

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



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

22 DECEMBER 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A  
WITH MARY IN ADVENT—3

## Calendar

### DECEMBER

- 16 Parish Office Closes**
- 23 Inter-Church Christmas Carols** Details P. 2
- 24-5 Christmas**
- ### JANUARY
- 6 Parish Office Re-opens**
- ### FEBRUARY
- 5 Parish Finance Committee Meeting** Parish House 6.30pm
- 11 Baptism Prep Session** Chapter Hall 7.30pm
- 20 Anointing Mass** Chapter Hall 11.30am
- 21 Inter-Church Council Meeting** Parish House 7.30pm
- 26 Ash Wednesday**

Like some others, this bulletin will take a rest from the last weekend in Advent until late January.

**She gave birth to her child and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.**

Mary gives birth. Her waiting and listening have now borne fruit. God's Word takes flesh with a completeness never before seen. In a quiet and unobtrusive moment of human history, human history changes forever. Mary gives birth to God's Word, the first-born of all creation. This simple birthing moment anoints the whole cosmos with purpose and value.

For the human family, there is ultimate hope, a place to rest our weary hearts, to satisfy our deepest longings and to find healing for our deepest wounds. Now there is justice and mercy given flesh in one moment. Now there is born a pure gift with no strings attached.

Born of God's imagination, this gift comes to us in language and form we can understand and embrace. Salvation comes through one of us, born into the world as we are. Now he is born among and within us we have a new mission ourselves. We are not just recipients of God's gifts.

Like Mary celebrating God's fruitful gifting, we can celebrate whatever the gift is that has been poured into our hearts, and we are to give birth just as she did and grace creation in our turn. Because today's world is very different from that of Jesus' time, the Word to which we give birth must be able to speak, love, heal and enliven our world now. Therefore we need to listen just as Mary did, for the sounds of the Spirit who conceives the Word and be free to travel wherever this birthing Spirit calls.

**And Mary the Mother of Jesus was there.....**

Just as Mary gives birth to Jesus, at Pentecost she is there at the birth of the Church. She is there at our birth as members of His Body so it's only right that we know her as our Mother.

In every circumstance, like all mothers, we can imagine that Mary is never far away, not making a fuss or demanding more than we can manage, but simply longing for the best for us.

As she encouraged Jesus at Cana's celebration, she will delight in our times of joy.

As she stood at the foot of the Cross, she will be close by in our moments of suffering. When we are releasing a loved one, freeing something within ourselves that needs to be set aside, a memory, Mary, Mother of the Church is there, as a watchful comfort and encouragement.

As at Pentecost, she looks on the infant church with love, and nourishes it with her presence, we see in her the pattern for our own lives and growth. The wounds of the Church and the world are never beyond our reach as they are never beyond Mary's. She reveals the all-embracing love of God in which our path is traced out for us, a path that leads us out into our ever-evolving world.

Ever since Pentecost, the Church continues to deepen its understanding of the mystery revealed through the coming of Jesus and a growing awareness of the nature of our mission. At a personal level and as a community, God is never done with us. There is always more to discover and to embrace.

Pope Francis, sometimes in the face of stiff opposition, is leading us to understand the Church as a community of believers who each has a part to play in the development of our life and mission. No longer is this mission the preserve of clerical specialists to the exclusion of the wider baptised community.

The call is for each of us to be more than simply "practising" Catholics, on the receiving end if you like of God's grace.

We could do well to ask Mary to share with us her vibrant, creative self as a pattern for our own lives. What new life this would generate! Fresh Christmas blessings to you all!

Father Kevin

*What's on?*

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARISH?**

See if anyone in your pew knows the name of this couple. Their names when we return in 2020. Last Week's photo: Carmen Pelling



**CHRISTMAS MASSES**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Holy Name of Mary**  
6.00pm Carols & Mass (Villa Maria Monastery Grounds)  
9.00pm Carols and Mass  
**St Peter Chanel**  
7.30pm Carols & Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Holy Name of Mary**  
Masses 8.00am & 10.00am  
**St Peter Chanel**  
Mass 9.00am

**MUSIC PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS**

There will be practice at Holy Name of Mary Church as follows:  
For Instrumentalists and Choir: Monday 23 December,  
All at 7.30pm

**GLIMMERS OF GRACE BOOKS AVAILABLE**

Copies of Father Kevin's book "Glimmers of Grace" are available from the parish office at \$30 per copy. They'd make an excellent Advent or Christmas gift.

**BRING A CHAIR!!**

Just a reminder if you are coming to the outdoor Christmas-Eve Mass to bring rugs or picnic chairs for the occasion.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

These are on sale at both churches. The price for a 10 Christmas cards pack is \$8 and Calendars \$10 each.

If no one from Vinnies is in attendance, please put money in the poor box near the church entrances, or paper box (at Holy Name of Mary.)

Thank you for your patronage.

**INTER-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
**Monday 23 December**

5:00pm IRT Woolwich – Woolwich Village ( we will meet at 4:50pm in the front foyer and travel up to the floor where they will have gathered for their evening meal);  
5:30pm Hunters Hill (Twilight, behind Congregational Church)  
6:00pm St Josephs on Gladesville Road  
6:30pm St Anne's  
7:00pm Hunters Hill Lodge

St Vincent de Paul Society.

**RETIREMENT VILLAGE AT GREENWICH**

Clancy Terrace is a small self-care Retirement Village located in Greenwich. We have two one bedroom units available. If you are considering the move to a Retirement Village and would like to enquire please contact Christina Savides: 9540 4650 or email christina@oscheeamangement.com.au

**TWO FAREWELLS! SYLVIA**



After 15 years of faithful service as our Parish Secretary, Sylvia is retiring this week. Her tireless patience, gentleness, humility and courtesy to all, have made her a much-loved member of our parish family.

Sylvia has used her considerable skills and big heart to enable all those around her to carry out their roles with confidence.

We thank God for her extraordinary contribution and pray a blessing as she embarks on the next stage of her journey.



**CHRIS**

The redoubtable Christine Staunton has graced the front office of Villa Maria School since 2008. She too is on her way to new pastures.

Chris has been the face and voice of the school over these years. She has been the keeper of the stories, the tradition, and is much loved by parents, children and staff.

Her outrageous humour is combined with deep wisdom and compassion which has blessed us all so much. Chris also served two terms on the Parish Pastoral Council.

We bless her now into her future with grateful and tear-stained hearts.

**GRIEF CARE ZONE**

**'TIS THE SEASON**

Christmas will never be the same after the death of someone close to us. For many bereaved people, Christmas is a time of heart-ache and stress as the realities of their new life become painfully obvious. For those who are grieving, their loss is often denied or avoided in an attempt to make Christmas perfect for others. The pressure of playing happy families with families that are far from happy can be extremely distressing. Acknowledge your loss. Give yourself permission to say 'no' to events and activities you don't want to take part in and perhaps changing the way things have been done traditionally might be useful...☹️ **COPING STRATEGIES:**

- Do something special in memory of the person who has died.
- Light a special candle to burn during the day or during the Christmas meal.
- Make or buy a special decoration to hang on the tree in memory.
- Make a toast to the person, share anecdotes. Don't be afraid to laugh as you remember some of the good times.
- Play a special song or music.
- Write a letter or a card to the person who has died, don't be concerned if you want to talk out loud to them...do it.
- Some bereaved parents buy a small gift for the age their child would be had they lived and put it under the tree... (NALAG: <http://>

**VINNIES THANKS**

Thanks to the generous support of Villa Maria school and the whole parish, we delivered our Vinnies Christmas hampers and gifts to so many grateful people this week. Merry Christmas.

**CHILD SAFETY— OUR SPECIAL PRIORITY**



## Well Done...CONGRATS AND THANKS ZONE

Congratulations and a very warm welcome to **Vahik Voskanian, Lara Assersohn, Louie O'Donnell, Beau Clegg, & Hugo Seck** all of whom will be baptized into our Christian community this weekend.



### GENEROUS GIVERS

As the year comes to a close, it's worth thanking once again all those of you who have given so generously to the various causes we've been asked to support through the year.

Your enthusiastic generosity has nourished and supported countless people in many communities.

We pray God's blessing on you all. May your big hearts be comforted by the knowledge of the lives you have touched.

## 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, Winifred Wall, John Burton, Madge Mullen, Jill Caldwell, Brian and Annette Sidgreaves, Valerie Grant & John O'Connor**

### OUR SUNBURNT LAND

We continue our prayers for all those who are especially affected by the bushfires and drought that still ravage our country.

We long for the rain that will bring relief to so many and pray for those suffering the most through this time for all the resilience and support that they need.



## Coming Soon

CHRISTMAS!!

## POINT TO PONDER



### Villa Maria Primary School

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

### Marist Sisters' College

Principal: Dr Anne Ireland  
Ph: 9816 2041  
[www.mscw.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mscw.nsw.edu.au)

### St Josephs' College

Principal: Dr Christopher Hayes  
Mark Street, Hunters Hill, NSW  
2110 T +61 2 9816 0802  
[www.joeys.org](http://www.joeys.org)

## This Week... Scripture Zone

### First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The reading from Isaiah shows God responding to the fears of Ahaz, leader of Judah at the time. The people of God need not lose hope, they can trust the Lord and a sign will be given; that of a young woman with child, the child will be named Emmanuel, God is with us.

### Response

Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.  
Alleluia !

### Second Reading Romans 1:1-7

Paul proclaims that the promises of God found in the Hebrew Scriptures have come to fruition in the person of Jesus Christ. The Christ which finds its humanity in the line of David is

declared the Son of God and has now become the one who draws all people to God's self.

### Gospel Acclamation

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

### Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew, ever mindful of the Jewish heritage to which his audience belongs, draws on the imagery of Isaiah to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ as the one who is Emmanuel, God is with us. Matthew also highlights that Jesus is very much bound to the human story; the story of Joseph and Mary as they begin to form their human family in unusual yet blessed circumstances.

*First Reading : Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14*

*Second Reading : Colossians 3:12-21*

*Gospel Reading : Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*



# 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, OAM

Ph: 0425 333 129

[kev@kevinbates.com](mailto:kev@kevinbates.com)

### Priests Assisting:

Fathers Aliko Langi SM, Ph: 0408 896 839

John Worthington SM, Paul Pidcock SM,  
OAM

Parish Secretary: Sylvia Gutierrez & Catherine Byrne

## New or Returning Parishioners...

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

Associate Secretary: Maggie Mullane

Sacramental Coordinator: Rosalia Foley

[fft@hnom.com.au](mailto:fft@hnom.com.au) 0409 608 979

### Parish Safeguarding Support Officers:

Caitlin Pfafflin & Kathleen Lee:

[hnompsso@gmail.com](mailto:hnompsso@gmail.com)

## BAPTISM:

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

### BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS:

Tuesdays: 11 February. Wednesday 11 March, Tuesday 14 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](mailto:bmwinters6@gmail.com)

### Parish Pastoral Council Secretary:

Carmen Pelling

[cdpelling@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.hnom.com.au/children)

St Vincent De Paul: Paul Ladd 0468 355 753

Meditation Group: Gabrielle Woodcock, 9817 0097

Youth Group: Luana: 0426845053 or

Danielle: 0400 871 423

Young Adults Group: Nicholas Fearnley

0401 722 839

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: Kia Mackun 0435 899 917

### Eucharistic Ministry Coordinators:

HNM: Maggie Mullane: 0411 475 469

SPC: Maria Goode: 0423 706 830

### Altar Servers Coordinator:

Yvonne Young: 0410 588 063

Email: [yhnom@gmail.com](mailto:yhnom@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](mailto:oedwards121@gmail.com)

SPC: Tee Davies: 0407 827 957

Altar Society: Julia Cuming: 0412 031 451

Annette Hills: 0401 252 064

Ukelele Group: Fr Aliko: 0408 896 839

### Cleaners:

HNM: Maggie Mullane 0411 475 469

SPC: Tracy Ferguson : 0408 324 611

### Men's Group:

Clinton McDonald: 0419 646 311

Gerardo D'Angelo 0418 294 063

### Inter-Church Council:

Richard Korkor 0410 431 022

Prayer Group: Maryanne Knoblanche

9816 2273/ 0403 170 061

## 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.