

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun.

Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ

became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Next Weeks Readings:

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading James 5:7-10

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

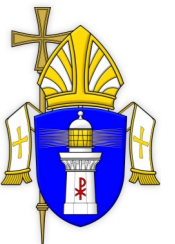
Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah

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



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Mrs. Joan Haslam 4392 6892

Parish Schools

St Mary's

Principal Mr Kevin Williams 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Mrs Luanna Fletcher 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Mrs Julie Terry 4358 4278

Second Sunday of Advent Year A

8th December 2019



In today's gospel, John the Baptist called the people to produce fruits fit for repentance. Fruitlessness is a dangerous state, and it always invites disaster.

The season of Advent is the season of waiting for the Lord. The best way to wait for the Lord is to be ever prepared for His coming. As we would clean up the mess in our homes before an important guest arrives, so are we to clean up the mess in our lives before Christ arrives. Cleaning the mess in our lives is through repentance. Repentance is something more than merely grieving over our sins. It is confession of our sins with a firm resolve to change for better. Fruitlessness results due to lack of repentance. "The major spiritual problem of the present age is that it lost the sense of sin". When we stand before God we are all sinners.

"A rod that lies useless invites rusting;
A book that is unread for long invites book worms;
A house that is uninhabited invites dilapidation;
A life that is fruitless invites condemnation".

True repentance has a double aspect: it looks upon the past with a weeping eye, and upon the future with a watchful eye. All of us need to address the areas in which we need to change. We need to be changed and to be touched by the power of God's forgiving love. Unless we accept our sins and failures and correct them, we cannot truly prepare for the coming of the Lord.

"Of all acts of man, repentance is the most divine" - Thomas Carlyle.

Fr Baby

PARISH LITURGIES
WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Saturday: Vigil 6:00pm
 Sunday: 7:30am
 9:00am
 Children's Liturgy 1st & 3rd Sunday
 (except school holidays)
 6:00pm

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

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

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday 7:45am The Immaculate Conception of
 the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Tuesday 7:45am
 Wednesday 7:45am
 Thursday 7:45am (Ordinariate of Our Lady
 of the Southern Cross)
 Friday 9:15am St Lucy
 (Except 1st Friday of Month)

First Friday of Month Anointing of Sick

11:00am
 Saturday 7:45am St John of the Cross

St Brendan's 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 8:15am—9:00am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday 4:30—5:00pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Mary's Toukley

7:25am Monday to Thursday & Saturday
 8:45am Friday



We welcome all of our parishioners and visitors, who have joined us for the celebration of Holy Eucharist this weekend. You are all most welcome here in our Parish Family. Please feel free to make yourself known to us, and we look forward to speaking with you.

Planned Giving

We wish to thank all those parishioners who faithfully contribute to the Planned Giving Envelopes in the Parish. Your generous donations support the ongoing costs associated with the running of the parish, including the various pastoral and liturgical programmes, as well as the ongoing maintenance of parish buildings. We thank you for your generosity.

Formation of Mission Councils

We wish to form two new Mission Councils next year, one for Toukley and one for Lake Munmorah, to ensure representation, from across the parish, to assist in the efficient functioning of the parish community. Each Mission Council will be formed of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and two members. The policy we have in the parish is one person, one position. Two members from Mission Council will represent the Parish Pastoral Council.

Membership: Members of the Mission Council are to be representative of the life of the Parish community, not representing a particular group or ministry to which they may belong.

The members are expected to possess at least some of the following qualities: A commitment to the practice of the faith, the parish community and its mission. The ability to collaborate and consult with others for the mission of the church and active in the life of the parish, to plan strategies to implement Pastoral Plans. It would be most appreciated if you could assist in this mission. Please feel free to contact the Parish office or the clergy if you could help in this exercise of serving the Church.

Fr Tomy

Formation of Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance committee is composed of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and two members. I would really appreciate if members of good will can come forward for this important structure of the Church. The Role of Finance Committee is to assist the Parish Priest perform his role of the administering the ecclesiastical goods of the parish. To advise on financial policies and transactions for the parish; Prepare Annual Budget of Income and Expenditure; to assist the priest to keep current and accurate financial records; implementing and supervising Fund-Raising programmes etc.

Fr Tomy

Formation of Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee is an important structure in the Spiritual Life of the Parish. Its main role is to help the Clergy in the liturgical events and Sacraments of the Parish. I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance and Liturgy Committees for the past years. If you are able to help in the exercise, please contact me, Fr Baby or the Parish Office.

Fr Tomy

Sharing God's Light—A Gift in Your Will

Our parish is very grateful for the bequests that have been left to the parish in the past. These bequests have supported our Faith Community and enabled us to maintain our parish church and buildings and implement pastoral initiatives. By leaving a gift in your will, or honouring the memory of a loved one, you are supporting your Family of Faith. Booklets available at doors of the church.

Thank You

The St Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank the parish community for their support of the 2019 Christmas Appeal. We have received more than \$3500 which will go towards improving the plight of those in need.



Upcoming Parish Events

Special Morning Tea - Sunday 8th December
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Fr Tomy and Fr Baby are members of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and it is the custom of their Congregation that members renew their Religious Vows annually, on this Feast.

They will renew their vows during the 9:00am Mass this Sunday; and to mark this special occasion and Feast Day, everyone is invited to join in the celebration of this mass and share morning tea with them following mass. Please bring a plate to share.

St Brendan's Rosters Christmas Day & Jan—Mar 2020

Rosters are now being prepared for Christmas Day and for the period January to March. **Please add your details to the sheets provided at the rear of the Church.** More volunteers are required for all ministries, training will be provided, please consider assisting.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

In order to prepare worthily for the Christmas Season, the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be available in these parishes, on these days.

St Mary's Toukley	Tuesday	17th December	6pm
St Cecilia's Wyong	Wednesday	18th December	6pm
MacKillop Warnervale	Thursday	19th December	7pm
OLR The Entrance	Friday	20th December	6pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

St Brendan's Vigil 5:00pm
 St Mary's Vigil 6:00pm,
 Carols 11:30pm,
 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

St Brendan's 8:00am
 St Mary's 7:30am, 9:00am
 NO EVENING MASS

New Year's Day— Solemnity Mary Holy Mother of God

St Mary's 9:00am
 St Brendan's 9:00am

Golden Jubilee

Logan, the Year 10 student from St Brigid's College, who was taken to hospital last Saturday has been cleared of any problems and is back at school. Doctors believed she had a very bad fainting spell and dehydration. We thank all those who attended to her at the time.

Once again, we thank everyone who worked so hard to make our Golden Jubilee such a wonderful occasion. We have had many comments thanking those involved from the beautification of the church, the music, liturgy and the luncheon. **Thanks one and all.**

Those parishioners who provided food on platters, please collect your platters from the Parish Centre.

Please see some photos on the notice board at the front of the church.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

The Very Young



That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

In your charity, please pray for those who have died and those who are sick.

Recently Deceased

Joseph Costa, Anthony Abdilla,

Anniversaries

Lorna Simms, Denis Newey

Remembrance

Carol Brown, Valmai Joseph, Stark Family & Holy Souls

Please Pray for the Sick

Elizabeth Hollis, Doris & Toni Temlett, Eileen O'Kane, Vicki Buttel, 4 year old Ethan, Brendon Andrews, Brett Harkins, John Daniel, Shanon Bradler, Daisy Realo, Ron McDonough, Brian Torrington, Teresa Wegrzyn, Maureen Baxter, Luc Bouquet, Margaret Downing, Donatus Morrison, John and Helen Loader, Maria Loisa Etello, Kevin and Therese Harvey, Brenda Durley, Jeff Henshaw, Len O'Shea, Ray Slucher, Mary Mahony, Michael Wiggin, Koby Bourke, Lina Phillips, Vanessa Miller, Alexis Hagen, Francis Lim, Tony Hodges, Eleanor Matthews, Wendy Lott, Arne Jensen, Fred Butterfield, Betty Carroll, Leanne Knight, Arnold Fletcher, Stephen Knight, Adrienne Gibson, Heather Niblett, Kathleen Strong, Evan Shepherd, Rosa M Santos, Betty Tattersall.

Safeguarding

We the people of the Catholic Parish of Toukley/Lake Munmorah are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ..

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us and we are seeking one parishioner from St Mary's, and one from St Brendan's, to be contact people for the parish. Please speak to any of the clergy if you are able to assist with this important matter.

Prayer for Rain



Dear Heavenly Father, source of love & mercy. We thank you for all the gifts you have given us. We pray most earnestly for your precious rain, to fall on the parched earth of our country. We pray especially for those who work the land, and are suffering severely at this time. Please help the people of Australia to have the courage to become good stewards of the gifts you give us. Please give us generous hearts, so that we can share our bounty with all others in need. Amen

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TOUKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Volunteer Angels
 Male & Female
 Do you have a caring heart & time to become a friend to a lonely person in an Aged Care Facility
 Please call Anne-Marie 4396 1555
 The Community Visitors' Scheme