



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 31st December 2017

Parish Priest:	Fr Anthony Girolami	Assistant Priest:	Fr Anthony Cruz
Pastoral Associate:	Ruth Lees - 9407 6704	Pastoral Associate:	Sr Ignacia Coching - 9407 6707
School Principal:	Mark Basile - 9407 3100	Youth Minister:	Carmel Walsh - 9407 6705
Parish Administration:	Bernice Quinn - 9407 6700	Parish Bookkeeper:	Rachael Massouh - 9407 6701

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. Rosary recited after Mass.

RECONCILIATION: Wednesday 7:30 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday evening after Mass and Novena

Saturday 9:45 am

ADORATION: Saturday 9:45 am – 11:00 am concluding with Benediction

Wednesday 7:30 am – 7:30 pm

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS: By appointment only. Contact Parish Office.

VIGIL MASS:	1st Friday of the month 7 pm to 1 am.	Next Mass:	5th January
FILIPINO MASS:	2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon. (None Jan)	Next Mass:	11th February
ITALIAN MASS:	2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am. Rosary 11 am. (None Jan)	Next Mass:	13th February
MALTESE MASS:	3rd Sat of the month at 4 pm. Confession 3:30. Rosary 3:40. (None Jan)	Next Mass:	17th February
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:	2nd Fri of the month 7:30 pm in Chapel & Fridays after 9:15 am Mass.	Next Novena:	12th January
YOUNG ADULTS MERCY NIGHT:	Last Friday of the month 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm.	Next Night:	23rd February
ST ANTHONY'S PRAYER GROUP MASS:	1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. (None Jan)	Next Mass:	6th February
INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 7 pm. (None Dec/Jan)	Next Mass:	17th February
JESUS YOUTH PRAYER GROUP:	3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:45 pm in the Chapel.	Next Night:	20th February
MEN'S NIGHT:	First Wed of the month at 7 pm. Contact Frank - 0414648475. (None Jan/Feb)	Next Night:	7th March
NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM):	Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.		
AGAPE MALAYLEE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:	Every Sunday 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the Chapel or Church.		
CHILDREN'S ROSARY:	First Saturday of the month after 9:15 am Mass in the Chapel.		
CHILDREN'S LITURGY:	Sundays 10:30 am Mass during school terms. Contact - mpchildrenslit@gmail.com		
LEGION OF MARY:	Every Thursday at 10:15 am in the parish nook.		
JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY:	Every Thursday at 3:45 pm in the parish nook. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.		
WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP:	Thursdays in the Chapel at 7:30 pm. Contact Franca - 0439 670 219.		
PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP:	Contact Alfons and Helen Glatzel - 9404 2050.		
LIFE TEEN:	Sundays after 5 pm Mass, meet in Church foyer. Contact Carmel - millpark.youthministry@cam.org.au		
PLAYGROUP:	Every Thursday during school terms in small hall. Contact Julie - 0408 033 877 or Sandra - 0419 039 547.		

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased: Rosie Magalotti **Death Anniversaries:** Alfred Formosa, Joe Grech, Tony Grech, Dolores Grech, Francesco Bove
Those who are ill: Joan Mackey, Zack Mifsud, Saturnino (Tony) Jandayan, Islay Mitchell, Anna Samanna, Fr Joe Yu, David Wallace, Anthony Lethbridge, Lucrezia Cerminara.

Reading Roster	30/31 December (week 5)	6/7 January (week 1)
Sat. 5:00 pm:	Gaby & Caroline Callegari	Gaby & Michelle Vanvelzon
Sun. 9:00 am:	Cath McMaster & John Andrews	Savio Fernandes & Anagi Perera
Sun. 10:30 am:	Judith Wright & Julie Kerr	Candida D'Souza & Helen Javier
Counting Roster:	December 31 - Team 4	January 7 - Team 5
	A Lee, A Glatzel, J Perera	R Nightingale, A Zerna, J Goh, K Saviane
Altar Linen Cleaning Roster:	January 1 - 7	January 8 - 14
	Carmen L.	Nena Smith

Next Week's Readings: Isa 60:1-6. Ps 71:1-2, 7-13. Eph 3:2-3, 5-6. Mt 2:1-12.

ALTAR SERVERS: There will be no Altar Servers practice until further notice.



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.

New Years Dinner Dance has been Cancelled, due to the of lack of numbers.

THANKSGIVING STATEMENTS

Thanksgiving statements and new sets of envelopes are now available for collection in the foyer of the Church. They are in alphabetical order of street name. If there are still envelopes in the foyer belonging to people who live in your street, we ask that you kindly take them and deliver them. Thank you.

Great Conversion Stories—Su Xuelin

I don't read Chinese. Therefore I can only outline the story of a woman who played a pivotal role in 20th century Chinese literature. Su Xuelin (1897-1999) participated in the "New Culture" and Chinese women's movements that followed the 1912 "Republican" revolution. She rose to become one of the most significant writers of her generation and a professor of literature in Beijing, but she was not a Communist. Thus 1949 brought exile, but in Taiwan she continued teaching and writing. Lucid to the very end of her 102 years, her life spanned almost the entire dramatic, tumultuous, and often horrific history of modern China.

We are finally beginning to learn more about her in the West. As a pioneer of the vast expansion of women's presence in Chinese society and culture, she is interesting to contemporary Western academia. But the most important event in her life—which so marks her character and her work that even the most secularist studies can't ignore it—is her conversion to the Catholic Faith in 1924.

Su Xuelin's most highly regarded literary work is the semi-autobiographical novel *Ji Xin* (usually rendered in English as *The Thorny Heart*) first published in 1929 and revised in 1957. As far as I know, it has not been translated into any Western language. From outlines in secondary sources, however, we can see that it's worth reading.

Ji Xin is the story of a young woman of provincial China who learned basic reading as a child, but who also explored her grandfather's library and fell in love with the written language. The revolution of 1912 opened the schools to girls, and she soon excelled in her studies beyond anything China could offer. New currents of thought and critiques of the traditional ways pushed her away from her own uneducated mother. She fled to France, to the special program for Chinese Students in Lyon, to pursue advanced studies and learn to be a liberated "New Woman."

In France, however, what attracted her was not secularist freedom, which seemed to dissipate in selfishness and violence. She encountered a different kind of freedom in the lives and self-sacrificing service of two Catholic consecrated women who cared for the poor, for the love of God. She realized that here was the *real* revolution, the only hope for human life, for China, for herself. The novel tells the story of her struggle to understand that this was not an alien "Western idea" but the presence of something real for everyone. It was Someone who frees women, especially, beyond both the oppression of the old Chinese ways and the oppression of the new revolution that was being defined and imposed, once again, by selfish men. This freedom allowed women to be truly themselves in every aspect of human society, and to embrace the uniquely feminine suffering of motherhood (physical and/or Spiritual) that finds its perfect model in the Woman whose heart is pierced by thorns, the Mother of Jesus and us.

This story corresponds in external detail and undoubtedly in interior experience to the story of Su Xuelin's conversion.

Literature is difficult to translate, but I hope and pray that someone will soon make it possible for us to read this remarkable story in English, so that Su's experience might become more accessible to all.

FAMILY FAIR



Our Family Fair in 2018 will be on Sunday, 18th 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 6704 for more formation about the Family Fair.