



Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Year A

1 January 2017

First Reading Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Second Reading Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Gospel Lk 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib... When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

A New Year Greeting for 2017

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you
and bring you peace.

COMING SOON!

Meditation Training

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
T (02) 9644 7787

Priests in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop
T (02)8723 9192
M 0418 459 431

Fr Mark Spora
Pastor Emeritus SJW

Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm
T (02) 9644 7787

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
T. 0402071849
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)
T. 0408404130
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
Micheline Botham (Social Committee)
Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)
Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),
Jann Rockliff (Hospital Visit),
Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino, Danny Pavicic, Arthur Doumit and Principals of the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham (Secretary)
0422939342,
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel & Brendon Nazareth

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. 96449083
Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
T. 96461434
Principal - Gai Melville
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Parish Diary This Week!

Monday	6.45am Mass
Tuesday	6.45am Mass
Wednesday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass
Thursday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 6.00pm Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)
Friday	6.45am Mass & 9.15am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 9.00am - 10.00am Adoration, Novena & Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass
Sunday	8.00am Mass at SJW Church Auburn Sth 10.00am Mass

Mass Intentions

Birthday: Lina Jarczewski

Anniversary: Siobhan Morris,

Deceased: Fatima & Astrid Bolonia, Leonard Gabrielle

Deceased members and friends of : Ross & Mitchell Families, Erwin & O'Dwyer Families,



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel

at the Abadam home, 2/79 Vaughan St, Lidcombe

Please join them any evening at 7.00pm

for the Rosary

To host the Pilgrim Statue from St Peter Chanel
contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

ROSARY STATUE from St Joseph the Worker

To host the Rosary Statue from St Joseph the Worker contact the Legion of Mary.



On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. 'What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?' asked the police officer.

'I'm on my way to a lecture,' answered Roger.

'And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?' enquired the constable sarcastically.

'My wife,' slurred Daniel grimly.

A Big Thank You

Our Christmas celebration had, wonderful Liturgies at SJW and SPC Churches, Giving Tree at SJW Church, and Christmas Tree at SPC Church, Cribs in the churches and in the parish hall, Christmas Carols, decorations, Liturgical singing etc. On Boxing Day many people came to the celebration of my Ordination anniversary. The parish Choir sang at the Holy Mass, the social Committee put on a morning tea. Thus a lot of people were involved in making the feast of Christmas a wonderful and meaningful celebration. To all of you a BIG THANK YOU. So many people greeted me with cards, and gifts. It is not practical for me to thank each one personally. Therefore I big Thank you too all my benefactors.

Alcohol and Drug Information Service: (Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats

Carmelites Varroville - www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby - www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

Sara's place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 96998190

New Year for Greater Happiness, Purpose, and Meaning

Birth of Jesus marked a new beginning for the human history. We celebrated it last Sunday. Today is the celebration of the beginning of a new calendar year, 2017. The New Year would make more sense if we approach it with a meditation on the revelation of God to us.



Reactions to the revelations can vary. "Everyone who heard it (*about the birth of baby Jesus*), that they were astonished at what the shepherd have had to say". (Luke 2:18) However there is no indication that anyone of the people who heard it really believed in the impact of Jesus' birth, nor are they interested in going to the manger to see Jesus. They merely wondered at the news. God reveals himself in many and varied ways in our lives and the lives of the people we know. If we do nothing more than wondering at them, we too will be like the people who wondered at what the shepherds told. We too will be lost to the oblivion.

But Mary had a different reaction. "As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) She was not just satisfied by wondering at the birth of baby Jesus or just praising God for what had happened. She continued to treasure her experience all through her life. So much so, she was at the Cross of Jesus on Calvary. Though she never fully understood the mysteries of God's birth as a child and the salvation plan through Jesus, Mary was always open to God's revelation.

We have a lesson in Mary's response. As we start the New Year, we cannot be just satisfied with thankful praises to God and a few short kept resolutions. Like Mary we too have had revelations of God in our lives in many and varied ways. We should treasure such God experiences and constantly ponder over them. Thus we can make the best of our God given experiences.

Treasuring the God experiences and pondering over God's revelation is something only you and I can do. No animal is capable of pondering over any experience, let alone God experience. An intelligent dog may remember the good experiences it had with its master and in return may show affection. But it cannot ponder such experiences to find meaning and purpose of life. Such privileges are reserved for you and me. Therefore let us always make our lives meaningful and purposeful by reflecting on our life experiences, especially God's revelations in our lives. May the New Year be of greater happiness for you.

from the perspective of the Shepherds

What must the shepherds have made of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus? Shepherds occupied a very lowly status in Jewish society – they were generally regarded as thieves and cutthroats. Suddenly, these very lowly characters were thrust into great events: visions of angels; prophecies; the birth of the Messiah; and powerful experiences of the greatness of God. The gospel says they went back to their sheep glorifying and praising God. They must have been changed by this experience. Perhaps they never really made sense of what happened to them but more likely it was the beginning of a whole new life experience.



Have you thought? What a woman!

Luke's image of Mary is a very strong one. We must remember that Mary was no more than a girl – probably 14 or 15 years old. This was the usual age for young women to marry at that time. However, there wasn't much that was normal about the previous nine months of her life. In the midst of all the chaos involved in giving birth away from home and in less than ideal circumstances, she remains completely calm and 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. What an extraordinary young woman!

Living the gospel

A Peaceful New Year?

It is traditional around New Year's Day to make resolutions for the upcoming year: changes that affect the way you live; the way you treat others; setting goals to aim for and work towards. In this context, it is interesting that the Church marks this day as a World Day of Peace. Perhaps, in amongst the self-promises to give up smoking, get a bit more fit, work and study harder and treat little sisters better, we might find time to consider ways in which we can bring about a more peaceful world – even just my little bit of it.



Feasts of the Week

2 January - St Basil the Great & St Gregory

Basil: Born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey). Died there on 1 January 379. First a hermit, then bishop of his native city. Remembered for his pioneering monastic rule, and for writings which developed the doctrines of the incarnation and of the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

Gregory: Born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329. Died there in 389. Also a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople. Remembered as the "Theologian" because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians.

Basil and Gregory are commemorated together because of their friendship in life and their enduring influence on the Church, especially in the East.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R)

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples.
you guide the nations on earth. (R)

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

**Next Week ,
The Epiphany of the Lord,
Readings:**

Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12



Holy Mass at Berala

Monday to Friday 6.45am
Wednesday to Friday 9.15am
Saturday 8.00am
Saturday 9.00am Adoration & Novena.

Holy Mass at Auburn South

Tuesday 9.00am
(during school term only)

Lord's Day Mass Berala

Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil)
Sunday 10.00AM

Lord's Day Mass Auburn South

Sunday 8.00AM

Reconciliation at Berala

Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.
Or contact Parish Office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office.

St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week

8 JANUARY 2017		EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ACCOMPANIST	Kate PARISH		ELMER'S
CANTOR	J SALAR & PARISH CHOIR		GROUP
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Carmel MARTIN
	Noelene DONNELLAN	Maris MARSH	Mai VU
COMMENTATOR	Lawrence LOPEZ	Karim KASSIS	Margarette NGUYEN
GIFTS	Helen LE MOTTEE		Micheline BOTHAM Family
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Anna MANGANARO
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Hoa NGUYEN
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		Edgar AMORES
GREETERS	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Loutoa OLIE	R & S SEBASTIAN
HOSPITALITY		Monica NAZARETH	Pam SNELL
HOSPITAL VISITATION SAT : D Simon & J Fahd		ALTAR: Group 4 A Yip; M Botham;	
HOSPITAL COMMUNION SUN: K Hartman & J Michael		COUNTERS: Group 2 C Kensey; J Toby	
CLEANERS - SPC: Samoan Youth Group		SJW M & J Marsh & J Moses	CHILDREN'S LITURGY: None

Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:.....

Telephone NoEmail

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent for completion)