



The Parish of Saint Anthony Glen Huntly

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New Year's Day & Sunday of the Epiphany of Our Lord. Year B.

1 & 3 January 2021

Parish Office will reopen on Thursday, 14th January 2021; 10 am-2 pm.

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 6pm; Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 5pm.

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 9.15 am.

To register your Mass-attendance, please use
trybooking.com/BNSXJ (Jan.2021), or text Shanelle on 0405014902
or on your arrival use QR Code or the manual register.

(Note: Registering via trybooking is possible for Sun 9am and 10.30am Masses only)
New rule: Please use facemasks in church.

Wishing Everyone A Happy New Year 2021

Today is New Year's Day.

Today we are also entering the third decade of the 21st Century.
As we do so, we are full of hope, full of prayer and full of best wishes for one another.

On this occasion, it would be good for us to look back at 2020 with gratitude.
It's true that the past year had brought us untold pain, sorrow, loss and devastation,
but nothing of that sort comes in our way of thanking God for all that has been.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge the manifold graces and blessings
God has showered upon us during the past 12 months.

Now as we take our first steps into the unknown 2021,
we look forward to newer blessings and graces from the Lord.
Let's place all our trust in the Lord and move on confidently.

We have the support of the Mother of God, whose Solemnity we celebrate today.
From the very start of the New Year Mother Mary will accompany us.
She intercedes for us powerfully with her Divine Son, as we walk our unknown paths.

May the true Light of the World, Jesus Christ himself
light up our way throughout the New Year.


May, St. Anthony of Padua intercede for us all.

**“The Lord bless you and keep you!
The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!”** (Numbers 6:24-26)

Mary, Mother of God 1st Jan. 2021


THEOTOKOS SERIES

THE TITLE DOESN'T MAKE HER A GODDESS



The accusation that Catholics elevate Mary to a goddess by calling her "Mother of God" is absolutely untrue and ridiculous at the same time. The Church **never has, does not now and never will teach** that Mary is a "goddess" who gave Jesus His Divine Nature.

Were Jesus born of a "goddess", He would not have become Man, for a divine being would logically have divine, not human offspring. The Blessed Virgin Mary is a woman who gave God the Son a human nature, which makes her the Mother of God the Son according to the flesh.

 [facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage](https://www.facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage)

The Solemnity of the Mother of God is celebrated on the first day of each year. The life of Jesus begins with Mary. Therefore, it is appropriate that we begin the New Year with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. She is our own Mother too.

Today's special feast affirms that the Blessed Virgin Mary is truly the Mother of God, and it shows the importance of her role in the mystery of our salvation.

This title for Mary as the "Mother of God" was a controversial title, for 'how could there be a mother for God?' This

Catholic Dogma finds its origin from the passage found in the Gospel of Luke. After the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Upon her arrival, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, referred to Mary as **"the Mother of God."**

In 431 A.D, the Council of Ephesus affirmed that Mary is truly the Mother of God because "according to the flesh" she gave birth to Jesus, who was truly God from the first moment of His conception. Twenty years later the Council of Chalcedon re-affirmed that the Motherhood of Mary was a truthful dogma and an official doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church. Her Motherhood began when the eternal God entered human history. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Word, took on a human nature in the womb of Mary. This also affirms that Mary's Son is truly God, as well as being truly Human. **May, the Mother of God and Our Mother and St. Joseph pray for us.**

World Day of Peace.

The Catholic Church also celebrates "World Day of Peace" on the 1st of January. On this day our Holy Father Pope Francis has asked to pray for the peace in the world Today, as we also celebrate "World Peace Day," We are therefore called to begin the New Year by being a peacemaker. But we must first make peace with our past and the relationships that have been broken through not forgiving, in order to give ourselves a **"NEW BEGINNING FOR A NEW YEAR!"**



Fr. Greg Pritchard,
Our Thoughts, Prayers and Best Wishes follow you.

As Fr. Greg Pritchard's ministry as the Parish Priest of St. Anthony's, Glen Huntly-Caulfield concludes, both parishioners and the staff wish to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Fr. Pritchard for all his devoted care and service over the past two years and more.

Since his arrival at Anthony's, Fr. Pritchard has typified good administration and pastoral care, coupled with a strong work ethic and dedication to the mission of the Church.

He prioritized prudent and well-considered reforms. In particular, he initiated transparency and sustainability in establishing the stewardship program and balanced the parish finances. He now leaves the parish in a fortunate financial situation where St. Anthony's is expected to be able to pay its way instead of relying on any grants. This reforming touch can also be seen by anyone who has seen the improvements he has made to the Presbytery.

He also championed several ministries. In particular, he was the driving force behind reestablishing the Vincent de Paul Society and the Legion of Mary, for whom he provided Spiritual Direction. Fr Pritchard also introduced the Godstart Program and a Benedict Option Program before Covid19 transformed all our lives. He was also strongly involved in the Men's Ministry and assisted not purely through spiritual formation and direction but through his jovial attitude and insightful commentary.

Perhaps one of the highlights of his assignment at St Anthony's parish is that he was able to organize for the relics of St Anthony to be received from Rome in our Parish. Well done!

Fr Pritchard will be dearly missed at St Anthony's, and no doubt be well-received at his new assignment. We wish him good health and happiness at St Gabriel's Parish at Reservoir. May the blessings of the Lord be with him in all his endeavors.

Shobha Thomas, Parish Secretary

Dear Parishioners,

I am Fr. Leenus Neetany SAC. I am happy to be appointed the Parish Priest of St. Anthony's, Glen Huntly-Caulfield. I moved into the premises on Thursday 31st Dec. 2020, and have taken charge this morning, 1st Jan. 2021. I thought it is good to introduce myself to you all, in a few words.

I belong to a Religious Society, its official name being Society of the Catholic Apostolate, founded by St. Vincent Pallotti (1795-1850. Rome) from whose name comes the popular name for the Society "the Pallottines". The official Latin name for the Society is *Societas Apostolatus Catholici*, hence the abbreviation SAC. Now I am a member of the Regina Mundi Region of the Pallottines in Australia.

I was born in Kerala, one of the southern states of India; I joined the Pallottines as a Seminarian in 1977 and was ordained a priest in 1988, and worked in different dioceses of North India until I was sent here, Australia in 2009. I worked as an Assistant Priest at Ringwood North/Park Orchards/Warrandyte for a year and then was appointed the Parish Priest of Holy Child Parish, Dallas/Meadow Heights. After serving there for more than seven years I was appointed Pro-tem Administrator of our neighboring Parishes of St. Patrick's, Murrumbeena and St. Kevin's, Ormond, where I was a little over two years.

On a few occasions during that time I had the privilege of meeting with Fr. Greg Pritchard, especially at some prayer sessions of the Legion of Mary. From the very first meeting with him I have always had a high appreciation for Fr. Pritchard. His zeal and devotedness is so obvious. I am sure you will all agree with me in saying that he is a Man of God. As he takes charge as the Parish Priest of St. Gabriel's, Reservoir, we pray that he will continue to be guided and blessed by the Lord. Fr. Leenus Neetany SAC

Sunday, 3rd Jan. 2021

Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord.

Today we remember the day, when the newborn Baby Jesus was visited by 3 kings with gifts and guided by a star. But the focus point of today is neither the 3 kings, nor their gifts, nor the star, rather the fact that Baby Jesus that day revealed the Truth of Himself for the whole humanity. Therefore this feast has the name "Epiphany". Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "to make known" or "to reveal." This revelation to the 3 kings of different nations indicates that Jesus came for people of all nations, of all races and languages. It indicates that God's work of salvation is not limited to any particular few.

Isaiah had prophesied that "They shall bring gifts". Why did the 3 kings choose to bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? Surely, they could have offered something more valuable. Obviously, it was not the aim of the 3 kings to offer valuable items, rather symbolic items. Surely they were guided by the Holy Spirit in choosing the right gifts.

Gold was a symbolic gift, fit for a king. Therefore, gold points to the Majesty of Baby Jesus. The 3 kings consider Jesus not as their equal but rather as their King. The baby revealed himself as the King of kings. The 3 kings accept Baby Jesus as the universal King, prostrate before the Baby and therefore offer him the gift of Gold.

Frankincense was a symbolic gift fit for a priest, to be used in temples to worship God. Therefore, frankincense points to the Divinity of Baby Jesus. It is revealed to the 3 kings that Jesus is truly God. The 3 kings accept Baby Jesus as the only God, and therefore worship Him and offer Him frankincense.

Myrrh was also a symbolic gift. It was used to embalm the dead. Therefore, myrrh points to the humanity of Jesus. It is revealed to the 3 kings that Jesus is born to die. Everyone dies, but Jesus was the only One, who was born in order to die. He saved us by dying. This truth is revealed to the 3 kings. The kings accept this truth and therefore offer him myrrh.

Then the 3 kings with tenderest tears prayed fervently to Baby Jesus, offered themselves together with all they had and all they valued on earth. They begged the Baby to take their hearts, their souls, their actions and their thoughts. They entreated the Baby to enlighten them and bestow on them all the virtues and to grant the whole world peace, joy and love.

Unless it was revealed to the 3 kings, they would not have known the truths about this Baby lying in a manger, for; He did not look like a king or a god. Just like the hand of God was with the kings in choosing the right gifts, so also, the hand of God was at work in the form of star that guided them to the Divine Baby. God helps those who seek Him.

Therefore, Epiphany is a revelation and an invitation of God to all humanity to seek him to know Him, to worship Him and to accept Him. If God used a star to guide and to reveal to the 3 kings. he can also use anything to reveal Himself to anybody anywhere. This feast of Epiphany gives us great hope. The countless number of people, who are far from the truth can be brought to Him by various means. May, Jesus the King of Kings continue to reveal himself in and through us to the people yet to know and love him.

Fr. Leenus.