

HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH HUNTERS HILL ST PETER CHANEL WOOLWICH



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

24 December 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

LONG, SLOW & PATCHY

Calendar

December

24 Christmas Practice for Angels and Shepherds

Villa Maria Monastery Grounds
11.00 am

24-5 Christmas!!

HOLIDAYS

As usual, the bulletin, the photocopier and some of our parish team will be taking a break after Christmas.

The Parish Office will be closed from 22 December and will reopen on Monday 15 January.

Father Wills will return on 6 January and Father Kevin on 20 January.



Something new needs to be born now that the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse has completed its work. As Pope Francis has noted, the Church in this country and abroad, needs to reflect deeply on the findings and recommendations of the Commission, and turn these reflections into appropriate actions.

As the body most thoroughly examined and critiqued by the Commission and subsequently by the media, the Catholic Church has much work still to do to attend to the needs of people so devastated by the abuse over many decades. This is of course our first priority.

Many steps are already being taken in this regard. Processes are in place and constantly being reviewed and improved. Compliance requirements are being tightened in order that children in particular and people in general are protected into the future. Each parish and community are required to participate in these new arrangements.

There is no going back to a past in which we imagined that the Church was somehow beyond critique. We need great faith and courage to engage with this new reality.

In the midst of all our failure and pain, great good is still being created in the Church in so many ways. The recent Catholic Youth Festival was an instance of this as 19,000 young people from all around Australia came together for three days of prayer, celebration and hope.

Such events don't rate much of a mention in the media. The Seven network gave generous coverage to the Festival, Nine, a little and the ABC not a whisper. The ABC with their bland secularism gives barely any coverage of any good the Church does, while the Church becomes instant news whenever our failures come to light. They crawl all over every story, enhancing it with exaggeration and great righteousness. Having said that, the criticism is so often well deserved. No less deserving would be a word of acceptance and even praise for a something God's People do well!

This climate frames our present reality, and it's in this same climate that we engage in the process of healing, healing within the Church, healing within each wounded heart, healing in the world around us.

There can be no escaping into our own inner sanctum in order to avoid the climate "out there." We buy a cheap freedom if we hide behind our own well-worn prayers, devotions and practices as if everything will be ok if we hold on for long enough and keep our heads down. Our healing as a Church must happen in a world where the Church's credibility is at a very low ebb. It is in this newly-foreign secular place that the Good News of Jesus needs to be born again.

When we act with integrity in a business world that is built on cutting corners, moral compromise and rampant egos, then Jesus is born again. When we nurture children with patience and call them home to the heart of love in our family prayer and in our teaching, then Jesus is born again. When we work in our wider families to achieve reconciliation where only division has ruled, then Jesus is born again. When we listen attentively and humbly to the cries of those who have been damaged within the Church, then Jesus is born again. When we take up the cross created by our own sins and troubles, and allow mercy to shape our hearts, then Jesus is born again.

Our healing as a Church will be long, slow and patchy. Jesus was born into troubled, corrupt times and he remains our hope in this new season, this present fractured reality that is ours.

May he be born into your hearts and homes this Christmas time and through you, into a world which longs for the healing that only he can bring. With great love and hope I pray for each of you, a blessed, joyful, new-born heart this Christmas.

Father Kevin

What's on?

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARISH?

See if anyone in your pew knows the name of this parishioner pictured below. Her name next week. Last week's photo: **Carol Gittany**



CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS!

We will be practising for our Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday (Christmas Eve) morning, 11.00 am in the grounds of Villa Maria Monastery.

Angels and shepherds of all ages warmly welcomed!

CHRISTMAS CARDS & COLUMBAN CALENDARS

On sale at both churches. Due to price increases, and the fact that we pay 10% GST our price this year is 10 cards \$8 and Calendars \$10 each.

Please put the money in the poor box or paper box at the back of the church. Thank You. St Vincent de Paul.

THE BENEDICT XVI RETREAT CENTRE

Now offers a series of fun, innovative, facilitated activity programs to complement and enrich any group retreat. Whether you are looking for adventure, team building, opportunities for reflection or simply to have fun with your group, our specially trained facilitators can tailor a program to meet your needs and budget. Activities include flying fox, archery, bushwalking, leadership challenge, communications challenge, camp craft, environmental programs and more. Contact Reception on (02) 4572 2899 email: bxvi@sydneycatholic.org to find out more.

SYDNEY MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Specialises in the provision of support services to members of our multicultural communities.

We currently have a number of casual position available for **Care Workers** who speak a second language to provide support services to older people in their own homes who come from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (CALD).

For more information please phone (02) 9663 3922.

CATHOLIC CARE'S NDIS THERAPY TEAM

We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential.

We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney.

For more information, contact our friendly CCareline team on: 131819, or connect@catholiccare.org

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES HOLY NAME OF MARY

Christmas Vigil:

Carols & Mass Villa Maria Monastery Grounds 6.00pm

Christmas Day:

Masses 8.00 am & 10.00 am

ST PETER CHANEL

Christmas Vigil:

Carols 8.00pm

Mass 8.30pm

Christmas Day:

Mass 9.00am

NATURAL FERTILITY SERVICES

Is looking for suitable applicants in the Greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Thorough, in-depth training over a 12-month period is provided to successful applicants and sessional work is available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. For more information and application forms please contact The Manager NFS (02) 9509 1222.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Do you have a local parish news story which would be of interest to the many readers of the Catholic Weekly? The Catholic Weekly is always looking for human interest, inspirational and faith-based stories for our weekly publication. If you have a story please send it to cweditor@catholicweekly.com.au or call (02) 9390 5407.

2018 NATIONAL CHARISMATIC RETREATS FOR PRIESTS, DEACONS, RELIGIOUS & ASSOCIATES

The National charismatic Retreat for Priests, Deacons, Religious & Associates—to be held at Newman College, University of Melbourne, in Swanston St. Melbourne in January 2018. These retreats are held every January and are now in their 40th year of

existence. Many Priests and Religious tell us they have benefitted from attending the Retreats over the years. Our information is sent around the Archdiocese of Melbourne by their Catholic Communications Team and appears annually on the internet via their Web pages. It would be great to see new people joining with us.

All enquiries call 0411 021 946.

A WORD OF THANKS

As our year comes to a close, I wish to offer a word of thanks to all who have shaped the life of our parish in so many ways this year.

To our tireless office team, Sacramental team, the members of our Parish Pastoral Council and all the other many pastoral groups in the parish, from the quiet and prayerful to the vocal and active, our altar servers, parents and coordinator, our finance committee, our parishioners visiting the sick faithfully each week with the gift of the Eucharist and the priceless gift of their own faith, those caring for our young in the playgroup and schools, those who look out for the frail and elderly: to each of you a heartfelt thanks and blessing.

To our priests Fathers Wills, Paul and our other Marist confreres who are on hand to support the parish when needed, great thanks to you.

On a personal note, I thank all those of you who showed me such kindness through times of ill health, surgery and rehab.

Thanks to you I hope to be kicking goals next season again!

God bless you well and merrily this Christmas time.

Father Kevin

Well Done...CONGRATS AND THANKS ZONE

Congratulations and a very warm welcome to **Austin Beashel** who will be baptised into our Christian Community this weekend.

CHRISTMAS GIVERS

To all those parishioners and friends who have been inundating the parish house with gifts for our parish team, not the least of which is the emerging beautiful garden at the front of the parish house. Watch this space as it grows into its full beauty. A heartfelt thanks to each of you for your generous hearts and always kind words. We are all very grateful to you.

POINT TO PONDER

May the blessing of light be on you,
Light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine upon you
and warm your heart
till it glows like a great fire
and strangers may warm themselves
as well as friends.

And may the light shine from your eyes
like a candle set in the window of a home,
bidding the wanderer to come in out of the
storm.

Irish Traditional Blessing.

Villa Maria Primary School

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

St Josephs' College

Principal: Mr Ross Tarlinton
Mark Street, Hunters Hill, NSW
2110 T +61 2 9816 0807
www.joey.org

Marist Sisters' College

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



Pray for... PRAYER ZONE

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

Peter Jackson, Marie Ferris, Janet Muscat, Joe Bannon, John Edwards, Judy Craig & Monica Carroll.

REV ANNETTE HAWKEN

Former minister at our local Uniting Church, Annette has suffered aggressive stomach cancer this year and is presently recovering from radical surgery. She is facing this challenge with great faith and courage. We now hold her and her family in our prayers.

AMELIA & CHRISTOPHER BYRNE

In this season of new birth, our Amelia (Nee Shannon) is due to have her first child early in January.

We pray a blessing on her and Chris over these weeks and for a joyful safe delivery.

We look forward to meeting their new arrival!

Coming Soon

Holidays!!

This Week... Scripture Zone

First Reading:

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

King David contemplated building a house for the Lord. The Lord reassures David that it is he, the Lord, who will build a House for David, a House that will be established for ever.

Response

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The end of Paul's Letter to the Romans is in the form of a doxology, a prayer in which he praises God in summary form for all that is contained in the mystery of Jesus Christ which he has expounded and proclaimed in the

sixteen chapters of this Letter. Glory to him.

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

Here we have the mystery of God's grace at work in the humble virgin of Nazareth, and the joyful cooperation of Mary with that grace in her final words to the angel, "Let what you have said be done to me."

Next week: First Reading : Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Second Reading : Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel Reading : Luke 2:22-40



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
Ph: 0425 333 129
kev@kevinbates.com

Priests Assisting:

Fathers Wills Melteras 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 0409 608 979

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson:

Matt Fehon
mfehon@mcgrathnichol.com

Parish Pastoral Council Secretary:

Richard McNamee:
richard_mcnamee@baxter.com

Parish Finance Committee Michael Lindsay
0423 020 002

Parish Youth Minister:

Caitlin Story, Ph: 0450 847 979

BAPTISM:

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS

COMING UP:

Tuesdays 13 Feb, 20 March, 10 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 Parish Hall. Elsa Hietbrink 0422 237 356
hnom.com.au/children

Meditation Group: Gabrielle Woodcock, 9817 0097

Young Adults Group: Nicholas Fearnley 0401 722 839

Parish Finance Committee:
Michael Lindsay 9816 5701

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.

Annette Hills 0401 252 064

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 HNM:

Olivia Edwards: 0409 541 177

oedwards121@gmail.com

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

Family Faith Educator: Marea De Angelis

Ph: 0419 448 201

Ecumenical Group : Richard Korkor 0410

431 022

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.