



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



First Sunday of Advent - Year C 2nd December 2018

Dear friends

Christmas is 23 days away. As we begin the season of Advent and the beginning of the church's year, it's time for renewal and to recreate. Christmas is the most beautiful time of the year for families to reunite and celebrate God's greatest gift to us – life, love, family, belonging and the presence of God in the baby Jesus, in His mother Mary and the His father-protector in this world St Joseph. Let us simply look upon our Christmas crib and pray in awe at the good news given to us by the Angels of the birth of our saviour Jesus.

Jesus is the cause of our Joy. He is the centre of our nativity, the reason for our celebration and the purpose of our coming together as family and parish. We have so much to be grateful for. Gratitude, generosity and peace are the gifts given to us in Jesus, through Mary and the humility of Joseph.

In this time of Advent, preparation for the birth of Christ, celebrated at Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, is the most revered of our Christian faith.

Let us use our time in Advent for prayer, intimacy with Jesus in the Mass, true charity in our love for our family and the poor.

May the crib which shows us the beauty of Christmas encourage us to adore Christ and show our love for Him in the humble and poor.

God bless

Fr Frank

Parish Diary:

Monday 3rd December

St Francis Xavier

2:00pm Activities Group

7:00pm Rosary

Tuesday 4th December

Wednesday 5th December

10:00am Prayer Group

5:00pm Music Practice

Thursday 6th December

5:30pm Reconciliation

6:00pm Mass

Friday 7th December

St Ambrose

9:00am Mass School End of Year Celebration. Note change of time for this week only

Saturday 8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:15pm Mass

Sunday 9th December

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass

10:00am Golf at Howeston followed by BBQ in Parish Centre

"Advent has a special charm, it makes us experience deeply the meaning of history."

- Pope Francis

This Week's Readings:

First Reading: Jer 33:14-16 – *I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

Psalm Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

(Alternative Psalm Response if spoken): To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thess 3:12 – 4:2 – *When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 – *Your redemption is near at hand.*

Next week's Readings

First: Baruch 5:1-9

Second: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Mass Times: Saturday 6:15pm & Sunday 8:00am

Reconciliation: Thursday 5:30pm

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am to 1pm.
Wednesday Closed.

Pastor: Fr Frank Jones

Associate Pastor: Fr Epati Tamati

Associate Pastor: Fr Thomas Zaranski

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Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

A VOCATION VIEW:

Make your decision to follow Jesus during THIS Advent Season. Delaying until "one" of these days is "none" of these days. Follow now.

Parish Primary School

Principal: Mr John Spillane

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Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Lesley West, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Denise Hodgson, Patricia Haines, Kathy Stone, Christine Inch, Belinda Wheeler, Jim Gair, Cely Salisbury, Anne Delamere, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Dianne Charlton, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, John Schoites, Corrie Roser, Amelia Ramsay, Betty Reagan, Mary Chylewski, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather, Paul McKean, Marina Weightman.

May God embrace all who have recently died: Rod Adams, Valda Grey, Gert Smit, Celsa Obligado, Michael Mossop.

Anniversaries & Remembrances December: Les and Ruby Richards, Alberto & Vittorio Poloniato, John Jorna Snr, Antonio Cailotto, Amalia Bandiera, John Williams, Madeline Gauci, Eve Buckmaster, Peter Moores, Hans Adam, Fayline Fraser, Alma Prove, Mary Boyle, Josefina Wilcox, Rita Fantov, Michael Newman, Maria Bosso, Peter Moores, Mark Ciavarella, Ron Tamatea, Meg Griffiths, Mal Carlson, Luigi Santarossa, Arnold Splatt, Arthur McCarthy, Sr Dot Newberry, Jack and Mary Ward, David Boyd, Irene Kearney, Clare Rubach, Ivan Randall, Jordan Smith, Vladga Smith, Franco Peressini, Dorothy McInroy, Annie Neale, Fr Tom Boland.

Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk

Roster 8th & 9th December

<u>Junior Ministers</u>		<u>Readers</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</u>	<u>Music</u>
6:15pm Volunteer	6:15pm	(1st) Don F (2nd) Mary S (POF) Carolyn W	6:15pm John E, Therese E, Mary D, Tom M, Anne-Maree C	6:15pm Gp 3 8:00am Gp 2
8:00am Theresa W	8:00am	(1st) Loretta M (2nd) Julie C (POF) Jane W	8:00am Lena B, April M, Brian C, Walter G, Mark C, Anthony W, Volunteer	Powerpoint 6:15pm Emma M 8:00am Chris M
Weekend Mass Times		Week Day Mass Times		Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday Manly - 5:00pm Birkdale - 6:15pm	St John Vianney Manly Ph 3131 2610 Tuesday - 6:00pm and Wednesday - 9:30am		St Mary MacKillop Birkdale Thursday 5.30pm to 6:00pm	
Sunday Gumdale - 7:00am Birkdale - 8:00am Manly - 9:30am	St Mary MacKillop Birkdale Ph 3822 2139 Thursday - 6:00pm and Friday - 9:30am		St John Vianney Manly Saturday 4.30pm to 5:00pm	
		Carmelite Monastery 7:00am Monday to Saturday		St Jude Gumdale Sunday following 7:00am Mass

Christmas Eve Mass Times

5:00pm St John Vianney's Manly
7:00pm St Jude's, Gumdale
7:00pm St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale
Midnight Carmelite Monastery Ormiston

Christmas Day Mass Times

8:00am St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale
9:30am St John Vianney's Manly



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND AND ROME Fr Frank will be accompanying a 15 Night/18 Day pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome departing 29th September 2019 and returning Wednesday 16th October 2019. The tour is being organised by Harvest Journeys and will be visiting Amman, Jerash, Dead Sea, Bethany Beyond the Jordan, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Cana, Mt Tabor, Mt Carmel, Haifa, Jericho, Jerusalem and Rome. Brochures available from the Parish Office. For more information please see Fr Frank.

Cup of Tea Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee and refreshments after Masses this weekend.

Christmas Raffle Tickets are \$2.00 each (3 for \$5.00) and are on sale after Masses this weekend. To be drawn on Sunday 23rd December.

End of School Year Mass - will be celebrated at **9:00am on Friday 7th December** in the Church. Parishioners are most welcome to attend this Mass as there will be no 9:30am Mass on this day.

Christmas Tree Donations of food items, especially **sweet or savoury biscuits, Christmas food and tinned hams (not Spam)** for St Vincent de Paul will be gratefully received. We have already received enough toys/presents from the generous donations from St Mary MacKillop Primary School and Carmel College to meet our needs this year but still need food items for hampers. *Thank you for your generosity.*

Tree Removal we urgently need to remove the 40 trees behind the Parish Centre as they have become unstable and dangerous (a branch has already fallen onto the gutter of the Parish Centre). We have received an estimate of \$6,000.00 to remove all the trees and stumps and have them mulched (we will use the mulch for our gardens). I would be grateful for any donation of funds towards this project. Donations can be made at the Parish Office or can be placed on the collection plates at Mass in an envelope noted "tree removal donation". We need to have this project completed by **December this year**. I thank you in advance for your support. Your donation is greatly appreciated. **Fr Frank. TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE - \$2,670.00.**

Advent Books *The Little Blue Books* are available at the Welcome Desk to help us pray and reflect in preparation of Christmas. **Books are \$5.00 each.**

Children's Christmas Pageant 2018 - will be presented at the Christmas vigil Mass on **24th December at 7:00 pm**. Children wishing to be a part of the pageant will need to be at the following rehearsal sessions in the Church:-
Tuesday 11th December - 9am to 10am and Thursday 13th December - 9am to 10am
Tuesday 18th December - 9am to 10am and Thursday 20th December - 9am to 10am
Some parent helpers would be very much appreciated. Some costumes will be provided. Thank you so much for all the generous donation of children's dress up items, clothing and fabrics received in previous years. We are still in need of the following items.
Children's dress up items: angel wings & halo; white dresses; crown; shepherd's tunic, soldier's shields. **Toys:** Sheep.

NEW PARISHIONER? WELCOME! If you are new to our Parish, you are most welcome. Please fill out the form below and place on one of the collection plates.

NAME(S): Mr / Mrs / Miss _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____



THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

LISTENING LEARNING PRAYING
An Advent Pastoral Letter

At a time when the average age of Catholics in Australia is 59, it has been good to celebrate the Year of Youth which is now coming to an end. Perhaps it would've been better to have a decade of youth, but the year was a promising start.

One thing that happened in the Year of Youth was the world-wide Synod of Bishops in Rome, which showed that Pope Francis has his finger on the pulse. It was different from other Synods because this time young people took part and spoke with their own voice. The rest of the Church, especially the bishops, was invited to listen. Not just in Rome but everywhere, the Year of Youth has been a time for the whole Church to listen to the voices of young people who often feel unheard in the Church. The young inhabit different cultural, social and religious worlds than do those of us who are older. But their deepest hopes and longings, even if expressed in different accents, are familiar to us all, because they are so deeply human.

Those hopes and longings find voice in a special way through the days of Advent when the whole Church cries out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" In the end, all of us, young and old, yearn for Jesus, often in ways we scarcely recognise. Who of us doesn't want peace and joy? We all do, because the human heart is made for them. But they can be found only in the encounter with the Risen Lord, apart from whom we find only cosmetic peace and cosmetic joy. But there's nothing cosmetic in him, which is why the restless heart finds rest in him.

The Year of Youth has been a time for whole Catholic community – lay people, religious, deacons, priests, bishops – to reach out to meet young people where they are, walk with them on the way and listen to them as we take the road together. At times we've done this well, at other times less well, perhaps slipping back into ways we hoped we'd left behind. But everything that's been done has been only the start of a long journey together.

As we enter the time of Advent and Christmas this year, I encourage you to engage afresh with family and friends, learning to listen to them in new ways, especially to those who are younger. We won't always get it right, but the more we open the ears of our heart, the more we discover the power of listening to one another, as we allow God to transform us through other people. That's the grace God offers through the season of Advent and Christmas.

Listening to each other means telling our stories to each other. We are often very private about our faith, but young people need to hear our story of faith, our journey of discipleship. You may think you have nothing much to share, but that's not what others think, especially the young.

Telling the story of our faith can make us vulnerable, but there's nothing to fear in that, because often to tell of our vulnerability is to tell the story of our true strength and the power of God's mercy in our life. To love others means to hear their story, and to let them hear ours.

Love means being vulnerable and allowing others to be vulnerable before us.

Look for ways and moments, then, when you can speak of what God has done and is doing in your life. Bear witness in that way as you walk with young people on the journey of faith. You'll be surprised by the effect it has, and you'll grow stronger by your truth-telling. As I've said elsewhere: "If the young are given the right experience, then the Catholic Church is still the greatest show on earth and Jesus as irresistibly attractive now as he ever was". You need to be part of that experience

By the influence of the Holy Spirit, the Year of Youth in Australia has coincided with preparations for the Plenary Council in 2020. The Plenary Council is about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia – the whole Church, which is what the unusual word “plenary” means. Pope Francis often speaks of the need for us to become a “synodal” Church. That’s another unusual word, but it means a Church where God speaks not just to some of the bishops some of the time but to all the baptised all the time. In that sense, the Plenary Council has already begun, because it’s more a process than an event. The process has three phases – preparation, celebration and implementation; and the first phase of preparation is well and truly under way.

A Plenary Council isn’t just a talkfest or a political jamboree. It’s the whole Church gathered by the Holy Spirit in order to make decisions about the future according to the mind of God. This means we’re on a journey of discernment, seeking to listen to the voice of the Spirit to see what the Spirit is saying to us about the future.

As we prepare for the Plenary Council, we’re offered an opportunity to enter more deeply into dialogue with one another. In the Gospels, Jesus knows what is in a person (cf John 2:24) and how to listen to what the heart of the other is saying. Jesus doesn’t begin with a big pronouncement; he takes time to engage with people and usually starts with a question.

We too need to be a people who know how to engage with others as Jesus did, to listen before we speak, lest we talk at people rather than with them. As one theologian has said: “This pilgrim Church will be most faithful to its truest identity when all the baptised acknowledge the wisdom of listening before speaking, of learning before teaching, of praying before pronouncing” (Richard Gaillardetz, Jamison, 2013, p. 55).

So as the Year of Youth comes to an end, we remain faithful to the path traced by the Holy Spirit through these twelve months, listening before we speak, learning before we teach and praying before we pronounce. Following that path, we will come to recognise and adore the Child who is God-with-us, the newborn Saviour who is “joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

Archbishop of Brisbane
First Sunday of Advent 2018