Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Noraville St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah



Vision To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community



Parish Priest

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Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of

Consolation—Convent

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Sr. Josefa Mabini OSA Sr. Jennifer Canillas OSA

Parish Office Hours

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Sarah-Jane Rosen **Office Assistant:** Mrs Lorrie O'Brien

Catechist Coordinator

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Sr. Jennifer Canillas PH: 0435 788759 Cath Cefai PH: 0418 836512

Sunday Parish Bus Service

Mrs Joan Haslam 4392 6892

Parish Schools St Mary's

Principal Ms Emma Sellars 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Ms Charlene Reid 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Mr Adam Murdoch 7256 2122

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24th December 2023



"Behold the handmaid of the Lord"

In today's Gospel the annunciation of the birth of the Lord Jesus is narrated in detail. The meeting of Mary and the Angel Gabriel is an illustration of the living faith of Mary. She gives her consent to become the mother of the redeemer though she hardly understood the significance and the depth of her 'Yes". Hence Mary became a special instrument in the hands of God. Mary has a unique role to play in the salvation history. But Mary was asked to put her freedom and her whole person at the service of the plan to God. The difference between Mary and us is not that Mary was chosen while we are not: rather it is that she fully consented to be chosen for her role while we remain hesitant and half-hearted in our responses to God.

Like Mary, God invites each one of us during this season of Advent and tells us 'Rejoice, highly favoured for I have chosen you to live a holy and loving life.' Let us positively respond to this invitation of God as we are preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas. In summary, in a sense our personal meditation can parallel Mary's journey: have I truly given an unqualified "Yes" to Jesus in my own life, and what is the best way for me to bring this Good News to my own little world?

"Mary, full of Grace, conceived Jesus in her heart before she conceived Him in her womb. She was so attuned to the spiritual that the spiritual readily became physical within her." - St. Augustine.



Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and Wonderful New Year

Fr Tomy

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Saturday: Vigil 6:00pm Fr Baby Sunday: 7:30am Fr Baby

9:00am Fr Baby

Children's Liturgy 1st & 3rd Sunday at 9:00am Mass (except school holidays)

St Brendan's Church Lake Munmorah

Saturday: Vigil 5:00pm Fr Tomy Sunday: 8:00am Fr Tomy

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday 9:00 am Tuesday 9:00 am Wednesday 9:00 am

Thursday 9:00 am (Ordinariate of Our Lady of

the Southern Cross)

Friday 9:15am (Except 1st Friday of Month)

First Friday of Month Anointing of Sick

11:00am

Saturday 9:00 am

St Brendan's Church Lake Munmorah

Wednesday 9:00am

First Wednesday of Month Anointing of Sick

9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

EXPOSITION BLESSED SACRAMENT

St Mary's Church Toukley

Each Saturday – After Morning Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Toukley

Saturday 9:30am -10:00am (by appointment at other times)

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday 4:30 -5:00pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Mary's Toukley

8:20 am Monday to Thursday & Saturday 8:45 am Friday

First Friday Night Vigil

Exposition after 7pm Mass until 12.30am



Welcome to our Parish. Today we celebrate the **Nativity of the Lord.** Thank you for being here to celebrate this special occasion. We welcome all visitors to our area and our Parishioners.

Christmas Mass times

St Mary's, Toukley

Christmas Eve: 6pm Vigil incl. Children's Nativity

Carols 11.30pm & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: 7.30am and 9am (no evening Mass)

St Brendan's, Lake Munmorah

Christmas Eve: 5pm Vigil Children's Nativity

Christmas Day: 8am

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Vinnies Christmas appeal. Your contributions through envelopes, gift cards or food will make Christmas happier and brighter for many families in need.

Christmas Nativity Reenactments

We thank the children and families who are involved in the Nativity Reenactment at both churches. Thank you also to those who prepared and rehearsed with the children.

PWBB & CFIC Appeal

Thank you to our generous parish community for your contribution to our CFIC Appeal earlier this month. Your contributions raised \$2553 for PWBB and \$1946.00 for CFIC which will support the charitable activities of both organisations.

Special Crib

Theme of this year's special crib is "Jesus, the Eucharist born in Bethlehem." Bethlehem means house of bread to become the spiritual nourishment in the Holy Eucharist. We thank Sanjay Sebastian for creating the beautiful crib together with the Priests. We thank Judy Kay for sponsoring the expenses of the crib.

<u>Fr Baby holidays - Fr Baby will be taking a well-deserved break from 30th Dec to 6th Feb, 2024.</u> We wish him safe travels and we hope he enjoys this special time with his family.

<u>Invitation to Pray for Sister Tincy</u> - Please continue to prayer for Sr. Tincy, who is Fr. Baby's sister for strength and healing

<u>Holidays</u> -Sr Josie & Sr Jennifer will be away for holidays after Christmas. They will be back 28th Jan 24. We wish them a safe journey & a wonderful holiday. Sr Josie will celebrate her silver jubilee as a religious Nun on 10th Jan in the Philippines.

<u>Morning Tea - There</u> is no morning tea held at either Church during the month of January.





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Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus,

In the past I have asked for many favours! This time I ask you this very special one! Here pray for your intention!

Take it dear Jesus & place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it! Then in your merciful eyes, it will become your favour, not mine! Amen



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Program & First Holy
Communion Enrolment is open via trybooking. This is only applicable for Year 3 & above who



have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation. See notice board, visit website or contact Parish office.

Parish Office - Holiday Hours - The office will be closed from 2pm Friday 22nd Dec & re-open 9am Wed 27th Dec. Merry Christmas from Fr Tomy, Fr Baby & all the office staff.

St Mary's Holy Shop - We now have an Eftpos machine in the Holy Shop, please support the Parish by looking at the beautiful items available. We have copies of the 2024 Daily Mass Book, ORDO, God's Word, and Break Open the Word, The Order of the Mass and A simple Prayer Book, wooden palm crosses, Rosary beads, statues of Our Lady, Our Lady of Fatima, Columbian calendars, children's Bibles, Lectio Divina and many more. These would make perfect Christmas gifts or for any special occasion. Please visit our shop before or after weekend Masses.

St Brendan's Coffee & Chat - There will be no morning tea in January for St Brendan's Social Group. Please come along from the first Wednesday of the month from February 2024 10am -12pm at The Doylo. Everyone is welcome!

A Special Thank You! Thank you so much to Connie Chetcuti, Doris Micallef, Jan McRae, Christine Buckman, Nicole Anderson & Gabrine for their generous donations of Christmas decorations. Thank you to Tess Santor and Jan Brennan for their generous donations of laptops for CLOW. And thank you to Lina Samaniego for the beautiful floral arrangements.

Clergy Appointments - the list for the clergy changes in Broken Bay Diocese has been released for 2024 and you can view this on the notice board at both churches. Fr Tomy has been appointed Parish Priest of Toukley-Lake Munmorah from 1st January 2024.



Please pray for those who have died and those who are sick

Recently Deceased

John Van der Kroft, Lorraine Lindsay, Kerry Hudson, Margaret Brett, Jim Speight, Fr. Paul G. Shanahan S.M, Vida Nobles, Bernard Griffith, Renato Simeon Apologista, Richard Reid

Anniversaries

John Ledger, Philipose Anianalt, Osbourn Vaguez, Joy Moltzen, Glen O'Connor, Rosalinda Camilote, Christopher Dormer, Edna Bath, Richard Hamer, Stephens Cappa, Margie Hamer, Jim Guest, Vicky Debono, Salvina Caruana

Remembrances

Federico & Victoria Sandoral, Ruth Sandoral, Armando Ching, Pastoria, Estanislao Limpio, Editha & Christian Vincent Limpio, Francisca & Gregorio Austria, Marcelino & Leoniia Limpio, Conchita Sandoval, Jesus Austria Sandoral, Santiago & Ensebia Compacion, Simon Butcher, Langley & Moore Families, Denis Newey, Doreen Goonan, Bernard Fitzpatrick, Clara Fitzpatrick, Pat Fitzpatrick, Claire Fitzpatrick, Victor Egan, Mary Egan, Moore & Langley families, Valmai Joseph & Stark Family, Wendy Woodhouse, Carol Brown

Please Pray for the Sick

Michelle Maroon, Patrick, Sr Tincy, Diane Booth, Mick G., Kylie Musgrave, Avis Sullivan, Brian Fletcher, Rhondda Rey, Christine Yousef, Olive Haslam, Florian Stoffel, John & Bev Jessop, Graham & Sandra Campbell, Marian Campbell, Mia, Robbie Depares, De-Anne Richards, Jackie Chaplin, Michael Casey, Koen Mackaway, John Jessep, Eva Cusick, Melissa, John Jessep, Margaret Connolly, Rita Cini, Baby Mia Lilli, Maria Butseties, Shirley Campbell, Liz Kelman, Josh. R, Robyn Brand, Susan Simmons, Denis Tansey, Miklos Bethany

December Birthdays

Isabel Fiedler (6th Dec) Melba Voigt (10th Dec) Christopher Crocker (12th Dec) Charlie Saliba (17th Dec) Paul Moir (20th Dec) Yvonne Griffin (23rd Dec) Kye Sutherland (26th Dec) Emily Bridget (27th Dec)



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December



For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. R.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph First Reading - Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 Second Reading - Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

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