Pasquale & Marcelle Henderson	Joe Galati & Marie Sikand
<b>Counting Roster:</b>	<b>12th January (Team 6)</b>	<b>19th January (Team 7)</b>
	M & C Saliba, M Cellini.	C Ponchard, B D'Avoine, T Kowal
<b>Altar Linen Cleaning Roster:</b>	<b>13 - 19 January</b>	<b>20-26 January</b>
	Nena Smith	Mary Hoo

**Next Week's Readings:** Isa 49: 3, 5-6 Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R.vv. 8, 9 1 Cor 1: 1-3 Jn 1: 29-34

**MARYMEDE MASS:** The next Sunday Mass at Marymede College will be on 16th February 2020 at 10:30 am.  
**VINNIES BUSHFIRE APPEAL:** Bushfire Appeal donations can be made through St Vincent De Paul's website, www.vinnies.org.au



## St Francis of Assisi Mill Park PILGRIMAGE

Footsteps of St Paul Oct 21 - Nov 9 2020

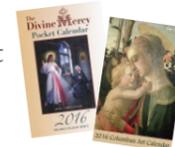
**A reminder to all who wish to go on the 2020 pilgrimage, your deposit of \$500 is required by Friday 10th January. Payment is to be made directly to Olive Tree Travel.**

Total estimated price for Greece, Malta, and Italy:  
 Price per person based on 25 - 29 full paying passengers: \$7,590.  
 Price per person based on 30 - 34 full paying passengers: \$7,490.  
 Optional room supplement: \$1,375.  
 Optional Santorini shore excursion: \$110 per person  
 Supplement for outside cabin on cruise: \$300 per person twin share or \$460 per person single supplement.

Contact Elio on 0449193511 or Chiara on 0439612694.

The Piety Stall is now selling the 2020 Divine Mercy and Columban Art Church calendars.

Buy your copy so as not to be disappointed. Thank you.



### Holiday Rosters

The rosters for Readers and Special Ministers of the Eucharist will continue during January. If you will be absent or on holiday, please contact another person to take your turn.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note the Parish Office will have minimal staff until February. If you need to contact the Parish please leave a phone message or email millpark@cam.org.au and someone will get back to you when able.

### SPECIAL BUSHFIRE COLLECTION

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have asked all parishes throughout the country to have a special collection for those affected by the bushfires. A special collection will take place on Australia Day weekend, the 25th and 26th January. Please keep all those affected in your prayers. Those wishing to donate can also do so through the St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal.

### FAMILY FAIR 2020

Our Family Fair in 2020 will be on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Preparations have begun and many volunteers will be needed. Please pick up a December Fair Newsletter after Mass. Please support all the generous sponsors of our Fair. Contact 9407 6700 for more information about the Family Fair.



### CHOIR HOLIDAY

During January our choirs will have a well-earned break. Please use the prayer cards or the newsletter for responses and prayers during Mass.

### VIOLIN LESSONS

I am a classically trained violinist who is passionate about discovering a student's potential. I teach students of all ages, so feel free to contact me, Amir Yacoub on 0469 739 862. The introductory lesson is for free.



## Is That in the Bible?

### Gideon's Dew Process

Father Anthony Giambrone, O.P.

Gideon is one of the great Old Testament cowards. This, in fact, is a major key to the story of his strange behaviour. He is brought onto stage threshing wheat in a winepress, a suspect place for threshing. The reason he did this was to *keep it hidden from Midian*, whose violent raids on the country were described in the preceding verses (Jg 6:11; cf. 6:1-6). The Hebrew does not say that Gideon acted this way to hide *the wheat*, an interpretation that translators often supply. Gideon *himself* is ducking a confrontation with Israel's enemy. He is, in other words, the least likely of saviours.

The impression is confirmed when an angel meets the fainthearted youth and addresses him with the words, *The Lord is with you, valiant warrior*. Gideon protests and asks: *How can I deliver Israel? My clan, you must know, is the weakest in Manasseh and I am the least important in my family* (6:15). Gideon knows that he is a weakling among weaklings, born of wimpy stock. But it is for precisely this reason that God has chosen him. The Lord means to show that the strength of deliverance comes from him alone.

Modern exegetes love to observe the mark of Gideon's timid spirit in his wavering and repeated demand for signs (6:17, 36-40). Yet ancient readers were not wrong in their detection of something more heroic, for these signs also narrate Gideon's own transformation under the impulse of God's spirit. The famous sign of the fleece and the dew is the perfect illustration.

The turning point comes after Gideon, heartened by his first sign, moves to tear down the idolatrous altar of Baal. Yet the Scripture adds that *since he stood too much in fear of his family and the townspeople to do this by day, he did it by night* (6:27). God's vigilante hero is still only half-baked.

Much as he hoped to avoid a confrontation with the followers of Baal, such a confrontation inevitably transpires and just here *the spirit of the Lord came on Gideon* (6:34). It is only now, having summoned the gathered armies of Israel, that Gideon asks God to show himself a mighty helper through the mysterious sign of dew. It was natural, of course, for ancient warriors to seek an oracle on the eve of battle. The significance of Gideon's request goes deeper, however. Gideon asks for heavenly water. Baal, it must be known, was the Canaanite god of dew and thunder. Ugaritic hymns, for instance, sing of Baal as "the cloud-rider" who provides the dew of heaven. In showing himself as master of the dew, Israel's Lord exposes this phony cloud-rider as a hoax.

The repetition and reversal of Gideon's request is also not lacking meaning for the sign's staging is all but incidental. Gideon lays out the fleece nowhere else but upon the *threshing floor*. He has taken a step, in other words, out into the open, ready now to sleep where once he shuddered to stand. It would be normal that the downy fleece would absorb and hold the morning dew, while the stone threshing floor would quickly dry by morning. The reverse of this phenomenon, however, shows not only that God is the Lord of heaven and the vanquisher of Baal, but that this same Lord will show his strength in a way surpassing nature, right there on the memorial site of