


Rosters for This Week 15th & 16th December

Counting Team No. 7	Mary Ward, Jean McCutcheon, Greg Morgan
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.30pm Larry Rigoni, Beata Ocampo 8.30am Mary Frisby, Mary Debenham 10.30am Mimma Cutroni
Mass Readers	6.30pm Monique Marcina 8.30am Shannon Pedrotti 10.30am Jane McLaughlin
Children's Liturgy	8.30am Eilin Taylor 10.30am No Children's Liturgy

Rosters for Next Week 22nd & 23rd December

Counting Team No. 8	Tracey Gregg, Leanne Spiteri, Rinna Sy
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.30pm Mary Soppitt, Maria Laudato 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Evol Farrelly 10.30am Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.30pm John Grieve 8.30am Mary Debenham 10.30am Jenny Furey
Children's Liturgy	8.30am No Children's Liturgy 10.30am No Children's Liturgy



IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni,
Barrie Poulton, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Mary Martin, Arthur Jones, Frank Cini, Brendan Harkin, Maria Napoli, Norma Arnold, Josie Wilde, Nora Doig, Stan Woodruff, Eric Flackhlam, Maria De Grassi, Merle O'Keefe, Marion Loriente, Libero Costanzo, Andrej Edovic, Giuseppe Pecora, Ersilia Portelli, Carmela Pisano, Nunzio Ficarra, Joseph Sammut, Eugena Fewster and Michele Cafagna; whose anniversaries are at this time.



Remembering
Your Loved Ones



St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



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16th December, 2018

Parish Priest
(Fr.) Greg Trythall
PH: 9397 6066
MO: 0400 524 363
Email:
greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate
(Sr.) Patricia Stone
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Email:
patricia.stone@sosj.org.au

Parish Office Manager-Secretary
Heidi Zahra
Tuesday 9:15am – 4pm
Thursday 9:15am – 4pm
Friday 9:15am – 4pm

Wednesday Secretary
Kylie Skinner
8.30am–3.30pm

St. Mary's School
Acting Principal –
Joe Caruana
Normal Mass Times
Consult bulletin inside for any changes.
Saturday at 6:30pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation
Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church
2:30pm – 3:30pm
Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night
Third Thursday monthly
7.00pm at Parish Centre.
Baptism must be booked prior to attending Preparation Night.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



FIRST READING:
A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah. 3:14-18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING:
A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians. 4:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
The Spirit of the Lord now upon me
has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:10-18

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.



Sunday 16th December	5.00pm—9.00pm Send off at Presbytery for acting Principal Joe Caruana. Light refreshments and drinks provided. All welcome, including children, as long as they are with parents.
Tuesday 18th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Wednesday 19th December	11.30am End of year school mass at St. Mary's Church. Graduation Dinner at St Mary's school.
Thursday 20th December	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Friday 21st December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors.

People come out of the woodwork at this time of year and appear in Church. What should be our stance to that? Of course there is a stance to those who come just at Christmas and there is a stance to those who question or comment in regards to aspects of faith. Where should we stand? Firstly, I can only say the situation is worth a comment as in the end I would still believe we wish the best for them. Let us go back a step and look at their complex situations. There is still a need to extend a credible witness or even invitation to the large numbers of the present generation who profess to be spiritual but not religious. In turning our attention to this group which draws great concern from Pope Francis and the bishops worldwide, some important questions come to mind. We can ask: What is actually happening here? Do we have people consciously rejecting what they perceive to be the negative trappings of the church? Or do we hear a cry of hunger to connect with a living presence of God which seems to be hidden or beyond the reach of their personal experience? In her book 'Forming Intentional Disciples', Sherry Weddell points out that these people indeed represent a growing category of the spiritually hungry and homeless. She suggests that because they may have a difficult time expressing their desire for a personal relationship with God and finding little or no satisfaction from the church, they just walk away. Can we dismiss their departures which is so painful – often within our own families - and simply allow these wanderers to remain disconnected, hungry, angry and kicking against what is nameless for them? I always live in hope that some will come back and find a parish that welcomes them at that right time for them. But lest we fall into the same trap might we consider the ways Jesus came and showed himself to the Apostles and somehow mysteriously has also entered our very lives. If we were to ask the question of the apostles Peter and his brother Andrew in a free and imaginary conversation, we might hear them say: "Well, he came to us on that bright blue cloudless day while we were casting our nets and seagulls silently soared on a gentle wind. He approached, introduced himself and simply said: 'Come follow me'"

For most of us, our personal encounter with the Lord did not have that kind of clarity as to date, time and place. However, it does make us ask how we have come to know the Lord's presence. Has it been an experience strong enough to convince us that he is indeed present, and furthermore, does it convince us that he will never abandon us? As we find ourselves in this Advent/ Christmas season we can ask the important question: "How has and will Christ come to us?" Of course the Saints would state over the years that he has come in history, mystery and grace. Maybe our answer is not as clear, but somehow I would hope that Christ is enabled to come to us because we have not only been open to his grace, but also taken that one step further of finding this openness to him has continued to let us experience his creative transformative presence or grace within our total lives as time has gone by. Nevertheless, next to us at Christmas time will be people who are no doubt still grappling with this faith thing. Some of them will be our own family members. Yet for many of them their early memories and habits of faith will be enough to draw them to slip into a pew. Maybe they will stay longer than even Christmas! We hope so. Hopefully their early memories will lead them to a deeper threshold, the ultimate reason for the birth of Jesus.

Yours 'In Christ'
Fr. Greg 13 /12 /2018




CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

	Saturday 22nd December	6.30pm	Normal Mass
	Sunday 23rd December	8.30am & 10.30am	Normal Mass
	Monday 24th December	6.30pm	Family Mass and Children's Pageant
	Christmas Eve	8.30pm	Christmas Carols
		9.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
	Tuesday 25th December	9.00am	Christmas Carols with the Choir
	Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Day Mass (NB: One Mass Only)




The Silent Night of Grace
REFLECTIONS IN ADVENT



We wait in Joyful Hope! Advent is the place where we wait and prepare for the incredible: "The Birth of Jesus":
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, In the Lord, I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near. This week, often take a quiet moment to name one of the unexpected gifts we have received & thank God for them.



Children's Nativity Drawings for the 2018 Christmas Pageant Mass

Parish primary school age children are invited to submit a drawing depicting a religious Christmas theme (e.g. nativity, manger, wise men, camels, angels, shepherds, sheep, donkey) for inclusion in this year's 6.30pm Christmas Eve Mass slide show. Drawings need to be landscape profile on A4 paper, with your child's name on the reverse side. Bright colours and dark backgrounds work particularly well. Completed drawings will be gratefully accepted from Sunday 25 November to Sunday 16 December in the Parish Office, attention Heidi Zahra. Alternatively, drawings can be given to the Children's Liturgy Co-ordinators.




NB: Parishioners whose children do not attend St. Mary's School.
ENROLMENT IS REQUIRED NOW

for your children to attend preparation classes in 2019 as follows:

	Term 1: Yr 3+: Reconciliation (Confession) - February/March
	Term 2: Yr 4+: Eucharist (Holy Communion) - April /May
	Term 3: Yr 6+: Confirmation (NOT Yr 5 as in previous years)

For Enquiries and an enrolment form: Email: patricia.stone@sosj.org.au

Unable to email Sr. Patricia before school Closes???
Write your contact details and query on the invitation on the back table – place it in the box provided or post it to St. Mary's Parish Office: Attention Sr. Patricia.



Columban Calendars 2019

The new Columban Calendars will be available for sale at the conclusion of Mass from the rear of the Church for \$9.00. Funds raised will support the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

