

# Parish News...

**Parish Office:** The Parish office is closed and will reopen on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

**Church Cleaning Roster 2020:** Available for collection in the Leo Mahon Room.

**Readers Roster for 2020:** Will be available this weekend.

## Keep Us In Your Prayers *OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:*

**Recently Deceased:** Monica Avis, Sr Margaret Wall, Helen McKeon, Colin Randazzo, Margaret Shanahan, Pam Kasmar.

**Anniversaries:** Arnold Diorio, Eileen Meyer, Margherita Bugeja, Charles Gatt.

**Remembrances:** Jeanette Bryant, Allan Cairns, Margaret Davin, Mary Drinan, Noëlle Davidovic Martins, Pat Dolan, Mary & George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.

**Sick:** Marie Dixon, Michael Taylor, Kathleen Bezzina, Geoff Floyd, Elaine Finlayson, Tom Searle, Joan Kelleher, Brian Smith, Jason Simon, Vicki Pirie, Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer, Oscar James Morreti, Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido, Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf, Louis & Rose Aloisio, Amanda Sheridan, Audey Barsenbach, Marta Panczyna, Sue James, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo Farrelle, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan, Karen Chorazyczewska, Ian Wilks, Michael Hourigan, John Horrigan, Ed Hyland, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Tim Parker, Lorraine Smith, Larry Cresswell, Ken Joyce, Alison Richmond, June Townsend, Andrew Muggs, Sheila Houghton, Chrissy Toms, Frank Levy, Dorothy Fulton, Roger Mitchell.

## Psalm Response

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Let the Lord en - ter; He is the King of glo - ry.

## Salesian Thought

Through devotion, your family cares become more peaceful, mutual love between husband and wife becomes more sincere, the service we owe to the prince more faithful, and our work, no matter what it is, becomes more pleasant and agreeable.

*Saint Francis de Sales*

## 2020 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Training Programme

### Equipping the Saints for the work of Ministry Eph. 4:12

Two Foundational training programmes in Pastoral/Spiritual care will be offered on the Central Coast in 2020 from February to September. If you feel called to support people with Pastoral/Spiritual care these Units are an exciting way for you to discover and develop your pastoral ability and become equipped for this ministry within a public or church setting. During training placements are in Gosford or Wyong Hospitals. The training can be used towards formal chaplaincy qualifications with the Sydney College of Divinity.

If you would like to know more please contact:

**OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCY**  
0438 631 327

**Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.** Administrator

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7.30am, 9.15am, 6pm.

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday 7.45am (Monday & Tuesday with Lauds). Saturday and Public Holidays 9am

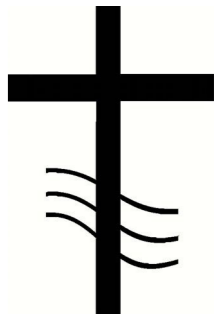
## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God with us. Alleluia!*



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

**Mission and Vision**  
Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL, through:  
Worship and Liturgy  
Outreach  
Our Parish School  
Hospitality  
Adult & Child Faith Formation



## The Holy Family 29th December, 2019, Year A Gospel Reflection -© Fr Richard Leonard SJ



A pentecostal friend of mine tells the story of leaving church one Christmas morning as the preacher was standing at the door, greeting everyone and shaking hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The pastor said to him, 'You need to join the Army of the Lord!' To which my friend replied, 'I'm already in the Army of the Lord, pastor.' The pastor looked amazed and said, 'How come I don't see you here at church then, except at Christmas and Easter?' My friend whispered back, 'Because I'm in the secret service.'

If you are like my friend and find yourself in the 'secret service', you're in good company at Christmas time. The first hearers of the Christmas story were not much into church-going either. Shepherds in first century Palestine had to watch their flocks around the clock for fear of thieves and wolves. This didn't leave much time for temple attendance. They prayed where they were, as they were. These shepherds, however, were in the right place at the right time to hear the first Christmas message. Maybe they had the right disposition too.

Sometimes, publicly religious people can sound as though they know the mind of God better than God does! It's a trap we need to avoid and Christmas helps

us do it. No one predicted the way God would send us a saviour. No one knew the day or the hour of God's coming. No one foresaw that God would be born a homeless person. No one envisaged that the first witnesses to the birth would be illiterate shepherds from nearby fields. While some waited for a mercenary to overthrow the Romans, others held their breath for the procession of a heavenly king. The love of God, however, took flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone and came to us as a poor, defenceless baby.

That's our God, not bound by our precepts or expectations, but honouring the promises made to our ancestors, in the most surprising of ways. And Christmas provides us with the most tender images of our God, One who needs to be nurtured, suckled and held tight.

It's not a bad metaphor for our Christian faith either. If Christmas means anything to us then it's not an annual religious outing or something to fill in time on a public holiday. It's a moveable feast which we celebrate every time we do something just, loving or peaceful. That's why we gather here for the Eucharist each week: to be nurtured, fed, suckled and held in God's embrace, if only for a while, so that we find the courage and strength to go out from here, confront the wolves and thieves of our own day and be in the right place at the right time for God to find us.

As a result of that first Christmas, Christ wants to nurture a people who by their lives will change the world for the better, for all people everywhere. So this Christmas cash in your secret service card and, 'Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.'

December 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve  
6:00pm (Adoration)  
7:00pm Mass

January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day  
9:00am Mass