



# ST. PAUL PARISH

Under the Care of the Claretian Missionaries

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Every living being starts with birthing. And birthing needs a mother. The first day of the liturgical year (January 1) is celebrated as the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of God. This New Year is marked by the birthing from a mother. That is why, there is a need for thanksgiving and gratitude.

We give thanks for the Lord for the year 2022. For all that has been and for all that will be, our hearts are filled with gratitude. And at the same time, the new year 2023 demands from us a sense of hope because we will always have a mother who nurtures and accompanies us in our journey through life.

Let the new year be filled up with abounding vitality because our good Lord Jesus Christ will be WITH US. He is Emmanuel. Like His mother Mary, He will accompany us in this new year. When the mother with her son would travel with us, we cannot but be continuously hopeful that all will be well. We are not orphan. We are not left alone. We are not abandoned.

And hope is an orientation of the Spirit. It is a faith response, like the FIAT of Mary when she said, "let it be done to me according to your Word. Yes, we are hopeful because it is an orientation from the heart filled with love. Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.

Let Mary's FIAT be our song as we start the new year 2023. Yes, with hope, with love and with faith. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL...



## We Remember In Our Prayers And Masses

The New Year is a time when we pray for our families and friends. We remember them all, keeping in mind that Jesus is among us for us all.

In a special way we remember those who are sick or suffering in anyway. We pray that they will reach out to others in love.

We also remember in prayer those who have died. May they enjoy peace and happiness of the presence of the loving community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## Church Diary (Week beginning 1st Jan 2023 )

### Saturday 31st Dec /1st Jan Baptism:

Saturday Mass 8.00am English Mass  
9.00am Vietnamese Mass followed by Rosary till 10.15am

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday Masses (Confession half an hour before all Masses on Sunday)

8.00 am English Mass + John M. Vella

9.30am English Mass + Joan & Carmelo Micallef, & Felix Camilleri  
+ Iginio Zanni, Katrina Recek

11.30am Vietnamese Mass

1.00pm Spanish Mass

6.00pm Youth Mass

**Monday 2nd Jan** 8.00am English Mass +

St Basil & St Gregory 9.00am Vietnamese Mass

11.00am Lady of Knots

7.00pm Choir Practice

**Tuesday 3rd Jan** 8.00am English Mass +

9.00am Vietnamese Mass

**Wednesday 4th Jan** 8.00am English Mass +

St Elizabeth Ann 9.00am Vietnamese Mass

7.30pm Legion of Mary (Vietnamese)

**Thursday 5th Jan** 8.00am English Mass +

9.00am Vietnamese Mass

7.30pm Spanish Prayer Group

**Friday 6th Jan** 8.00am English Mass +

9.00am Vietnamese Mass

3.00pm Divine Mercy

### Saturday 7th/8th Jan Baptism:

Saturday Mass 8.00am English Mass  
9.00am Vietnamese Mass followed by Rosary till 10.15am

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday Masses (Confession half an hour before all Masses on Sunday)

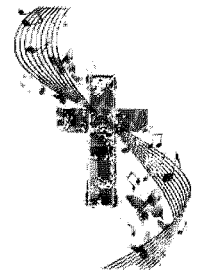
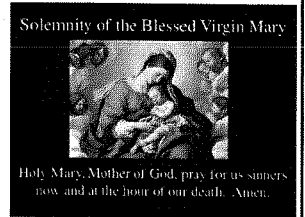
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11.30am Vietnamese Mass

1.00pm Spanish Mass

6.00pm Youth Mass



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Heb 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Lk 2: 16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the  
infant lying in the crib . . . When the eighth day  
came, they gave him the name of Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A

1 JANUARY 2023

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

The Octave of Christmas concludes by honouring Mary as the Mother of God continuing the long and rich tradition that goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. The formula that Levites and priests were instructed to use when blessing the people of Israel has a special resonance when applied to Mary. She could surely say that she had been blessed in the gift of Jesus, that God's face had shone upon her, and that God had been gracious to her in ways that she could never have anticipated or imagined. Her positive response to the words of the angel Gabriel opened a pathway for all humanity.

In the letter to the Galatians, we get a glimpse into Paul's wonder at the mysterious ways of God knowing that our ability to cry out in the Spirit 'Abba, Father' would not have come about if Jesus had not been born of Mary. He describes this birth as taking place in the fullness of God's time. Jesus was born as a member of the people of Israel, but this is only a part of his identity and role in God's saving plan that extends to all creation.

The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel were the shepherds who were informed that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David whose own career as king started humbly as a shepherd. In a similar way, Jesus' humble beginnings in a manger will lead to blessings for all of us. Like Mary, we are called to treasure all this in our hearts.

**FIRST READING**

Num 6: 22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v. 2

**R. May God bless us in his mercy.**

1. God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help. R.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth. R.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

**SECOND READING**

Gal 4: 4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Galatians.

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son,  
born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

■ **The word of the Lord.**