



PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH TEAM

FR MANU KUMBIDIYAMACKAL
MSFS

(PARISH PRIEST)

TASH SOUTER
(PASTORAL ASSOCIATE)

SINDI KINLOCH
(PARISH ASSISTANT)

PAULINE LAI
(FINANCE OFFICER)

PARISH ADMIN OFFICE

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090
PH: 8264 7590 OR 8264 7093

EMAIL:

office@paramodcath.com.au
bulletin@paramodcath.com.au

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY-FRIDAY: 9AM-2PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

171 KESTERS ROAD,
PARA HILLS 5096

ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

CELEBRATED AT
10AM MASS

BAPTISMS

BOOKINGS TO BE MADE
THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE.

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

PARISH CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS

THERESE MEYERS: 0421 533 761

ANGELA ZAKARIAS:
0401 205 636

11th December 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A - Rose or Violet

Bulletin Vol19
Issue 46

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

MASS TIMES

ST JOHN XXIII Hope Valley

Monday 9.15am
Tuesday 9.15am
Thursday 9.15am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8am



HOLY TRINITY Para Hills

Wednesday 7pm
Friday 9.15am
(Adoration Before Mass
commencing 8.30am)
Saturday 9.15am
Sunday 10am

**Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday after 9.15am Mass at Holy Trinity
and 5.30pm at St John XXIII**

COVID UPDATE

To help protect the most vulnerable within our Parish community we strongly encourage everyone to continue wearing masks during Mass

Please do not attend Mass or other Parish functions if you are unwell.

Doubt and Faith: Learn from John

Scripture scholars over the centuries have wondered why John sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he were the one who was to come. After all, if anyone ought to know who Jesus is, if anyone ought to know that Jesus is the Messiah, surely, it's John the Baptist. According to the gospel of Luke, John and Jesus are cousins, nearly the same age, John is six months older than Jesus. So, like any good cousins, they had to have played together as children. Then, of course, he baptized Jesus, and according to the Gospel of Matthew, identified him as the Messiah. So how is it that after all of that, John still wonders whether Jesus is the one who is to come and asks the question, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" He sends this question across to Jesus from the prison.

Scholars speak of two possible explanations: 1) John knew that Jesus was the Christ and, as a prisoner, he wanted his disciples to follow Jesus as their new master. So, he sent them to ask Jesus this question and presumed that, once they had met Jesus, they would see for themselves that he was the Messiah and so would become followers of Jesus. 2) John began to doubt Jesus' identity as the promised Messiah. The silent healing, preaching, saving, and empowering ministry of Jesus was a surprise to John and to those who expected a fire-and-brimstone Messiah. Besides, Jesus had not yet fulfilled John's prediction that the One-to-come would baptize the repentant in the Holy Spirit. Nor did Jesus conform to popular Jewish beliefs about a warrior and a political Messiah who would bring political, social, and economic deliverance to Israel. Instead, Jesus pronounced blessings on the poor in spirit, the meek, and peacemakers (5:1-11). He called his disciples to love their enemies (5:42-48). He warned his disciples

Cont.....

not to judge others (7:1-5). For John, these teachings might have seemed to weaken rather than to strengthen the Messiah's cause. Furthermore, Jesus moved away from Jerusalem, the home of the Temple and the centre of religious authority and began his ministry in Galilee among the common people (4:12). John proclaimed the power of the coming Messiah to bring in a new age, and instead found himself imprisoned in the dungeon of Herod's prison-fortress. He might have been wondering why the expected Messiah was not setting him free as Isaiah (61:1) had predicted. John might have found sympathetic doubters among his own disciples who might have wondered how the Messiah could leave their own teacher in prison, and how He could usher in the kingdom without political or military might. So, John sent his disciples to dispel his doubt, asking: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Instead of criticizing Jesus or breaking away from him, John approached Jesus through his disciples. The disciples asked Jesus whether he was the one to come or if they should look for another. John might have had his doubts, but he was open to hearing Jesus say that he was, indeed, the one! John must have recognized the Scriptural allusions behind Jesus' answer. Isaiah 29:18 speaks of the deaf hearing and the blind seeing. Isaiah 35:6 speaks of the lame leaping like a deer. Isaiah 26:19 speaks of the dead becoming alive. Isaiah 61:1 speaks of good news for the oppressed, the broken-hearted, captives and prisoners. These were signs of the Messiah's coming. Jesus could have rebuked John for his doubts, but instead offered him a blessing. Jesus had not lived up to John's expectations, but John did not allow that to be a stumbling block.

From a theological perspective, this entire episode helps us to understand how the experience of a Faith crisis can play a role in our spiritual and emotional development. If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct encounter with Jesus the Messiah, could doubt and question his Faith, then so can we. We, too, must be open to these possibilities of doubts and questions. There's a lot in our world to be worried and frightened about. There are plenty of problems to occupy our minds. Perhaps we also wonder if we've got it wrong about God, love, hope and new life. Maybe like John we'd like to ask "is our God really God?" or "were we right to believe and trust in him?" Faith has many questions, most of which can't be answered through pure reasoning. Always remember the heart has its reasons which reason does not know. In moments of doubt, despair and disillusionment, we are, indeed, in good company. Like John, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth, so that God will be able to dispel our doubts. We, too, should be encouraged by today's readings. They remind us that our lives can also be transformed, if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome Him.

Janakumbudramalakal

Readings for Sunday, 18th December 2022

1st Reading	Is	7:10 - 14
2nd Reading	Rom	1:1 - 7
Gospel	Mt	1:18 - 24

Saints & Feast Days

12th Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
13th Dec	St Lucy
14th Dec	St John of the Cross

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:**

Margaret Penny, Peter Ryan, Theresa Camilleri, Corrie Bowman, Martha Fernandez, Carmel Adams, Vesna Zagar, Kim Pope, Anne Hughes, David Truman, Bruce Tilley, Anne Valentine, Ken Randell, Mary Rose Probst, Emelia Pudelek, Maria Trotta, Joan Walmsley, Lil Buckley, Pat Collins, Margaret Pitt, Anne Van Der Arend, Patricia Kopf, Darcy Ridley, Jayden Lee, Maria Hand, Molly Holmes, Asher Caudle, Father Peter Milburn, Emma Gammon, David North, Elijah Neri, Marg Dolman, Sean Molloy, Antoinette Pascale, Charlotte Fussell, Reta Lockyer, John MacGrath, Mary Redmond, Graham Speed, Marlen Piineda, Rosa Maria Santos, Betty Roper, Imperia De Ionno, Julie Reimann, Gerry Canavan, Kay Kennedy, Gary Lockyer, Rita Robinson, Yvonne Summers, Sr. Marleen Dewar OLSH

Recently Deceased

Sr Carmel Thomas

WORKING BEE

TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

St John XXIII

Saturday 17th December 9.30am - 12noon

Our aim is to do a general clean up of the Mass Centre and to wash the windows in preparation for the Christmas Liturgies.

Morning tea will be provided.

Many hands make light work

Collections

As of this weekend, 10th/11th December, we are recommencing having the first and second collections during Mass.

Collectors will again be needed at all weekend Masses.

The collection baskets will remain available at the entrance of the churches at weekday Masses for those who are not attending weekend Masses but would like to contribute to support our Priests and Parish.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, come and save us.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HQ: 1300 729 202 from 9.00am — 1.00pm
or www.vinnies.org.au



**St Vincent de Paul
Modbury Conference**

Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!

This weekend of Dec 10/11th is the last to return your card and donated item to the Giving Tree.

We pack the hampers on Friday 16th for collection on the Saturday morning.

The requests for Christmas hampers currently stands at 23, but is expected to grow in the next week, we'll draw the line at about 30, but take requests until December 13th.

The collection of the St Francis Xavier Christmas Appeal will take place on December 9th and should boost our stocks for the hampers and home visits.

We'll collect our allocation of toys and gifts arising from the MRA Toy Run on the 14th.

After the hamper activity we suspend assistance calls until after Australia Day. Your support has enabled us to respond to over 180 calls for assistance this year.

We had seven calls to deal with last week so if you're still able to contribute Sugar (1kg) and Margarine are needed in the pantry.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December

Holy Trinity Church - 6.30pm

St John XXIII Church - 8.30pm

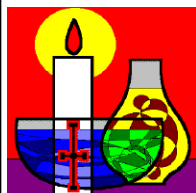
St John XXIII Church - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December

St John XXIII Church - 8am

Holy Trinity Church - 10am



Anointing of the Sick

We will have the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on the following dates:

**Tuesday 13th December at
St John XXIII Mass at 9.15am.**

**Wednesday 14th December at
Holy Trinity Church Mass at 7pm**

If there are people at home who require anointing but not able to attend, please call the office to arrange a visit from Fr Manu.

Parishioner of Inspiration Awards 2022

Last weekend we announced the winners of our Parishioner of Inspiration Awards.

In the Senior section the award winner was **Ann Cotton**

In the Junior section the winner was **Alana Benny.**



As a parish we have been blessed by the inspirational work of both Ann and Alana just as we have by the service provided by all of our volunteers



**Do You Value Our Monthly
Catch up and Cuppas after Mass?**

Without some new volunteers to replace those who have had to retire due to ill health and/or advanced age we will have to cancel the cuppas.

Please consider joining a roster to assist with preparation, serving, or clean up after these events and if able to volunteer contact the parish office.

SIMBANG GABI

The FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI tradition is coming back to Holy Trinity Church Para Hills!!!

Please make yourself available and join us on Tuesday 20th December 2022 from 7:00 pm.

For further details please contact:
Divina Callado - 0403 465 871 or
Fely Cruz - 0402 466 416

♡ **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** ♡

Christmas Liturgies

As Christmas is fast approaching the Liturgy Committee have outlined the list of duties required at our Christmas Masses.

If you are kindly available to volunteer in anyway at all, please add your name to the list.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia

ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK

Wed
Sat

14th Dec
17th Dec

Seniors Social Group
Working Bee

1pm
9.30am - 12noon
Holy Trinity
St John XXIII



DEVELOPMENT FUND 2022

Congratulations to our winner

No 84, Michael Flavel
Drawn by Miriam Morrison

If you would like to be included in the draw
Please contact: Barbara Mathews 8258 8806

Volunteer Position Vacant Modbury Community and Craft Group Coordinator

The parish is seeking a volunteer interested in crafts and building community to coordinate the Craft Group which has been operating in the Parish for nearly 25 years.

There is a very active and supportive committee which will support you in the role.

All interested should contact
Mary Bryant on 0403024386
before December 22nd.



Advent Appeal For Ukraine 10th/11th December

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia.

We are having a special collection this weekend which will support *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine.

The organisation has three focus areas:
Evacuation of people from frontline territories;
Food packages for people in need;
Shelters for internally displaced persons.

Find out more at: www.catholic.au

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER BABIES

10th Dec Rosalind Lucy Bell.
11th Dec Katrina Lineage
12th Dec Ann-Marie Lineage
Robert Giebel
13th Dec Margaret Giebel
14th Dec Frank Gavini
Alice Craig
15th Dec Michael Moss
Sue Air
16th Dec Carmel Lineage



OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will close
on Friday 16th December 2022
and reopen on
Tuesday 24th January 2023

Synod of Bishops

The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality.

Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently.

Read the document and access the submission portal at: www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch.

Mary MacKillop Museum Gift Shop

Special Christmas gift stall during December
Handcrafted cards for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, bereavements, sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, First Reconciliation, Communion and Marriage)

Most of the above items are also available online:
www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au.

A 'click and collect' option is available.

Stewardship Reflection

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." Matthew 11:4-5

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things; our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more and we often take it all for granted.

The good steward recognises every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.



THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The December edition will be inserted in The Advertiser on December 17 and free copies will also be available at the back of both churches. or online at www.thesoutherncross.org.au