



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B
24th December 2017

Grounded in Faith

Live in Hope

Grow in Love

Parish Staff

Fr Mathew Antony MS - Parish Priest
e-mail: mathew@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Fr Pio Jang - Assist. Priest
E-mail: papio.penrith@gmail.com

Fr Porathur Joy (PJ)
Catholic Chaplain - Nepean Hospital

Lyn Olander - Secretary / Office Manager
e-mail: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Marthese Sultana - Admin. Assistant
e-mail: bulletin@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mary Goh - Admin. Assistant
e-mail: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Colleen Nicholas - Sacramental Co-ordinator
Monday & Thursday only
e-mail: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Fred Keuneman - Catechist Co-ordinator
e-mail: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Office Hours 9am - 5 pm

Lunch 1pm - 1.30 pm (Office closed)

Weekend Mass

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday 7.00am 8.30am
10.00am 6.00pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am - 10.30am
5.00pm - 5.45pm

Adoration: After Saturday Morning Mass

Weekday Mass

Monday 9.30 am
Tuesday 6.45 am & 9.30 am
Wednesday 9.30 am & 7.00 pm
Thursday 9.30 am
Friday 6.45 am & 12.10 pm
Saturday 9.00 am

Healing Mass 9.00am 1st Saturday of month
Filipino: 11.00am 1st Saturday of month

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment only
Marriage Prep courses can be booked at
Parish Office.

Schools

St Nicholas Primary 4721 2623
Principal - Ms Anita Knezevic

St Mary Mackillop Primary 4736 3466
Principal - Mr Scott Buchan

Gospel Reflection; Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.
This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.



From Loyola Press



Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Christmas!

Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!

Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant "day" which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and, above all, reconciliation. A day of joy: a "great joy" for the poor, the lowly and for all the people (cf. Lk 2:10).

Today, then, let us together rejoice in the day of our salvation. As we contemplate the Crib, let us gaze on the open arms of Jesus, which show us the merciful embrace of God, as we hear the cries of the Child who whispers to us: "for my brethren and companions' sake, I will say: Peace be within you" (Ps 121[122]:8).

An excerpt from Pope Francis Christmas message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from
Frs Mathew, Pio, PJ, Seminarian George
and Parish Staff .



PARISH OUTREACH

IMPORTANT:

January weekday Mass timetable Monday– Friday 9.30am , Saturday 9am.

There will be NO 6.45am & NO Wednesday evening Mass in January.

Normal Mass times will resume 1st February.

The Parish Office is closed Friday 22nd December to Monday 9th January and will reopen on reduced hours during January.

Please pray for Aaron Carroll, Nicholas Contestable, Pauline Farrugia, Sr Bridie O'Connel, Fr Brian Rooney, Gregory Schultz and Jacob Silia who died recently and for Walden Cassatto, Clive Chapman, Jean Cobden, Annie Dane, Matthew Edmunds, Manuel Fernando, Kevin Fisher, Brendan & Melita Jacobs, Grant McLean, Estela Racelis, Len Sippel and Jonathan Xerri whose anniversaries occur at this time and for Mary Armstrong, George Attard, Joy Bourke, Dennis Bryant, Ennio Celeste, Paul Chia, Tania Felice, Max & Bruce Gale, Stanislaw Gwiazda, Peter & Frances Hendry, Paul Landrigan, John Lee , Theresa & Joseph Lim, Reg Levinge, John Nettar, Jude & George Tan, Peg Williams , Bernard & Norah Wilding and all souls.

Please pray for those who are sick Mary Rose, Dianne Constable, Marion Engsmyr, Enrique Esmayor, Romnick Estores, Johnny Falzon, Darren Gallagher, Yanka Garan, Pamela Gold, Patricia Hansan, Rose Kenny, Sue Herbert, Nathan King, Annie Langan, Rosemary Matthews, Kevin Maggs, Marya Matesa, Jane McCann, Daniel McEntee, Melissa McNamara, Fr George O'Mara, Barbara Sawyer, Isabella Savage, Chris Tabone, Charlotte Tan, Elizabeth Terrones, Rachael Wilson and Margarit Youssef.

If in need of a Catholic Chaplain whilst a patient is in hospital phone 47343150 or requiring a Priest urgently for an anointing phone 47342000 and request switch board or the nurse on duty to contact the Catholic Priest.

Rosary Statue is in the home of Betty Keavy 181/37 Mulgoa Rd Penrith from Sunday– Saturday at 7pm.

A very warm welcome to any visitors here in our parish during Christmas and also to any new parishioners. Please feel comfortable to introduce yourself to one of our priests.



Next Week's Readings
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8. 11-12.17-19
Luke 2:22-40

Congratulations
Fr Mathew is celebrating his 30th year in Ordination on 29th December.
Please keep Fr Mathew in your prayers.



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PARISH / DIOCESAN OUTREACH

Sacramental Program First Reconciliation 2018

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Nicholas of Myra Parish will be in Term 1 next year. To be eligible for First Reconciliation, **children must be in year 3 or above and must be baptised.**

Parents wishing to enrol their children in the program must attend an information meeting, which will be at St Nicholas of Myra Church on

Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.00pm.

Further information regarding the program will be given at this meeting.

If your child has not been baptised, and you wish to enrol them in the program, please contact our Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas.

**Please Note: Ash Wednesday 14th February Mass schedule
6.45am, 9.30am, 12.10pm & 7pm.**

St Vincent de Paul – Penrith Conference

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!!!

The Penrith Conference would like to express sincere thanks to all our parishioners that prepared Christmas hampers this year, and volunteers who gave their time to deliver the hampers. Without the assistance of all involved, many of the less fortunate within our community would not have been able to celebrate the Christmas Season.



God Bless Brian Brainwood President

The Institute for Mission 2018 Reflective Ministry Program

To enthuse those involved in the ministries of Catholic communities.

Taking applications for the program they are offering. See notice board for more information or phone Fr Paul 0417441177, Donnie 0432042140 or Charbel 0410759795 or email: CONNECT@IFM.ORG.AU **Applications closing soon.**

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses Readers of the Word, Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying, Adult Servers and /or Acolytes. **Where:** St Nicholas of Myra Parish Meeting Room 1, on Thursdays from 7pm-9pm, commencing 15th February. Courses are FREE. **Bookings close on 8th February.** To obtain an enrolment form please see Parish office.

SAVE THE DATE - "St Patrick's Day Community Listening" Sat 17 March 2018 Our Citizens Action Penrith Affordable Housing (CAPAH) has teamed up with Sydney Alliance to be involved with a "St Patrick's Day Community Listening" to be held in our local Penrith community on Sat 17 March 2018 from around 11am - 2pm. This is a day of listening to the broader community in Penrith on the issue of Affordable and secure housing. Please save the date and more information to be provided. We are calling on all our parishioners to assist us with this important community event. If you are interested in making a difference in our community, enabling our local voices be heard, please contact or text Carolyn on 0448 443 619.

*"Christmas is joy,
religious joy,
an inner joy
of light and peace."*

Pope Francis



DIOCESAN OUTREACH

Deanery and Diocesan Pastoral Councils

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv launched our new councils on Saturday 2 December at St Andrew's Parish, Marayong. He called on our councils to be listening bodies, particularly to those who are "outside the tent". Council members are to be connected to the grassroots, to help him listen and respond to the real needs and concerns of the people. More info, including council membership, can be found on www.faithinourfuture.org.au

Bishop Vincent's Christmas Message can be viewed online at: www.parracatholic.org
Merry Christmas from Bishop Vincent and the Diocese of Parramatta.

Mass of the Holy Innocents: 28 December The principal celebrant will be Fr Benedict La Volpe OFM Conv. Mass at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville, followed by a rosary procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents. A luncheon will be provided – please bring a plate to share. Enquiries (02) 9629 2595.

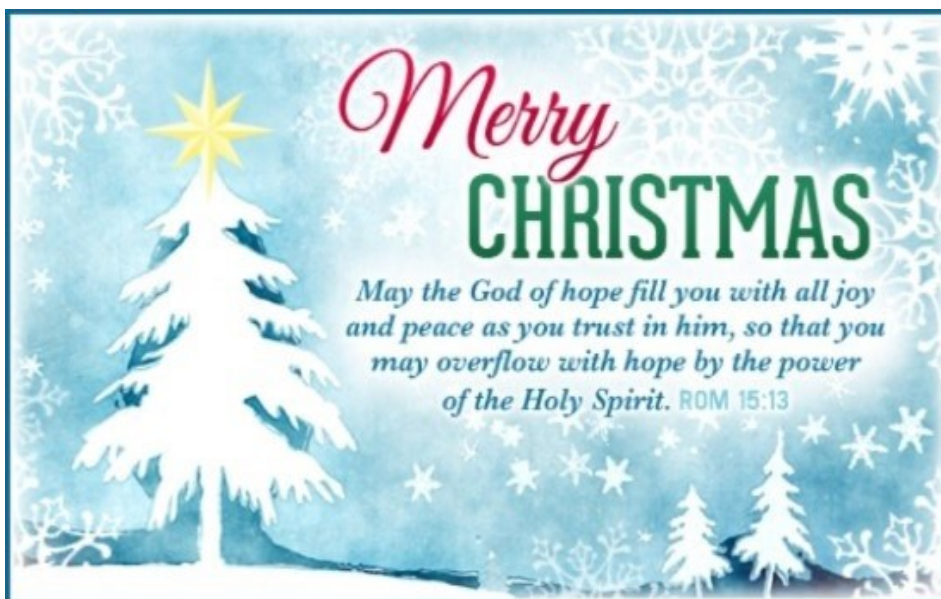
Feast of the Holy Family Vigil: 30 December

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth invite families and youth (aged 18-35) to join them for the Celebration at 2:30 pm. Pizza from 5:30pm. 116-132 Quakers Road, 2148 Marayong NSW. Please RSVP to Sr Paula by 28 December on 0449 656 406.

SGY Camp Retreat

If you are aged 17-25, you are invited to join our 2018 SGY Camp Retreat. We will begin the camp on Tuesday, 9th January at 4pm and will conclude it on Friday, 12th January at 4pm. Our Theme will be "Home Is where the Heart Is." Venue: "Home of Light," Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. **Cost: \$115** (includes food and accommodation) **RSVP:** Tuesday, 2 January 2018 (registration form and deposit required). Enquiries: Sr. M. Luka: (mob) 0439 537 843 or (email) sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

Campion College Summer Program is forming young minds in faith and reason. Looking for 16 – 24 year olds to come join the Program on January 8-12 2018. Experience College life and a taste of the Campion College course: Literature, History, Hiking, Coastal Walks & Swims, Theology, Philosophy, Sports, Other Activities. Registration: \$390 per person Financial assistance available. For more info: visit www.campion.edu.au/summer or contact us at study@campion.edu.au, 0413 489 738.



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