

HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH HUNTERS HILL ST PETER CHANEL WOOLWICH



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

20 December 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B
THIS CHRISTMAS—WHAT'S TO CELEBRATE?

Calendar

DECEMBER

24-5 Christmas Masses—see p.2

PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE ON 22 DECEMBER AND RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 4 JANUARY

CHRISTMAS MASSES: PLEASE NOTE:

Thank you to all who have booked in so far for Christmas Masses.

For the 6.00pm Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass: We are now able to take an extra number of people. Bookings opened Thurs 17 December.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR TICKETS FOR THIS MASS AND BRING THEM WITH YOU.

LATE MAIL:

INTER-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLS-Cancelled

IMPORTANT NOTE RE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

WHEN SINGING AT MASS FOR THE TIME BEING YOU ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK ACCORDING TO CURRENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS.

No one of us needs reminding of the turbulent year coming to a close later this month. Whatever sense of security and welfare we had, has been challenged. Our lives and behaviours have had to change for the sake of everyone's health. The tragic fires of the summer followed by destructive floods and of course the pandemic underscored the days, weeks and months of our lives through this year.

The global community is still in significant trouble with the virus. We are blessed in our leadership here in this country along with the response of the people around the nation, and the improved state of affairs we are now gladly if watchfully enjoying.

Along with all this, Australia's relationship with China is increasingly fractious and worrying politically and economically. The rate of domestic violence in Australia has increased alarmingly during the pandemic along with an increase in human trafficking. The never-seen-before shenanigans that have been the sequel to the recent US election have brought a new sense of uncertainty not only to that divided country but to the rest of the world which depends on a stable US government.

On a positive note, families across the country are joyfully anticipating reunions that have not been possible for many months. Grandparents are greeting grandchildren they barely recognise, so quickly have they grown. The Australian economy seems to be turning a corner which is a sign of hope especially for people who are still looking for work. The international cricket season is underway, with real people able to watch the games live, and trite as this may sound, for so many, a warming sense of normality is returning with the sound of willow on leather once again!

Here we are then celebrating Christmas, once again in the middle of great human and environmental drama.

What does it mean that Jesus is born if people continue to live in poverty, slavery and fear? What does it matter that Jesus is born if the resources of the earth are being consumed at a greater rate than they can be replenished? What is there to celebrate when hope is in short supply for so many? Even in the light of all this, there are people all around the world for whom the birth of Jesus really is the birth of hope. The kingdom of God which he ushers in is no pie in the sky utopian future. The kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims and for which he gives his life, is a grounded, realistic, healthy spirited program of healing, justice, peace and hope.

This kingdom of God living doesn't come easily. It requires our very best shot, a spirit of courage and sacrifice and a readiness to integrate our own desires and needs with the good of the whole community in mind. It takes practice and the ability to re-group when we get it wrong. We're in the presence of unconditional mercy so that this re-grouping caper is not as tough as it might seem. When this new program of being and living takes hold, the results are stunning. Here hope is born, a hope that excludes no one, a hope that embraces the whole creation.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus yet again, the choice is ours. We can simply turn inwards and celebrate in an increasingly bland and secular culture, or we can allow Jesus and his family to become part of our family and allow their presence to enliven, challenge and delight us.

The choice is clear and yours to make. Really inviting Jesus into your homes could lead to an extra special and blessed Christmas, and that is my wish for each of you and your families.

Father Kevin

PS A special thank you to each one of you who have given life to the parish this year in so many wonderful big-hearted ways. God bless you well.

What's on?

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARISH?

See if anyone in your pew knows the name of this lovely couple. Their names next year!. Last week's photo: Still Looking! Can someone help?



THE BULLETIN GOES ON HOLIDAYS!

From this week the bulletin will go on holidays and spring back to life in late January.

BOOKING DETAILS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

All Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be ticketed. You will need to book in. Once the quota is filled for each Mass, sadly we will not be able to exceed that number.

For this purpose, Trybooking opened on Monday 7 December and the link is:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BJUKE>

BOOKING IN FOR MASS

If you wish to attend, you will still need to book in at the parish office. You can also book in through Trybooking on:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BJUKE>

Parish office: Ph: 9817 5325

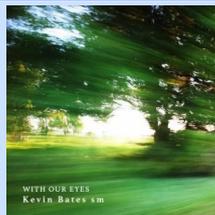
CHILD SAFETY— OUR SPECIAL PRIORITY



From 3 January, Bookings will close on each Friday at 3.00pm

VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS & COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR SALE

Cards (\$8 for 10) and Calendars (\$10) are for sale at the back of both churches.



Copies of Father Kevin's new album, "We Have Seen With Our Eyes", are available for purchase at each of our churches at \$25 each.

HEARTFELT—A FORUM FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING GRIEF & LOSS

Bridget Sakr lost her daughter Veronique and three of Veronique's cousins in a terrible accident at Oatlands earlier this year. She has established Heartfelt as a forum for families experiencing grief, loss and trauma.

Heartfelt held via Zoom each Monday evening from 7.30-8.30pm.

For Zoom details please contact Bridget Sakr at Bridget/sakr@gmail.com or team@griefcare.com.au

Bridget writes: "Through my tragedy and trauma of losing Veronique in February 1 this year, I have been blessed with amazing support from many people. - **There was no place where people could come together in prayer and bring their loss, trauma and grief to God in the presence of one another in an environment where there is trust.** heartFELT was created to provide this platform. I saw this as

helping me also, a way to heal my wounded soul."

THANKS FOR VILLA HAMPERS

Thanks once again to the Villa Maria School community for the hampers they have so generously prepared and donated for Vinnies again this Advent season. You've made a wonderful contribution yet again!

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve:

Holy Name of Mary

Mass 5.00pm

Carols & Mass: 6.00pm

Grounds of Villa Maria Monastery. Booking details see below.

9.00pm

St Peter Chanel

Carols & Mass 7.00pm

Christmas Day:

Holy Name of Mary

Masses 8.00am, 9.00am & 10.00am

St Peter Chanel

Mass 9.00am

OUR YOUTH GROUP CARDS FOR REFUGEES

Thanks to our Oasis Yr 5-6 Youth group who have prepared Christmas cards and greetings to be distributed to refugee families through Jesuit Refugee Services.

FIRST RECONCILIATION 2021—For children in yr 3

Registration opened on Monday 14th December at 6am and will close 31st January at 11pm. Please register online for Reconciliation using the Trybooking system.

In addition to personal information, you will need the following in order to complete your registration:

1. Baptism Certificate (church name and date of baptism)
2. Credit card details for payment of \$41.50

The link to the Trybooking is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNMZO>

Preparation Program details on parish website hnom.com.au

CONGRATULATIONS SARAH & HANNAH

Pictured with Dr Anne Ireland, Marist Sisters College Principal are Hannah & Sarah Khoury, winner of this year's Marian Award.



The Marian Award is awarded to a Year 7 student/s:

who lives each day with joy and thankfulness for all that she has been given; who commits to prayerfulness; who shows steadfastness in faith; and who commits to the service of God and others.

To Hannah & Sarah, for their commitment to living in the way of Mary, as observed by their teachers through:

Their active involvement in their parish; their commitment to the College's prayer and liturgical life; their hard work and diligence; and their courage - standing up for the needs of other students and advocating for them.

Congratulations to them both!

Well Done...CONGRATS AND WELCOME ZONE

Congratulations and a very warm welcome to: **Luca D'Ambrosio, Madeleine Ryan & Eleanor Williams** who will be baptized into our Christian community this weekend.



YEAR 6 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all our Year 6 students from Villa Maria and Hunters Hill Public School who have completed their primary schooling. We wish you every good blessing for the holidays and for the start of your High School careers.

POINT TO PONDER

God of all time,
Who makes all things new,
we bring before you the year now ending.
For life full and good,
for opportunities recognized and taken,
for love known and shared,
we thank you.
Where we have fallen short,
forgive us
When we worry over what is past,
free us.
As we begin again
and take our first few steps into the future,
where nothing is safe and certain,
except you,
we ask for the courage of the wise men
who simply went and follow a star.
We ask for their wisdom,
in choosing to pursue the deepest truth,
not knowing where they would be led.
In the year to come, God of all time,
be our help and company.
Hold our hands as we journey onwards
and may your dream of shalom,
where all will be at peace,
be our guiding star.

Francis Brien

Pray for... PRAYER ZONE

Please pray for all those who are sick or in special need in our community:

Janet Muscat, Judy Craig, Andrew & Lina Gullotta, Suzanne Traill, Frank Lloyd, Madge Mullen, Jill Caldwell, Valerie Grant, Ron Hill, Catherine Keating, (Pauline Dowling's Mother,) and Eddie Carmel Walsh (Ann Curtin's parents,) Michelle Makin, Patrick Dowling & Colleen Hussin.

JOHN & JANE WARD

We pray a blessing on John and Jane who are departing the parish for places north. We wish you both an enjoyable and fruitful retirement and thank you for your gentle presence in our parish these recent years. God bless you both on your way.

COMING SOON

Christmas!!

This Week... Scripture Zone

First Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

As we recount the story of King David, today's reading marks a new beginning in Israel's relationship with the Lord. David wants to give the Ark of the Covenant—the special place of the Lord's presence—a new home, to become a sign this presence and the Covenant it signifies. Through the prophet Nathan, David is reminded that it is the Lord who will establish David's reign forever.

Response

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

Once again, our Second Reading comes from the end of one of Paul's Letters, this time, the Letter to the Romans. This final doxology praises the mystery

kept secret for ages, names who the scriptures have predicted and the way the eternal God wants things to be.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

On this last Sunday of Advent, the church turns to the mother of Jesus, and we turn to Luke's Gospel to recount for us the story of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary. It is a story we know well: we have heard it countless times; it has been portrayed in art and poetry for centuries. But, this Advent, can we hear this story anew? Can we welcome the angel's message, and with Mary, respond with faith and with simplicity?

First Reading : Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading : Acts 13:16-17,22-25

Gospel Reading : Matthew 1:1-25

Villa Maria Primary School

Principal: Mr. Kevin Turner
Phone: 98796100
www.vmhuntershill.catholic.edu.au

St Josephs' College

Principal:
Mr Ross Tarlinton OAM
Mark Street, Hunters Hill, NSW
2110 T +61 2 9816 0802

Marist Sisters' College

Principal: Dr Anne Ireland
Ph: 9816 2041
www.mscw.nsw.edu.au



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

Web: 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, OAM

Ph: 0425 333 129

kev@kevinbates.com

Priests Assisting:

Fathers Alike Langi SM, Ph: 0408 896 839

John Worthington SM, Paul Pidcock SM,

OAM, Paul Pearce SM, JP

Parish Secretary: Catherine Byrne

Associate Secretary: Maggie Mullane

New or Returning Parishioners...

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Rosalia Foley

fft@hnom.com.au 0409 608 979

Parish Safeguarding Support Officers:

Caitlin Pfaffin & Kathleen Lee:

hnompsso@gmail.com

BAPTISM:

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS:

Tuesday 2 Feb, 2 March, 13 April, 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

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson:

Marita Winters

bmwinters6@gmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council Secretary:

Carmen Pelling

cdpelling@gmail.com

Parish Finance Committee:

Andrew Curtin 0423 123 995

Family Faith Educator:

 Marea De Angelis

Ph: 0419 448 201

RCIA: Janet Greene 9879 6515

Counselling: Deborah Khoury 0409 719 443

Villa Play Group: Tues 9:30-11:30am

Parish Hall. Mercedes Simola 0414 625 384

www.hnom.com.au/children

St Vincent De Paul: Tony Adukwicz 0411 641 895

Meditation Group: Gabrielle Woodcock, 9817 0097

Youth Group: Luana: 0426845053 or

Danielle: 0400 871 423

Young Adults Group: Nicholas Fearnley

0401 722 839

IT Group: Bobby Mackun 0434 070 350

Aged Ministry: Margaret Gambley 9807 2160

Grief Support Group:

Cecilia Brungs: 0412 284 028

Social Justice Group:

David Macedone: 0412 049 895;

Marnie Butler: 0413 004 702

Marist Laity Group: Cathy Gallo 9817 2959

Josiane Espinosa 9807 9199

Liturgy Group & Music Ministry:

 Kia

Mackun 0435 899 917, Ralph Fitzgerald 0412

230 626

Eucharistic Ministry Coordinators:

HNM: Maggie Mullane: 0411 475 469

SPC: Maria Goode: 0423 706 830

Altar Servers Coordinator:

Yvonne Young: 0410 588 063

Email: yvonne@gmail.com

Readers HNM: Barry Buffier: 9817 8805

SPC: Mark Volpato: 9816 4431

Children's Liturgy:

HNM: Olivia Edwards: 0409 541 177

Email: oedwards121@gmail.com

SPC: Sally Grill: 0417 916 267

Altar Society: Julia Cuming: 0412 031 451

Annette Hills: 0401 252 064

Ukelele Group: Fr Alike: 0408 896 839

Cleaners:

HNM: Maggie Mullane 0411 475 469

SPC: Sharon Breen: 0403 189 018

Men's Group:

Gerardo D'Angelo 0418 294 063

Inter-Church Council:

Richard Korkor 0410 431 022

Prayer Group: Maryanne Knoblanche

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.