



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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD		7TH JANUARY 2024	
PARISH PRIEST	Fr Anthony Girolami	ASSISTANT PRIEST	Fr Zaher Almhanna		
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Sr Anh Tran - 9407 6720	PARISH/SCHOOL LIAISON	Ruth Lees - 9407 6703		
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Bernice Quinn - 9407 6700	YOUTH MINISTER	Carmel Walsh - 9407 6704		
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	Mark Basile - 9407 3100	PARISH BOOKKEEPER	Paul - 9407 6722		
WEEKEND MASS TIMES	Saturday vigil 5:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm				
WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	Monday – Saturday 9:15 am Wednesday 7:00 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help				
RECONCILIATION	Wednesday evening after Mass and Novena Saturday 9:45 am				
ADORATION	Saturday 9:45 am – 10:45 am concluding with Benediction				
VIGIL MASS:	1st Friday of the month 7:30 pm to Midnight Mass.	Next Mass:	2nd February		
FILIPINO MASS:	2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon.	Next Mass:	14th January		
MALTESE MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 4 pm. Confession 3:30. Rosary 3:40.	Next Mass:	17th February		
INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 7pm. (None Dec or Jan)	Next Mass:	17th February		
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:	Wednesday 6:30 am - 7:00 pm in the chapel.				
NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH:	1st Wednesday of the month after 9:15 am Mass.				
ANOINTING OF THE SICK:	2nd Wednesday of the month after 9:15am Mass.				
ST ANTHONY'S PRAYER GROUP MASS:	Resuming 6th February 2024, 7:00pm.				
NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM):	Resuming 6th February 2024, 6:30pm.				
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. Contact Nancy - 0434 559 352.				
PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP:	Contact Regina - 0432 267 557 or Alfons and Helen Glatzel - 9404 2050.				
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:	Every Friday at 3:00 pm in the chapel and after Tuesday morning 9:15am Mass.				
AGAPE RENEWAL PRAYER MEETING:	Resuming Sunday 4th February. Contact Gigimon - 0402 652 646.				
LIFE TEEN:	Every Sunday during school terms after 5pm Mass. Contact Carmel at millpark.youthministry@cam.org.au for further details.				
JESUS YOUTH PRAYER GROUP:	Every Thursday at 7 pm in the chapel. Contact Lovely - 0411 208 706.				
CATECHIST R.E. CLASSES:	For all enquiries contact May Park at sfranciscatechist@gmail.com.				

PARISH NEWS

- PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS** - Contributions can be dropped off between 9am and 5pm each day at the parish office.
- THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES** - Please remember to write the amount on the front of your thanksgiving envelopes.
- PARISH FEAST DAY EXPO** - The Parish Expo slideshow featuring the Parish Groups and also the Parish Information Booklet can be viewed on the Parish Website www.cam.org.au/millpark
- PARISH CENSUS 2023** - If you did not fill in a Parish Census Card over the last few weeks at Mass please collect one from the church foyer to fill in and return. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- RECENTLY DECEASED:** Carlton Meyers
- IN MEMORIAM:** Maria Stella, Avelino Peralta, Robert Lord, Rita and Giulia Doria, Ozi and Celine Dcunha.
- THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Lez Meyers, David Wallace, Sharon Barber, Maeve Reardon, Greg Forrester, Anupiya Menikdiwela, Henrica Hanny, Peter Basile, Antonina Gangi, Seamus Quinn, Brian Fernandez.

(From time to time we will modify the sick list. If you prefer a person to remain on the list please contact the parish office.)

The newsletter will be available each week on our website www.cam.org.au/millpark

Dear Parishioners,

I hope and pray our New Year will be filled with peace, joy and blessings from the Lord. Recently, the Church has encouraged a return to an ancient practice of blessing homes at the time of the Epiphany. You will see in this newsletter the form of the blessing. It begins in the Church with the priest blessing the chalk, and is completed by each family at home. It is a sign the mystery of the incarnation has imprinted itself on our lives.

God bless, Fr Anthony.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C+M+B 24

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (*May Christ Bless this Abode*).

Parish Blessing of Chalk

Introduction: On this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we rejoice that the light of Christ has come into our world. Today, we invite families to take home a piece of this chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year.

Prayer of Blessing: Let us pray. Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, the Light of the World. May your blessing be upon us as we carry this chalk to our homes. May its mark on our doorposts be a sign of your protection and of the presence of the Light of Christ in our homes. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CHALK MARK	WORDS TO BE SAID AT HOME
	Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. Amen.
	<i>Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11</i> The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: <i>Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.</i> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
	THE THREE WISE MEN
C M B	CASPAR MELCHIOR BALTHASAR
	FOLLOWED THE LIGHT OF THE STAR TO FIND JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO LIVE AMONG US
20 24 + +	TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO. MAY CHRIST BLESS OUR HOME TODAY AND REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
	Let us pray. God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
	Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.
	In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THANKSGIVING RECEIPTS & NEW ENVELOPES

Thanksgiving receipts for those that contribute via all methods, and new sets of envelopes have now been posted and should be received by next week. Thank you for your continued support.

JANUARY ROSTERS

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

CHOIRS ON BREAK DURING JANUARY

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