

HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH HUNTERS HILL ST PETER CHANEL WOOLWICH



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

3 December 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

INNOCENT EYES

Calendar

December

5 Social Justice Meeting
Parish House
7.30pm

7 Men's Group Dinner Parish Hall 7.00pm

7-9 National Catholic Youth Festival

12 Communal Reconciliation Service HNM
7.30pm

13 Liturgy Group Meeting Parish House
7.30pm

19 Inter-Church Christmas Carols

19 Baptism Prep Session
Chapter Hall
7.30pm

23 Christmas Practice for Angels and Shepherds
Villa Maria Monastery Grounds
9.30 am

24-5 Christmas!!

During last week we welcomed over ninety of our children to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was a moving experience for all of us.

One image that stays with me is the look of innocence in the eyes of the children as they came to encounter the mercy of God in the Sacrament. They knew it was a special and sacred event in their lives. They knew they were supported by their parents and all who had helped them prepare. They knew too that somehow they were getting in touch with a gift of forgiveness that is as simple as their childlike view of the world. The wonder in their eyes said it all. Their innocence left one longing to re-visit that place of simplicity, clarity and unencumbered love.

As life rolls on we all manage to muddy the waters somehow, such is our original sin!

Relationships become wounded and complicated. They require delicate handling and excellent footwork. The rumblings in our own hearts cause us grief, lead us to complicate our lives in ways we'd rather not, and the age of innocence becomes well and truly a thing of the past.

Our faith as it grows, moves from being a simple encounter with a loving God to a series of difficult and often unanswerable questions. Suffering has a part to play in the unfolding of these questions, as does our struggle to live simply and truly. Moral values which were once simply understood, become bruised with compromise and excuses and sometimes end up in the too-hard basket or the why-bother bin!

Our society survives with a modicum of truthfulness and bucket-loads of compromise. Our political world is shot through with a mixture of idealism, good will and self-interest. Our Church is a community of the broken, the lost, the holy, the self-righteous and the heroic. Our sins as a Church are on display for all to see.

How can we possibly un-clutter our world when it has become so scarred by our wounded human condition?

Jesus warns us that unless we change and welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child, we'll miss his meaning altogether. We long for that simplicity of life, that clear vision, that sureness of faith. The look in our children's eyes tells us that such things are possible.

We glimpse this hope at other times too.

The look in the eyes of parents as they present their child for baptism tells us that they know that they are onto something sacred here. The children from our local Public School gave voice to this wide-eyed innocence in their singing at All Saints Anglican Church, as we celebrated the coming holy season with them this week. The faces of those who celebrated at our parish dinner last Friday, spoke of the real joy we experience as we take time with each other, and give thanks for the life of our parish community.

The look between a couple as they commit their lives to one another in marriage tells a similar story.

The eyes of a dying parishioner receiving the healing touch of Anointing and a last Communion brings one back to the simple truth that simplicity of heart is not only possible but is something real and living among us.

We thank God for our children and their wide-eyed wonder. We thank God for the way that their innocent eyes tug at our hearts and call us back to the simple truths that nourish, refresh and make whole.

Jesus is still with us in Spirit and promises that a return to wholeness of heart and holiness of life is within our reach, such is his great grace.

This week, may you find a way back to the simple faith, the truthful spirit and the joyful trust in God's promises that our children are here to teach us.

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: **Lillian Ong**



LA PAROISSE RESTAURANT

Book in for a meal cooked by Father Kevin and meet some of your fellow parishioners. Bookings at the parish office. Our last date for the year is now booked out. Watch this space for 2018 dates!

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

For registrations and enquiries within the Northern Deanery contact Anita on 0406607115 or anitabhogan@gmail.com

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CAROLS, MOZART & THE JOUBERT SINGERS

Sunday 10 December 2017, 2:30pm

Holy Name of Mary Church

Our 2017 Christmas concert will be very much in the Joubert Singers' tradition, as it includes a variety of traditional and contemporary carols from around the world, as well some well-known favourites with audience participation.

The **Joubert Singers** are Hunters Hill's own community choir. They perform sacred and secular music from around the world, and from the distant past to the 21st century. The Joubert Singers' Artistic Director, Rachelle Elliott, is renowned for her ability to enthuse her singers and delight audiences.

Admission \$25, Concession \$20 (Under 16s, pensioners, seniors)

For more details, visit our website www.joubertsingers.org.au or contact Mark Allerton: 0402 890 799.

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

MEN'S GROUP DINNER THE LIFE OF A DEACON

7th December, 2017.

7pm for 7:30pm

Holy Name of Mary, Parish Hall.

Cost \$25 per person

RSVP Gerardo m 0418 294 063

Clinton m 0419 646 311

Graham Swan is a candidate for Ordination as a Permanent Deacon.

While priestly ordinations in the United States have decreased over the past three decades, there's one ministerial order that's seen a steady rise.

The permanent diaconate has grown from zero in 1970 to 15,000 today. According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the total number of permanent deacons increases by 10 to 15 percent every year.

SCRIPTURE PRAYER GROUP

For 3 weeks from Tuesday 28 November the Scripture Prayer Group will meet for the Advent Series of the Lectio Divina Heartbeat Program – 'Keep alert, keep awake.'

Place: 'Montbel' Time: 6.45 for 7pm. All welcome.

MARIST MISSION CENTRE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The latest newsletter from Marist Mission Centre is now out and available at the entrance to each of our Churches. Please take one home with you!

PARISH DINNER THANKS

Thanks to all who made our Parish Dinner such an enjoyable evening last Friday. Thanks to all of you who attended the dinner with such lively spirit.

We thank especially, Venessa Loadsman, our amazing coordinator, Susan Sharples and our other Parish Council members, Bernadette, our caterer and her terrific team, David Andrews our MC and all those who generously donated items for the raffles and silent auction. Also we give a special thanks to Father Wills who was there from beginning to end, supporting the team in all sorts of practical ways.

We raised \$10,000 which will be an excellent help as the parish continues to repay the remaining debt on our restoration fund.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS 9 DECEMBER CANCELLED

Following Archbishop Anthony's instructions, there will be no Saturday Vigil Mass on 9 December to free everyone up to attend the National Catholic Youth Festival's Final Mass that evening.



Some Memories from the Parish Dinner



Well Done...**CONGRATS AND THANKS ZONE**

Congratulations and a very warm welcome to **Rylee Chiew Mel-drum** who will be baptised into our Christian Community this weekend.

NICHOLAS CHAPLIN

We offer our heartfelt thanks once again to Nick who, with the help of some parish contributors, has once again provided us with an excellent home-grown resource for personal prayer and reflection during this Advent season.

Nick and his children were at the door before every Mass last Sunday handing out the booklets. May God bless them for their generosity and service to the community.

POINT TO PONDER

Advent Family Prayer

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.

God of Love,

Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,

As we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

Amen.

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.joeyes.org

Marist Sisters' College

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

Gifted Students Shine!

Year 7 and 8 Newman Selective Gifted Education Program students held their Learning Symposium on Wednesday evening. This symposium was a wonderful way to showcase their learning journey throughout the year to their Parents and Carers.

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.

POPE FRANCIS

This week Pope Francis has visited Myanmar and Bangladesh. We pray for him as he journeys to many places with a gift of hope and peace for the dispossessed peoples of these and other nations.

We pray that the leaders of these and other nations are encouraged by his presence to bring about new justice for their people.

Coming Soon

Australian Catholic Youth Festival
7-9 December

Men's Group Dinner 7 December

Inter-Church Carols 19 December

This Week... **Scripture Zone**

First Reading:

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

In this prayer, the prophet seems to remind God, but actually reminds the people of how morally weak and inconstant they are, how much in need of God's patient mercy. The prayer expresses humble confidence of receiving that mercy.

Response

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face, and we will be saved

Second Reading:

1 Cor 1:3-9

While we are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed, we have the teaching of the apostles

and their successors, the scriptural word and the gifts of the Spirit to sustain us on our pilgrimage.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia,

Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia !

Gospel Reading:

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus wants his disciples to be in no doubt about the importance of living in such a way as always to be ready for our call to meet the Lord.

Next week: First Reading : Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading : 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Reading : Mark 1:1-8



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 19 Dec, 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 Par-
ish Hall. Fran Kanaan 0408 447 377,
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 H NOM:

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.