



Readings for  
this week:

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24



Readings for  
next week:

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14

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## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR .....

**Sick List:** Luke Holford, Robert Kelso, Jean and Bryan Mulcahy, Chris McIntyre, Graeme Weir,  
Mary Hehir

**Recently deceased:** Sr Peter Wilson FCJ, Leon Gladman

**Anniversary:** Lucia Villani, Marianna Conti, Antonio Conti

## ROSTERS

**BINGO ROSTER:** 24th Dec - NO BINGO

**COUNTER ROSTER:** 18th Dec - M. Williams, B. Ryan; 25th Dec - Helen Betson, Marie O'Meara

17/18 Dec	READERS	OFFERTORY	SPECIAL MINISTERS	ALTAR HELPERS
6:30 pm	I. Raleigh D. Sandilands	J. Buttigieg	L. Turk M. Janke E. Janke	E. Donnelly P. Cormick
10 am	N. Collins M. Mellino	N. Collins	M. Hogarty S. Griffin (RP/G1) L. Pye (RP/G2)	E. Donnelly P. Cormick
24/25 December				
6:30 pm	TBC	TBC	TBC	J. Anderson M. McGrath
10 am	TBC	TBC	TBC	J. Anderson M. McGrath



## WELCOME TO St Mary's Parish

2 TOOLAMBA ROAD (PO BOX 365) MOORoopNA VIC 3629  
PH: 5825 2034

Parish Priest: Mons Peter Jeffrey Email address: mons.peterj@bigpond.com  
Parish Secretary: Diane Teitzel Email address: mooroopna@cdos.org.au  
Parish Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am - 1pm  
Website: www3.smmooroopna.catholic.edu.au/parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Sunday 18 December 2016



## Emmanuel

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.



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## Looking at the Readings

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living. © *Dianne Bergant CSS*

## The Great Advent: 17-24 December

The season of Advent intensifies in the last seven days. These days have dedicated texts in the Lectionary, Missal and Liturgy of the Hours, there are no feasts days or other occasional celebrations except funeral Masses. The focus is clearly the first coming of Christ by his birth at Bethlehem. The seven Great O Antiphons in the Liturgy of the Hours, the Gospel Acclamation and the hymn O Come O Come Emmanuel provide a way of highlighting this week within a season.

## Prayer for the Week

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace, relief and joy in your coming. *Collect, 24 December, morning Mass, 2011 Roman Missal*

## On The Lighter Side

*Q: Why is Christmas Day just like another day at the office?*  
*A: You end up doing all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.*





## ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

“Reaching out to each other  
- growing together in love”

### MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm at St Mary's**

**Sunday: 10am at St Mary's**

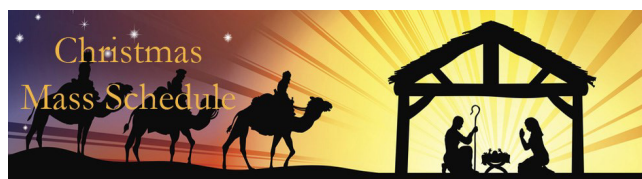
**Sunday: 8.30am at St Joseph's, Undera  
(Monthly Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month)**

### RECONCILIATION

**10.30—11am at St Mary's**

### WEEK-DAY MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tuesday 20 December - 6pm Mass**  
(followed by 2nd Rite of Reconciliation)
- ♦ Wednesday 21 December - 6pm Mass
- ♦ Thursday 22 December - 6pm Mass
- ♦ Friday 23 December - 10am Mass



- ♦ **TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER - Following the 6pm ADVENT MASS there will be a 2nd Rite of Reconciliation** (the Penitential Liturgy of the Word will be followed by the **opportunity for individual confession**).
- ♦ **Christmas Eve - Confessions between 5.30pm - 6pm**
- ♦ **Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December - Carols at the Marian Centre at 6.30pm followed by Mass at the Marian Centre at 7pm**
- ♦ **Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December - Mass at 10am at St Mary's Church**

### VISITATION MEETING

The last Visitation Meeting for 2016 will be held on **THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER at 10.30AM at the PARISH HOUSE.**

This Meeting will be followed by a light lunch. If everyone could bring along a small plate of food to share it would be much appreciated.



**MASS AT  
RODNEY PARK RETIREMENT VILLAGE  
THURSDAY 29th December at 10.30am**

### PARISH NEWS

**Parish Christmas Raffle:** Prizes are as below:-

1. Wheelbarrow Hamper (major prize)
2. \$100 Coles/Meyer Gift Card
3. Basket Hamper
4. \$50 Voucher from Paul Wickham Pharmacy
5. Basket Hamper
6. Garden Hamper

**Tickets are \$1 and on sale AFTER MASS.**

### TO DATE PROCEEDS TOTAL \$697

**2017 Sacramental Programme:** Enrolments are now being called for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for 2017. The formation of the Sacraments will be commencing very early in Term 1. Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible. **Reconciliation will be Wednesday 29th March 2017. First Holy Communion weekends will be Sunday 10th OR Sunday 17th September 2017.**

**Parish Office Closure:** During the Christmas and New Year period the Parish Office will be CLOSED (that is 28th, 29th and 30th December).

**Donation:** **THANK YOU** to the **Golden Oldies** for their generous donation of \$200 which will be going towards a replacement LAPTOP for the Church.

### PPC REPORT

The PPC met on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> December for our last meeting for 2016. Mons expressed his appreciation for all the support the PPC give to him and to the parish. Kevin welcomed Margaret Campbell as one of our new PPC members. Marie O'Meara was an apology. Both of these members have been appointed to the portfolio of 'To build a vibrant parish'.

**CARPARK:** Our parish/school carpark is now operational. Please use caution when entering and exiting the new area.

**PARISH DINNER:** Our parish dinner was once again a success and a big thank you to Brenda and Leo Pye for organising this. It is hoped that we will have another one in February 2017.

**CHRISTMAS:** The Liturgy Team have been working hard to organise our Christmas Liturgies. We are very grateful to those members who avail of their time and effort into making our Liturgies a living experience.

***The PPC wish everyone a Blessed and happy Christmas season and thank the parishioners for their support and trust. We look forward to 2017 and continuing to make St. Marys a vibrant and friendly parish.***

**A copy of the PPC minutes are available at the back of the church.**

## THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO [JOSEPH] IN A DREAM

*Isaiah 35:4*

from Emmanuel Booklet

Written by Fr David Catterall PP

During his Apostolic visit to the Phillippines in 2015, Pope Francis had a special meeting with families. During his address at this gathering, Pope Francis told his hearers that on his table in his residence, he has an image of St Joseph sleeping, and that when he has a problem or difficulty, he writes a little note and puts it underneath St Joseph so that he can dream about it.

In the light of this personal revelation that he has a "great love for St Joseph", the Pope went on to say, "The Scriptures seldom speak of St Joseph, but when they do, we often find him resting, as an angel reveals God's will to him in his dreams. In the Gospel passage .... we find Joseph resting not once, but twice .... I am very fond of dreams in families .... when you make your examination of conscience ....ask yourselves this question: Today did I dream about my children's future? Today did I dream about the love of my husband, my wife? Did I dream about my parents and grandparents who have gone before me? Dreaming is very important. Especially dreaming in families. Do not lose this ability to dream! How many difficulties in married life are resolved when we leave room for

**O God, St Joseph's rest revealed your will to him.  
May we have the courage and strength  
to dream like St Joseph.  
Amen**



**The Christmas Novena** begins on 17 December. At this point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. *GNLYC 42*  
This is the best time to hold carols services and to begin to sing Christmas carols in the liturgy. *ORDO 016*

### CHOOSE BETTER SAFER CARE NOT EUTHANASIA

Inside this week's bulletin you will find a statement from Father Tony Kerin, Episcopal Vicar for Life, Marriage and Family of the Archdiocese of Melbourne on the above subject. I encourage you to read this statement. Thank you.

*Monsignor Peter Jeffrey*

### MASS FOR THOSE ILL OR FRAIL AT HOME

Find Mass 'Streamed Live' or 'On Demand' via the internet or mobile devices:

- **'Mass on Demand'** St Mary's Church, North Sydney (Our Lady of the Way, a Jesuit Church): CathNews YouTube channel OR [www.northsydneycatholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand](http://www.northsydneycatholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand)
- **Mass Streamed Live 9.30 am each day** from Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, NSW. Plus Adoration and Benediction on Saturdays: [www.dbb.org.au/](http://www.dbb.org.au/) Click 'Watch Mass Live' button.
- **'Mass for You at Home'** —6 am Sunday Mass and saved program. Channel 10 TV. [tenplay.com.au/channel-ten/mass-for-you-at-home](http://tenplay.com.au/channel-ten/mass-for-you-at-home)

### Christmas gift ideas

*To your enemy, give forgiveness.*

*To an opponent, give tolerance.*

*To your loved ones, family and friends,  
give your heart.*

*To a customer, give exemplary service.*

*To your work and employer, give 110%*

*To all, give charity.*

*To every child, be a good role model*

*To yourself, be kind*

*and give the gift of respect to all.*



## POSITION VACANT PARISH HOUSE CLEANER

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