



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		THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		23RD JANUARY 2022	
PARISH PRIEST	Fr Anthony Girolami	ASSISTANT PRIEST	Fr Jose Mathew	YOUTH MINISTER	Carmel Walsh - 9407 6704
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE		PARISH BOOKKEEPER	Paul - 9407 6722		
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Bernice Quinn - 9407 6700				
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	Mark Basile - 9407 3100				
WEEKEND MASS TIMES	Saturday vigil 5:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm, Unvaccinated - Sunday 7:30 am				
WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	Monday – Saturday 9:15 am, Unvaccinated - Friday 7:30 am				
	Wednesday 7:30 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help				
RECONCILIATION	Wednesday evening after Mass and Novena				
	Saturday 9:45 am				
ADORATION	Saturday 9:45 am – 10:30 am concluding with Benediction				
VIGIL MASS:	1st Friday of the month 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm	Next Mass:	4th February		
FILIPINO MASS:	2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon.	Next Mass:	13th February		
MALTESE MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 4 pm. Confession 3:30. Rosary 3:40.	Next Mass:	19th February		
ST ANTHONY'S PRAYER GROUP MASS:	1st, 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm.	Next Mass:	1st February		
INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 7 pm.	Next Mass:	19th February		
MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS:	2nd Sat of the month 6:30 pm. Rosary, Mass, Adoration.	Next Mass:	TBD		
NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH:	1st Wednesday of the month after 9:15 am Mass.				
ANNOINTING OF THE SICK:	2nd Wednesday of the month after 9:15am Mass.				
NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM):	Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. (Resuming 7th December.)				
LEGION OF MARY:	Every Thursday at 10:15 am in the church fellowship area. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.				
WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP:	Every Friday at 7:00 pm in the chapel.				
PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP:	Contact Alfons and Helen Glatzel - 9404 2050.				
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:	Every Friday at 3:00 pm in the chapel and after Friday morning 9:15am mass.				
LIFE TEEN:	Every Sunday during school terms after 5pm Mass. Contact Carmel - millpark.youthministry@cam.org.au for further details.				

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Mass Bookings are no longer required for those attending any Mass from now on.
- Proof of vaccination is no longer required when entering the church.
- You are still required to check in via QR code when you enter the church.
- Masks are mandatory for all those of eight years of age and over.
- Please do not attend Mass if you are unwell.
- The doors to the church must be closed once the COVID Marshall leaves their post so late entry will not be permitted.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS - Contributions can be dropped off between 9am and 5pm each day at the parish office.

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 as soon as possible.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Noel Mackay, Louisa Ashton, Ronald McDonald

IN MEMORIAM: Mila Rivera, Anthony Gregory

THOSE WHO ARE ILL: David Wallace, Sharon Barber, Herve Incoul, Rosy See, Pria Jacob, Koshy Philip, Varghese Paul, Zahra McMahan, Nora Gacillos, Shinta Manuel, Brian Fernadez, Jean-Marie D'Avoine.

The newsletter will be available each week in the Presbytery foyer and on our website www.cam.org.au/millpark

Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to announce we have a new Pastoral Associate who will begin duties with us on Tuesday 1st February.

Our new Pastoral Associate is Sr Anh Tran who is a religious Sister in the Order of The Lovers of The Holy Cross of the Dalat, Vietnam. Sr Anh has an Arts degree Majoring in English, a Diploma in Theology and Classical Pastoral Education qualifications. She has a background un both teaching and pastoral care.

Sister will be formally introduced to the Parish at all Masses on the first weekend of February.

May Sr Anh be blessed in her ministry with us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Anthony Girolami

GREAT CONVERSION STORIES

Sr Nirmala Joshi



Sister Nirmala Joshi (1934-2015) might have protested her inclusion in this collection of “great” conversion stories. She was very reluctant to draw any attention to herself. In March 1997, when she was elected as the superior General of the Missionaries of Charity with the blessing of its founder, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, she humbly accepted God’s call but declined the title “Mother”. For Sister Nirmala, all “greatness” was to be found in Jesus in the Eucharist and in the poor whom she served with her whole heart. Nevertheless, the “story” of Jesus calling her from the Hinduism of her childhood into the fullness of knowing and loving him in the Catholic Church is indeed a great story of the working of God’s grace. He work of grace is always mysterious, yet we benefit from simply tracing the indicators of the path she travelled, which show forth the greatness of God’s love.

She was the eldest of ten children, born in the north-eastern Indian city of Ranchi, and given the name Kusum, meaning “Flower”. Her parents were deeply devout Hindus and Kusum cherished all that was true and good in their religious practices—especially fidelity to marriage and family, compassion and service to the poor, and a spirit of prayer. She learned these values growing up, and through them God prepared her heart to receive the Gospel.

Wishing her to learn English, her father—a British army officer—sent Kusum to a Catholic missionary school (not an uncommon practice for wealthy Hindu families) with no thought of her changing religion. At the school, however, she first learned about Jesus, and around this time she became fascinated by a statue of Jesus and his Sacred Heart in front of a Catholic church. One morning while waiting for the bus, she first experienced the profound sense that Jesus was *with her* and that she “belonged to him”. She began to learn about his life and teachings and opened her heart to his presence and interior guidance.

Nevertheless, as she continued her studies, Kusum struggled against any idea of conversion, which would seem to betray her family and her own cultural tradition. Then came the beginnings of Indian independence in 1947, and the chaos of the partition of her northern region into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. In the warfare and massive population displacement that followed, Kusum didn’t see any of the compassion she has learned in her family. She saw only violence begetting more violence. She went to Calcutta in search of a way to help, and there she met a most unusual European religious sister who was begging for the needs of the poorest of the poor and caring for them at her small mission station in the streets of the vast city. That sister was Mother Teresa.

“It was inspiration at first sight” for Kusum. She poured out her heart to Mother Teresa, who invited her to stay with her “unconditionally”. After several more years of prayer and service at Mother Teresa’s side, being drawn to Jesus not by any coercive proselytism but gentle guidance and the luminous witness of Christian love, Kusum was finally baptised into the Catholic Church in 1958, taking the name Nirmala (“purity”). The next month, she entered the Missionaries of Charity.

CHOIRS AT MASS:

During January our choirs will have a well-earned break. We thank them for the talents they share with us faithfully every week.



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.



The Piety Stall is now selling the 2022 Divine Mercy and Columban Art Church Calendars. Buy your copy so as not to be disappointed. Thank you.