



# PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH

18th December 2016

4th Sunday of Advent-Year A Violet

Bulletin Vol.13 Issue 46  
Deadline: Tuesday pm

## Parish Team

FR MANU KUMBIDIYAMACKAL MSFS  
(PARISH PRIEST)

SINDI KINLOCH  
(Parish Assistant)

PAULINE LAI  
(Finance Officer)

JILL BROKENSHA  
(Secretary)

ANGELA COON  
(APRIM at St Francis Xavier)

## Parish Admin Office

50 Reservoir Rd, Hope Valley 5090  
Ph: 8264 7590 Fax: 8265 2012

### Email:

paramodcath@adam.com.au

### Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 9am-2pm

## Holy Trinity Church

3 James Street, Para Hills 5096

## St John XXIII Church

50 Reservoir Rd, Hope Valley 5090

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY  
CELEBRATED AT 6PM &  
10AM MASSES.**

## BAPTISMS

Celebrated EITHER during the  
6pm, 8am & 10 am Masses on  
the 2nd Sun of the month OR  
11.30am at Holy Trinity  
12noon at John XXIII  
(Alternately on 4th Sun)  
Bookings to be made through  
the Parish Office, OR ON OUR  
WEBSITE

## MARRIAGES

By appointment only

## REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Francis Xavier's**  
(Primary) 8251 9500  
Carignane St,  
Wynn Vale 5127

**Gleeson College**  
(Secondary) 8282 6600  
40-60 Surrey Farm Drive,  
Golden Grove 5125

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of this region.  
Let us share and learn together for reconciliation and justice.

**ST JOHN XXIII**  
Hope Valley

Monday 9.15am  
Tuesday 9.15am

## MASS TIMES



**HOLY TRINITY**  
Para Hills

Wednesday 7pm  
Friday 9.15am  
(Adoration Before Friday  
Mass commencing  
8.30am)

Tue	20th Dec	Legion of Mary	12.30pm - 2pm	Holy Trinity
Thurs	22nd Dec	Christian Meditation	2pm - 3pm	St John XXIII

## OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK

Mon	19th Dec	Christmas Play Practice	3 - 5pm	Holy Trinity
Wed	21st Dec	Church Decorating	10am	St John XXIII
Fri	23rd Dec	Christmas Play Practice	3 - 4pm	Holy Trinity

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### Christmas Eve - Saturday

**24th December**

**6.30pm - Family Mass**

**at Holy Trinity**

**8.30pm - Mass at St John XXIII**

**MIDNIGHT MASS at St John XXIII**

### Christmas Day - Sunday

**25th December**

**9am Mass at Holy Trinity**

**9am Mass at St John XXIII**



## OFFICE HOURS CHRISTMAS WEEK

MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER	9am - 2pm
WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER	9am - 12 noon
THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER	CLOSED



OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2017

## Joseph's Decision: The Way of Love and Mercy

Mary was found to be with child. There had been a time when Jewish Law would have mandated that Mary be stoned to death for such a thing, and Joseph certainly knew this. Joseph had the option of bringing her before the elders. Joseph knew the consequences for Mary would be severe. This was the dilemma that Joseph had to wrestle with. The Bible said one thing, but his heart said another. In the end, Joseph chose the more merciful path. He decided to spare Mary the public disgrace and divorce her quietly. Divorce in those days was strictly a man's prerogative. It was relatively simple compared to today's standards. Joseph merely had to write a letter dismissing her from the betrothal contract and have two male witnesses sign it, attesting to the divorce. Mary then would be freed from the contract and be available to enter into a betrothal contract with another man. Of course, that would be a remote possibility, given that she was single and with child. But for Joseph, that was clearly the more merciful alternative. We might imagine it was not the best of times for him, as his world had been totally shaken. Perhaps he slept restlessly on his bed that night, agonising over the words to be written. And then there was the matter of trying to locate two discrete acquaintances to witness the document. We can surmise he was probably doing some tossing and turning that night. It was only after he had made his decision that he had his angelic visitation. The problem that Joseph faced is one that many of us have probably faced, at one time or another in our lives. The Bible is filled with rules and regulations. There are many laws and commandments, and at times we inevitably find ourselves in conflict with one or more of them. Often it seems that the letter of the law and the spirit of the law as we understand it, are different. Because of the complexity of Scripture, many tend to focus on specific verses to make one's case or another. The problem is worsened because we tend to read the ancient writings of the Bible with our twenty-first century lenses. Our contemporary values colour how we interpret what we read; we forget that different people in different times saw things in a much different way. Joseph knew what the scriptures said about Mary being pregnant. He knew the child wasn't his and therein lays the problem. He understood his rights and the legal consequences of her actions. But his heart spoke to him of love and of mercy and he chose the better way. The way of Christian faith for most of us has never been a bed of roses. Sometimes we find ourselves having to decide between the letter and the spirit of the law. Sometimes we get it right, and perhaps sometimes we get it wrong. But in our Gospel story this morning, we learn that Joseph got it right. It is interesting that the name Joseph translated from Hebrew into Latin means, "beyond reproach." There are times we'll all struggle trying to get it right. Life is just like that. But sometimes we have to let our heart speak to us in the quiet of the night. Those angels are still out there, with the words they've been called to speak. It is in the stillness of our loving hearts that we are best able to perceive their voices.

Fr Manu Kumbidiyamackal MSFS

Readings for 25th December 2016, **Year A**

1st Reading :Isaiah 9:1-7

2nd Reading :Titus 2:11-14

Gospel :Luke 2:1-14

### Saints/Feast Days Of the Week

21st St Peter Canisius

23rd St John of Kanty

25th The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

### Our Community's Prayer Petitions

**PLEASE NOTE: THE NAMES ON THE SICK LIST WILL REMAIN FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.**

**BULLETIN PRAYER LIST:** Please note that names can only be added to this list by immediate family, or the ill person themselves (for reasons of privacy).

### Please Remember in your Prayers

#### THOSE WHO ARE SICK, especially:

Ros Glastonbury, Beulah Hayter, Myles Mahony, Betty Roper, Les Ost, Imperia De ionno, Julie Reimann, Wayne Collins, Imelda Schulz, Maddison Calleja, Janice Forrester, Ray Zielonka, Ann Stanton, Jim Marlow, Marie Canavan, Gerry Canavan, Jayden Lee, Audrey Athayde, Phyllis Anthony, John Martin, Marie Boulton, Sr. Marleen Dewar OLSH, Kay Kennedy, Gaetana Grima, Fiona Power, Rita Robinson, Eileen Ryan, Gary Lockyer, Yvonne Summers, Darcy Ridley, Marie Bakaj, Jennifer Francou, Regan Barry, John Cherry, Dudley Dolman, Fr. Michael Walsh, Pat Feutrill, Paul Holmes, Michael Lochhead.

### Recently Deceased

Emanuel Camilleri, Trevor Oldman.



### PLEASE NOTE

**THERE WILL BE NO MASS CELEBRATED AT THE MODBURY HOSPITAL UNTIL 9TH FEBRUARY 2017**

### RENEWING PARISHES

**Eucharistic communities that are viable will be enabled to continue.**

There will be times when there will be a need to discern whether particular communities remain viable. But smaller Eucharistic communities can be closer to the people, and are to be maintained in our new and emerging pastoral structures, as long as they have the capacity, and the ministers, to be genuine centre of Christian life, formation in discipleship, outreach to those in need, and life-giving Eucharistic celebrations. It is important to recognise the value of other forms of prayer in such communities, including services of the Word, and liturgies of the Word with Holy Communion. There is value in keeping local communities in place, and we need to respect the identity, language and culture of such communities.

### CHANGE OF MASS TIME

**MASS AT 9.15AM AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH WILL BE NOT BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
 HQ: 1300 729 202 from 9.00am — 1.00pm  
 or [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)



**PARA HILLS VINNIES CONFERENCE**

*Would like to **THANK ALL Parishioners** for your support and generous donations during 2016.*

*It is much appreciated by our Committee.*

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS.**



DEVELOPMENT FUND 2016

Congratulations Margaret Dunn  
 No. 77

Drawn by Sandra Dini

Contact: Marg Dolman 8264 1317  
 to be included in the draw.

Happy Birthday December Babies

24th Gail Martin  
 25th Ursula Moore



CHRISTMAS EVE  
GOSPEL PLAY PRACTICES

at Holy Trinity

Please note that practices on  
 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December and  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December will  
commence at 3pm,  
 for approximately 1 hour.



After the practice on the 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a  
 Christmas get-together for the children.

Please collect your Children promptly  
 at 5pm.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> December please collect your  
 Children promptly at 4pm

Thank you and God Bless  
 Jen O'Neill and R.E. Teachers

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

**There will be a Special  
 Collection at all Christmas  
 Masses for CARITAS.**



BULLETIN NOTICES

The very last Bulletin for 2016 will be  
 printed on Wednesday 21st December.

If you have any notices to be  
 included in this final Bulletin for the year  
 please send them in by

Monday 19th December.

*Thank You.*

*Wishing you all a  
 Very Merry Christmas &  
 Happy New Year*

*Jill Brokensha, Parish Secretary*

**PLEASE NOTE**

**THERE WILL BE NO BULLETINS  
 PRINTED UNTIL THE WEEK-END  
 OF 21st/22nd JANUARY 2017.**

**Please send in any  
 notices that need to be placed in this  
 first bulletin by  
Tuesday 17th January.**

*Thank You*

*Jill Brokensha, Parish Secretary*

PLEASE NOTE

If supplies are needed for Holy Trinity Church or  
 Holy Trinity Hall please write the required item on the  
 notice board in the KITCHEN AREA OF THE CRY  
 ROOM (**AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH**).

Please place your name and item needed for which  
 area that it is required, ON THE WHITE BOARD.

HELP

We are in need of helpers to decorate the  
 St John XXIII Church for Christmas  
 Celebrations on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
 commencing at 10am. Come join in the  
 Christmas Spirit with us.



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel:  
 God is with us.**



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL THANK YOU

Many thanks to Sally Ryan and Veronica Zielonka for the donation of jams, Andrea Randell for chocolates in mugs and Maureen Kenny, Brenda Whitehead and Margaret Whennan for their help on the Produce Stall over the three days.

The Produce Stall was a great success raising \$3,500.

Overall the Christmas Tree Festival raised approximately \$19,000 which goes towards supporting the Pastoral Care Workers in schools in the Tea Tree Gully area.

*Renata Jarrad*

*Coordinator, CTF Produce Stall 2016.*



Lots of lovely young guinea pigs to give away for Christmas.

Contact Tony on 0414 978 386  
Modbury Heights.

## PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

Fr Jack will be presenting a talk on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 3pm at St John XXIII for those who are interested and have been Spiritually following the Journey of the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October/November 2016.



## KIDS CORNER

The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will. Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world? Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, And the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen



*(Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933)*



**Palms  
Australia**

*A Palms Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor: A last minute gift that will deliver the real message of Christmas and be remembered forever. Palms long-term volunteers guide this intimate, immersive, inter cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding.*

**Get a Christmas gift voucher for any 2017 Encounter. Register now for our 2 – 14 April Encounter and receive \$400 off a 2nd ticket.**

Call Roger on 02 9560 5333 or go to [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) **Encounters** for more.

**Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life.**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers this year including the Quiz Night, Curry Night, Soup Night, sale of Entertainment books and the Christmas Stall. These activities have raised much needed funds for the Maliana diocese. An amount of \$10,000 raised over the last 4 years, has recently been forwarded to Caritas Maliana. Your financial support enables us to now assist the people of Maliana diocese in purchasing items we take for granted including toilets for communities and educational needs for children in towns and remote areas.

Our committee members wish you all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

East Timor committee

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

There will be no Christian Meditation on the 22nd December. Christian Meditation will return on the 5th January, 2017.

## SENIORS SOCIAL CLUB

**MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS TIME  
BE BLESSED WITH PEACE, HOPE  
AND HAPPINESS**



We begin again **Wednesday  
February 8th 2017**  
From 1pm

## Vocations Cross

*Thank you to the Mathew Family for hosting the Vocations Cross and Praying or vocations to the priesthood and religious life during the month of November.*

