



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (B)

Members of the Western Highway Deanery  
31st December 2017

As we contemplate the Incarnation of the Son of God, we praise God who created the family of humankind and who, in the fullness of time, sent his Son to be a part of our family. Christmas is a celebration of the family. May today's feast of the Holy Family of Jesus and Mary and Joseph teach us to value family life and to live in peace with one another as members of the one family of God.

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Alleluia: In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Prayer: Listen to the prayer of your family, O Lord.

## Holy Family Parish

- Fr. Rene Ramirez, RCJ

I was literally overjoyed on the 13th of December when I received the letter from the Archbishop approving our request for the amalgamation of our Partnered Parishes. Added to that, His Grace has also conceded to heed our suggestion to call our would-be amalgamated parishes as Holy Family Parish, a name most of us chose during the survey conducted by the Learning Subcommittee some months ago. Between meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council and the meetings that ensued afterwards; the consultations that we did both in Braybrook and in Maidstone with Msgr. Charles Portelli and Bishop Mark Edwards; the information dissemination about the Frequently Asked Questions on amalgamation; after seven months of meetings and planning, our efforts have finally come to fruition. By the 15th of January next month, we shall be known as the Holy Family Parish.

It is my hope that the new title of our unity as a single parish may not only be embodied in words, but may truly move from potentiality to reality. I just recently rented a Filipino movie on-line entitled SEVEN SUNDAYS (English Subtitled) where a father was misdiagnosed with cancer and was given two months to live. All he asked from his grown-up children was to visit him for the last seven Sundays of his life. When it was revealed to him that everything was a false alarm, he had second thoughts on revealing the truth to his children for fear that the atmosphere created by his foreboding death might change. He, his children and grannies were having the time of their lives every Sunday that they met. All of that changed when the eldest son accidentally discovered the truth. The children all left again to confront their own lives only to find their steps back home and find strength in the arms of family members who finally discovered that it is in their unity that they will be able to conquer all life's challenges. In their solidarity, they hurdled the obstacles that faced them.

This is my prayer and wish for all of us as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family; as we prepare for our new journey as the Parish of the Holy Family; and as we prepare for the New Year that will commence tomorrow; I hope and pray that we may continually rediscover that our strength lies in our unity as one parish community, that we can conquer and hurdle any difficulties if we put our efforts and resources together, and that in so doing, we may grow in the appreciation of the gift of each other's presence, acknowledging that we too can be a family bounded not by blood but by love, the love that ensues from the love that God has for each one of us.

May our loving Father bless you and your loved ones abundantly as we close 2017 and look with hope to a happier and more love-filled 2018!





## Mass Schedule

### SUNDAY

St. John's	8:00 am
Christ the King	9:30 am
Our Lady's	10:00 am
Vietnamese Mass	3:00 pm <sup>1</sup>
Filipino Mass	3:00 pm <sup>2</sup>
Christ the King	5:00 pm
Our Lady's	6:30 pm

### MONDAY

Christ the King	8:00 am
Our Lady's	8:00 am

### TUESDAY to SATURDAY

Christ the King	8:00 am
Our Lady's	9:00 am

### WEDNESDAY

Our Lady's	7:00 pm <sup>3</sup>
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### SATURDAY (Vigil Mass)

Our Lady's	5:00 pm
Christ the King	6:30 pm

### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after the morning Masses and 30 mins. before the evening Masses.

### BAPTISMS

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

### MARRIAGE

3 months-notice required.

<sup>1</sup> Sunday Masses in Vietnamese are held at Our Lady's Church every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and at Christ the King Church every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

<sup>2</sup> Sunday Mass in Filipino is held at Our Lady's Church every third Sunday of the month.

<sup>3</sup> The Wednesday evening Mass incorporates the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Vocation View

The shepherds go in haste to visit the new-born King of the Jews. When God calls, respond at once with joy that you, too, might praise and glorify God in all things.



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Special Intentions & Thanksgiving

Birthday Thanksgiving: Bruno Rampazzo

### Comfort & Healing

Cesare Bettoni, Eric Raveza, Nip Frogosa, Jack Considine, Vin Beasley, Rutillo Llovito, Sabrina Janz, Roselyn David, Carozon Robles, Remedios Laplana, Patricia Shires, Jose Mastruzzo, Glad Trevillian, Tony Rabusin, Nell Monagle, Fortunata Scalzo, Leone Morganti, Jamie Dumapias, Richard Brown, Cesar Banzon, Sydonia Maslanyk, Margaret Horley, Marie Henwood, Benjamin Raj, Maria Ta Thi Hue, Leonie Drayton, Pauline Drayton, Allan Arias, Lawrie Green, Nigel D'Silva.

### Eternal Repose

RECENTLY DECEASED: Luca Gagliardi

ANNIVERSARIES: Patrick Berger



## Preparation for CONFIRMATION

Preparation classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation will commence on **22 February 2018 at 5.00 pm**. Children are expected to be accompanied by an adult. Venue will be at the Parish Presbytery Pavilion in Maidstone. Please contact the Parish Office to enlist your child. Your child must be in year 6 or at least 11 years old.

## MINISTRIES & SERVICES

### ST. JOHN'S & OUR LADY'S

6th & 7th January 2018

Mass Time	5.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.30pm
<b>Readers:</b>	<b>C</b> Lynette Heasley <b>R</b> Dulanga Tissera	Anna Nguyen Huy Le	Kimberly Lam Paul Handley	Nenita Castillo Julieta Uy
<b>E Ministers:</b>	<b>1</b> Agnes Attard <b>2</b> <b>3</b>	Kath Crowley	Orlando Victuelles Christine Mullan	Antonio Sobredo Rose Sobredo
<b>Music:</b>	<b>Our Lady's Choir</b>	<b>Recorded Music</b>	<b>Parish Choir</b>	<b>Mary's Choir</b>
<b>Counters Team:</b>	<b>1</b> G. Keys	D. Pezzano		
<b>Cleaners Team:</b>	<b>1</b> Legion of Mary ladies			

### CHRIST THE KING

Mass Time	6.30pm	9.30am	5.00pm
<b>Readers:</b>	<b>C</b> John Ho <b>R</b> Quang Son Ho <b>1</b> Hoa Ton <b>2</b> <b>3</b>	Merri Balauc William Chu Jim Proctor Lan-Anh Tuyet Roseline Raymundo	Kathe Casas Lorraine Rodrigues Dudley Rodrigues
<b>Music:</b>	<b>St Cecilia's Choir</b>	<b>Parish Choir</b>	<b>Parish Choir</b>
<b>Data Projector:</b>	Radley Cardente	Sophie Nguyen	Tom Luu
<b>Parish Bus:</b>	7-Jan	Chieu	
<b>Counters Team:</b>			
<b>Cleaners Team:</b>			

### Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12





## Mary, Mother of God

Like the Churches of the East, Rome wished to honor the Virgin Mother of God during the days after Christmas. As a result the Natale S. Mariae ("Anniversary of St. Mary") made its appearance on January 1 in the seventh century; it has accurately been called "the first Marian feast of the Roman liturgy." — The Church at Prayer

On New Year's Day, the octave day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. The divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular salvific event: for Our Lady it was the foretaste and cause of her extraordinary glory; for us it is a source of grace and salvation

because "through her we have received the Author of life" (127).

The solemnity of 1 January, an eminently Marian feast, presents an excellent opportunity for liturgical piety to encounter popular piety: the first celebrates this event in a manner proper to it; the second, when duly catechised, lends joy and happiness to the various expressions of praise offered to Our Lady on the birth of her divine Son, to deepen our understanding of many prayers, beginning with that which says: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, sinners."

In the West, 1 January is an inaugural day marking the beginning of the civil year. The faithful are also involved in the celebrations for the beginning of the new year and exchange "new year" greetings. However, they should try to lend a Christian understanding to this custom making of these greetings an expression of popular piety. The faithful, naturally, realize that the "new year" is placed under the patronage of the Lord, and in exchanging new year greetings they implicitly and explicitly place the New Year under the Lord's dominion, since to him belongs all time (cf. Ap 1, 8; 22,13)(128).

A connection between this consciousness and the popular custom of singing the Veni Creator Spiritus can easily be made so that on 1 January the faithful can pray that the Spirit may direct their thoughts and actions, and those of the community during the course of the year (129).

New Year greetings also include an expression of hope for a peaceful New Year. This has profound biblical, Christological and incarnational origins. The "quality of peace" has always been invoked throughout history by all men, and especially during violent and destructive times of war.

The Holy See shares the profound aspirations of man for peace. Since 1967, 1 January has been designated "world day for peace."

Popular piety has not been oblivious to this initiative of the Holy See. In the light of the new born Prince of Peace, it reserves this day for intense prayer for peace, education towards peace and those values inextricably linked with it, such as liberty, fraternal solidarity, the dignity of the human person, respect for nature, the right to work, the sacredness of human life, and the denunciation of injustices which trouble the conscience of man and threaten peace.

(Excerpted from the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy)

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."*

- COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It's amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone - maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co- worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

## stewardship

### Our Lady's Church

Presbytery	\$1,881.35
Church	\$2,476.90

### Christ the King Church

Presbytery	\$1,201.25
Church	\$1,192.60

The first collection (Presbytery) supports the Parish Priest, his Assistant, the sick and retired Priests and the Archbishop

The second collection (Thanksgiving Envelopes) supports the Parish and the expenses of the Archdiocese.

## SCHOOLS

**St. John's Catholic School**  
34 Essex St., Footscray West VIC 3011  
Tel: 9687 3150 : Fax: 9687 9166  
principal@sjfootscray.catholic.edu.au

**Christ the King Primary School**  
28 Riley Court, Braybrook VIC 3019  
Tel: 9311 7387 : Fax: 9312 6755  
principal@ctkbraybrook.catholic.edu.au

**Caroline Chisholm Catholic College**  
65 Churchill Ave. Braybrook VIC 3019  
Tel: 9296 5311 : Fax: 9296 5381  
registrar@cccc.vic.edu.au

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CHURCHES

**Christ the King Church**  
67 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook VIC 3019

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church**  
46 Ballarat Road, Maidstone VIC 3012

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
34 Essex Street, Footscray VIC 3012

*Fr. René Ramirez, RCJ*  
Parish Priest

*Fr. Gerald Biñegas, RCJ*  
Assistant Priest

*Sr. Helen Robinson, RSJ*  
Hospital Pastoral Associate

*Huong Nguyen & Tram Nguyen*  
Secretaries

**Parish Office**  
*Our Lady's Church*  
Tel: 9317-9298 Fax: 9317-9298  
maidstone@cam.org.au  
www.ckol.org.au



**Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!**



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

incorporating the communities of  
West Footscray, Maidstone & Braybrook

Effective 15th of January 2018,  
we shall be one!



Join our  
**Sinulog Festival**  
21 January 2018 at 3:00pm



 **St. Vincent Institute of Education P/L**  
We deliver your child to academic success

Email: [info@vieonline.com.au](mailto:info@vieonline.com.au)  
Tel. (03) 9317 7999



*Child Safety is our Priority*



EDGE is way more than effective catechesis. It's Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry that helps young people with life's most challenging years. Edge Nights takes place Friday evenings. Kids between 10-13 years old are invited and encouraged to attend. **Interested in helping out?**

Contact: Christine at [chslkj@ychoo.com](mailto:chslkj@ychoo.com)

Our Lady's Large Hall 7.00-9.00pm

**Parish Office Hours**  
**Tuesday-Saturday**  
**9:00am to 12:00noon**

To find out more ways on how you can help improve our Parochial Community please contact Huong or Tram at **9317-9298** from **Tuesdays to Saturdays between 9:00am to 12:00 noon** with email: [maidstone@cam.org.au](mailto:maidstone@cam.org.au) or visit our website at [www.ckol.org.au](http://www.ckol.org.au)

