

# HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH HUNTERS HILL ST PETER CHANEL WOOLWICH



We acknowledge the Walumatagal people — the first custodians of this place

18 December 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

PEACE ON EARTH

## Calendar

### December

- 20 Inter-Church Carols** Various Retirement Facilities, 5.00pm
- 20 Baptism Prep Session** Chapter Hall 7.30pm
- 21 Reconciliation Service** HNM 7.00pm
- 22 Choir Practice** HNM 7.30pm
- 24 Angels and Shepherds Gather** 9.30 am Grounds behind the Church
- 24-5 Christmas**

**NOTE:** For Christmas Liturgies see Parish Website or page 2 of this bulletin.

### PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from 23 December and will re-open on Monday 9 January.

Enquiries: Father Wills  
0469 435 462

### PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin will take a Christmas break and will re-appear late January.

### WEDNESDAY MASS SPC

The 12.15pm Wednesday Mass at St Peter Chanel will be suspended from Christmas until the last week in January.

As we journey through all our end-of-year commitments, we can't prevent our attention being drawn to places and events beyond our own local patch.

For instance, the almighty conflagration that has destroyed so much of the city of Aleppo grabs our notice with the apparent mass murder of innocent civilians by the Syrian military. It's likely that we know only a tiny portion of the truth here. The joyful hope of peace on earth, first proclaimed not too many kilometres from the site of these atrocities, seems a long way from fulfilment. Further east we hear of Rohingya villages being razed to the ground by Myanmar military this past week. Rohingya people, mostly Moslems, have lived in Myanmar for centuries but have never been acknowledged as citizens in this predominantly Buddhist nation. Peace on their little bit of earth is hardly likely any time soon.

Closer to home, reports of domestic violence are never far from our news bulletins as this scourge continues to scar the lives of so many families. Despite the brave work and prayers of many, the stats keep mounting and peace on earth is an elusive dream for many.

In the Church, our many scars continue to be the things mostly noticed by people beyond the Church. Authoritarianism, clericalism, sexual abuse, exclusion zones still serve to damage not only the Church's image, but they disable the mission that is the Church's whole reason for being. The plight of people seeking asylum, aboriginal people in custody, the elderly, the addicted, all cross our radar and drift off again.

We needn't even get started on the fear-bound blandness of much of the political leadership in this country, evident in various forms in each significant political grouping.

In the light of these few examples, and they are just a tiny few among thousands we could mention, the need for us in the Church to be clear about our mission is clearly evident.

From another perspective we see that this mission is indeed alive and well in millions of people around the world and is a significant influence for peace on earth. We know of the major charities that come into their own at this time of the year. We know of welfare organisations offering hope to those who seem to have no hope. We know of those who minister to prisoners and people imprisoned by disability.

We would know heroic parents, grandparents and children who make daily sacrifices within their families each day so that family members can survive and live with dignity. We really don't need to look far to find the signs of the peace on earth heralded by the angels so long ago. Devastating as some of our circumstances are, signs of hope are here in abundance. So how do we respond to this kaleidoscope of suffering, love, sorrow and joy?

Our Christmas memory tells us that in the midst of everything that dispirits us, in Michael Leunig's words, "even if sometimes with a dark and troubled face, love is born". As people of faith, this is our starting point. Through the lens of this birth of love, we look at everything else with new eyes.

Now nothing appears to be as hopeless as it seemed before. No tragedy is beyond the reach of our prayer certainly. Nor need it be seen anymore to be ultimately out of the reach of a transforming hand. What we celebrate at Christmas has profound implications for each of us, for us as a society and for our global community. While we hopefully get to rest and celebrate with those we love, may our hearts make room for those who don't even have a stable in which to rest. In some manner may our Christmas be one that brings forward God's great hope for peace on earth. God bless each of you this Christmas time. Father Kevin

## What's on?

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARISH?

See if anyone in your pew knows the name of this parish-ioner. His name next week. Last week's photo: **Sinead Brady**



### LA PAROISSE RESTAURANT

Book in for a meal cooked by Father Kevin and meet some of your fellow parishioners. Bookings through Sylvia at the parish office and our dates are: 10 February, 10 March, 26 May. Parish House 6.30pm.

### INTER-CHURCH CAROL SINGING

Our Annual visit to a number of local Retirement facilities is happening again!

Tuesday 20 December 5.30pm

Meet at St Joseph's Convent and then on from there. Voices and assorted instruments welcome! Please join us to add a little Christmas joy to our brothers and sisters in our various retirement homes. We conclude with supper at Hunters Hill Lodge at around 8.00pm

### CALLING ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

Christmas Eve quick practice for children and any parents who can help set up, 9.30 am, 24 Dec in the grounds behind HNM Church. You know the place!

### CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

**Reconciliation:**  
Wednesday 21 December  
HNM Church 7.00pm

**Christmas Eve**  
**St Peter Chanel:**  
Carols & Mass 7.00 & 7.30pm

**Holy Name of Mary:**  
Carols and Mass (Outdoors)  
6.00 & 6.30pm

Carols & Mass 9.00 & 9.30pm

**Christmas Day**  
**St Peter Chanel:**

Mass 9.00 am

**Holy Name of Mary:**  
Masses 8.00 am & 10.00 am

**NOTE:** No Mass Christmas Night.

### NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY 2017

Calling all Mums and Dads for Children's liturgy 2017. For many years children's liturgy has been a fantastic way to get our children involved in the church and community.

It's only with the help of parents we can keep the liturgy going. Children's liturgy is a lovely way to spend 20 mins on Sundays at 10am HNOM Mass, talking about the bible reading, singing some songs and organising a little craft.

### PALMS AUSTRALIA - Volunteers PNG, East Timor or Kiribati

Palms Australia are looking for educators, health professionals and trades people to mentor local workers in their fields of expertise, in communities in East Timor, PNG and Kiribati.

Applications for 2017 are closing very soon. For details contact **Christine 9560 5333** or email: [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT RE PARISH FINANCES

Due to recent NSW State Government Legislation, the way in which School/Parish Levies are processed is no longer compliant with the law.

As of 1 January, the Catholic Schools Office will take over the administration of all School Building Funds.

This means that from 1 January parishes will no longer be able to offer parishioners the possibility of tax deductibility.

Archbishop Anthony is well aware of the short notice which this provides for everyone and he apologises for this. The Archdiocese has only been made aware of the need for this change in the past couple of weeks.

Archdiocesan financial advisors are exploring what other options may become available regarding tax deductions for parishes, but prospects are not great at this time.

Contributions to the Charitable Works Fund Appeal will still be tax deductible, and an increase in those contributions would help parishes who nearly always have to use other parish moneys to meet the required quota each time.

If you would like to have a copy of the Archbishop's more detailed letter on this matter, simply contact the parish office.

### CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

HNM Thursday 7.30pm

### POSITION VACANT— CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Applications are being considered for the position of Manager, Office for Youth and Young Adults. For further information please visit [www.catholicjobsonline.com.au](http://www.catholicjobsonline.com.au) or Anthony Spata, 0402 210 055.

### CATHOLIC CARE SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF SYDNEY FOR 75 YEARS

CatholicCare services assist people to live and thrive at every age. We provide disability services, counselling and support for children, young people and families and deliver ageing services in the home. We can assist you to navigate the new world of the NDIS and My Aged Care. To find out more call 131819 or email [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

### THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Sydney Archdiocese is currently recruiting for its Membership Development Officer role. This is a full time position responsible for promoting the growth of Society conferences throughout the Sydney Archdiocese, and building the capacity of members to be a voice for social justice and effectively serve those in need in their local communities. The position is a vital link to engage the involvement of young people in the good works of the Society. More information about this role can be obtained by emailing Catherine Carmichael at [carinec@sydneyvinnies.org](mailto:carinec@sydneyvinnies.org)

### LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 8 DEC—25 DEC

Once again, St Mary's Cathedral will light up this Christmas with inspiring and reflective projections of the Christmas season. FREE EVENT! St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt 8—25 Dec each night from 7.30pm—12am.

[www.lightsofchristmas.com.au](http://www.lightsofchristmas.com.au)

## Well Done...CONGRATS AND THANKS ZONE

**Congratulations** and a very warm welcome to

**Grace Wiblin, Willow McCarty, Liam Smith, & Kitty O'Sullivan**, all of whom will be baptized into our Christian community this weekend.



### ANGELA & FRANK PANZARINO

Fifty years ago this weekend Angela and Frank were married at St Brigid's Church Marrickville. This weekend we salute them and pray a special blessing on them and their family as they mark this golden anniversary.

### FRED & MARIA PACE

Frequent visitors here, parents of Deborah Khoury, Fred and Maria celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last weekend at St Agnes Church Matraville where they were married. Congratulations and God bless them both and their outstanding family.

## Pray for... PRAYER ZONE

Please pray for all those who are sick in our community.

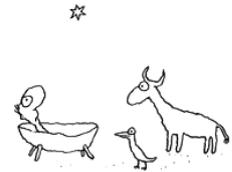
We pray for:

**Father Paul Cooney sm  
Peter Jackson, Janet Muscat, John Edwards, Monica Carroll & Suzi Hajje.**



### Joyce Maiorama

It is now one year since Joyce passed away and so we remember her on this first anniversary and pray for her husband Tony and family as they move through this time for gathering up memories and prayer. May Joyce rest in God's eternal peace.



## Coming Soon

**Christmas Reconciliation Service 21 December**

## POINT TO PONDER

Love is born  
With a dark and troubled face  
When hope is dead  
And in the most unlikely place  
Love is born:  
Love is always born

Michael Leunig

### Villa Maria Primary School

Principal: Mr. Kevin Turner  
Phone: 98796100  
[www.vmhuntershill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.vmhuntershill.catholic.edu.au)

### Yr 6 and End-of-Year Mass

Our Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner and our End-of-Year School Mass were celebrated with great grace and thankfulness this week. Congratulations to all involved.

### Marist Sisters' College

Principal: Dr Anne Ireland  
Ph: 9816 2041  
<http://www.mscw.nsw.edu>

### St Josephs' College

Principal: Mr Ross Tarlinton  
Mark Street, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110

T +61 2 9816 0807 [www.joey.org](http://www.joey.org)

## This Week... Scripture Zone

### First Reading:

**Is 7:10-14**

In this passage from Isaiah we have a sense almost of God's impatience; God is impatient that humanity be brought closer to divine love, and the sooner the better. The prophet announces a sign, a human enfleshment, of the desire of God to be known in creation, a child called Emmanuel—God is with us.

### Response :

Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

### Second Reading:

**Rom 1:1-7**

As St Paul opens his letter to the community in Rome he establishes the basis of the Gospel itself. In former times the prophets had spoken of God's promise which is now fulfilled in Jesus, born of human nature, and des-

ignated as divine through his resurrection from the dead. The salvation he brings is for all the nations.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son  
His name will be Emmanuel : God is with us. Alleluia !

### Gospel Reading:

**Mt 1:18-24**

The gospel stories of the birth of Jesus firmly entrench the central teaching that Jesus is fully human, one like us. Indeed as Matthew recounts, the family of Jesus is all too human, accepting his birth and countering the social conventions of the day. This Advent Gospel reminds us that the acceptance of Christ involves an admixture of grace, "disgrace" and faith, all within the work of the Spirit .

*Next week: First Reading : Is 9:1-7*

*Second Reading : Titus 2:11-14*

*Gospel Reading : Luke 2:1-14*



# A PARISH OF THE MARIST FATHERS

## PARISH OFFICE:

3A Mary Street.  
Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm, Mon-Fri  
**PHONE:** 9817 5325.  
**FAX:** 9817 4615.  
**EMAIL:** [villamar@bigpond.net.au](mailto:villamar@bigpond.net.au)

**Web:** [www.hnom.com.au](http://www.hnom.com.au)

**Facebook:** Holy Name of Mary Parish

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES

### Holy Name of Mary:

Sat. 6.00pm  
Sun. 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm.

**St. Peter Chanel:** Sunday – 9.00am.

### WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

#### Holy Name of Mary:

Monday to Friday – 9.00am.  
Saturday – 8.00am.

**St Peter Chanel:** Wednesday 12.15pm

### RECONCILIATION:

Holy Name of Mary: Saturday  
5.15pm-5.45pm or by request.

## PARISH TEAM:

### Parish Priest:

Father Kevin Bates SM  
Ph: 0425 333 129  
[kev@kevinbates.com](mailto:kev@kevinbates.com)

### Priests Assisting:

Fathers Wills Melteras SM, Bill Ryder SM,  
Paul Pearce SM JP.

## New or Returning Parishioners...

*Please come along to the Parish Office for a  
warm welcome and to pick up a Parish  
Information Kit.*

**Parish Secretary:** Sylvia Gutierrez

**Associate Secretary:** Maggie Mullane

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Rosalia Foley  
[fft@hnom.com.au](mailto:fft@hnom.com.au)

**Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson:**

Ann Freeman

[ann.freeman@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ann.freeman@syd.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Pastoral Council Secretary:**

Michael Brooks:

[Michael.Brooks@infrahealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Brooks@infrahealth.nsw.gov.au)

**Parish Finance Committee** Michael Lindsay  
0423 020 002

**Repair & Maintenance:** Anthony Russo

### BAPTISM:

By arrangement. Parents contact the presbytery  
to book & arrange to attend the Baptism Prep  
Program

### BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS

#### COMING UP:

Tuesday 20 Dec, 10 Feb, 1 March, 4 April in  
the Chapter Hall @ 7.30pm

### MARRIAGE:

At least six months notice must be  
given. The parish clergy will officiate  
primarily for parishioners. Others will generally  
need to arrange their own Priest or Deacon.

### PARISH PASTORAL GROUPS AND CONTACTS

**Counselling:** Allison Cahill 0402 405 843.  
& Deborah Khoury 0409 719 443

**Villa Play Group:** Tues 9:30-11:30am Par-  
ish Hall. Fran Kanaan 0408 447 377,  
[hnom.com.au/children](http://hnom.com.au/children)

**Meditation Group:** Gabrielle Woodcock,  
9817 0097

**Young Adults Group:** Nicholas Fearnley  
0401 722 839

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Michael Brooks  
(Secretary) 0400 908 706

**Parish Finance Committee:**

### Aged Ministry :

Margaret Gambley 9807 2160 or  
Joan Bautovich 0402 275 105

### Grief Support Group:

Cecilia Brungs 0412 284 028

**Liturgy Group :** Rob Turnbull 0431 290 714

### Eucharistic Ministry Coordinator :

Kate Buckland 9817 2558

### Altar Servers Coordinator:

Kathleen Lee 0433 500 648

### Social Justice Group:

Sonia Zec 0413791775

**Altar Society:** Jane Keneally 0419221185.

Joan Bautovich 0402 275 105

**RCIA:** Janet Greene 9879 6515

**Cleaners: HNM** Mike Burfitt 9879 4197

**SPC** Claire Glase 0418 668 486

**Readers HNM:** Barry Buffier 9817 8805

**Readers SPC:** Mark Volpato 9816 4431

### Children's Liturgy Hnom:

Marie O'Donovan 0408 226 393

**SPC:** Tee Davies 0407 827 957

**St Vincent De Paul: Tony Aduckiewicz**  
0411 641 895

**Men's Group:** Clinton McDonald

0450021011 Gerardo D'Angelo 0418 294 063

**Marist Laity Group:** Cathy Gallo 9817 2959,  
Josiane Espinosa 9807 9199

### Welcomers' Coordinator:

Rob Turnbull, 0431 290 714

**Family Faith Educator:** Marea De Angelis  
Ph: 0419 448 201

**Atrium of the Good Shepherd :** Corinne  
Korkor 0448 440 592

**Young Christian Workers Group:** Natasha  
Foley 0424 976 658

**St Peter Chanel Management Team:**  
Claire Glase 0418 668 486

## OUR PARISH PRAYER

Loving God,

you are the home for our hearts' deepest longings.

We find our way as families and as individuals only in you, through our brother Jesus,  
encouraged by the breath of your Spirit.

We thank you for all the blessings we enjoy in our parish family.

May we continue to share our gifts of life and love with glad and generous hearts.

May our world be somehow more alive because we have passed this way.

May Mary our parish patron continue to inspire us as we give new birth to your Word in our turn.

We make our prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.