



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

18th December 2022
4th Sunday of Advent, Year A - Violet

Bulletin Vol19
Issue 47

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.

St Joseph: The Unsung Hero



There are three famous biblical personalities that dominate the Advent season, Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary. But suddenly today a fourth biblical personality appears ever so briefly in the Gospels and then disappears in the person of St. Joseph. While St. Luke presents the infancy narrative through the main character of Mary, St. Matthew builds the story around the person of Joseph. In both accounts there is an angelic appearance: in one case to Mary and in the other to Joseph. Mary is told in St. Luke's gospel that she is to bear a son. In Joseph's case, he is told not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife, because the child whom she is carrying is of the Holy Spirit. The stories presented in both the narratives are different, but the central message is the same. Mary

is the mother of the Child and Joseph is given a new mission. St. Matthew gives Joseph a very wonderful character. However. When Joseph finds out that Mary is pregnant, he undergoes a severe crisis. But he has such respect for Mary that he does not want to expose her publicly but will do it in private. But even this 'inspired' decision of Joseph is not good enough for God. So, God intervenes. In a dream, an angel tells Joseph about the mystery surrounding Mary's pregnancy, that she is conceived 'through the Holy Spirit.' For his part, Joseph is to be the husband of Mary and the foster father of God's Son. One thing is clear about Joseph that he is 'a righteous man', a good man, an honest man. Ignatius of Loyola was the founder of the Jesuit order of the Catholic Church. He once said: "There are very few people

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who realise what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands and let themselves be formed by his grace." Joseph was 'a righteous man' who abandoned himself into God's hands. So as a man abandoning himself into God's hands, what is Joseph to do about Mary? He may be a righteous man, but he's not 'hard-line' righteous. We can be righteous in a way that sticks to the rules above everything else. A 'hard-line' righteous person would make sure the rules are followed to the letter. If Joseph had followed a hard-line righteousness, he could have taken steps to have Mary stoned to death. Joseph could have had Mary stoned to death and still be considered a righteous man. But Joseph is a good man. He's not rule-bound. Joseph doesn't want Mary to be the object of scorn; he doesn't want her life to be ruined. He planned to dismiss her quietly. But God has other plans. In a dream, an angel tells Joseph that Mary's son will fulfil the ancient dream of Israel for a deliverer, a Messiah. He listens to the dream, and takes Mary for his wife, removing the shame from her.

A dad has great influence on his children, for good or bad; and Joseph was a great choice to serve as Jesus' dad. We might expect that Jesus learned from Joseph like any child learning from his dad. Isn't that one of the things it means to be a real human being, that we learn from our parents? Matthew's Gospel summarises Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, which is found in chapters 5-7. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." Joseph had already shown mercy to Mary. Jesus says: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Joseph risked gossip and being labelled a 'husband of an adulterous wife' for Jesus. Jesus says: "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." Joseph did not judge Mary. Jesus teaches: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Joseph followed this 'Golden Rule' in the way he related to Mary. Joseph's heart was prepared for the coming of Jesus into his life. Joseph was a follower of God. He was a righteous man, but not 'hard-line righteous'. Joseph was a good man. God was able to do wonderful things through Joseph. We don't hear much more about him in the Gospel stories. But he played a great role in Jesus' life. There are many "good and just" people in the world, like St Joseph. But their stories are seldom splashed on the front page of newspapers or on TV. You see and hear all about rock stars, movie/sports celebrities and entertainers, not to mention politicians. But how often do you hear about the people who quietly go about their work, helping and "being there" when they are needed? Let's say a prayer of gratitude for these quiet but dedicated workers—parents, teachers, mechanics, garbage collectors, nurses, caregivers, caretakers, farmers, drivers. They are our unsung heroes, modern-day St. Josephs. Finally, Joseph is a great example to us of a life abandoned into to God's hands. A life simply centred on God and the community God had placed him in. We can be like that if we will take Joseph as an example.

Janu Kumudramalakal

Readings for Sunday, 25th December 2022

1st Reading	Is	9:1 - 7
2nd Reading	Titus	2:11 - 14
Gospel	Lk	2:1 - 14

Saints & Feast Days

21st Dec	St Peter Canisius
23rd Dec	St John of Kanty

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, 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

Clean Up After Christmas

After the feast of The Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday the 8th of January 2023, can we please have a few volunteers stay back after 8am & 10am Masses to help with the taking down of the Christmas decorations. Any time that you could give would be greatly appreciated!

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.

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



**St Vincent de Paul
Modbury Conference**

Four calls last week and a couple so far into our last week of home visits.

When we complete the Christmas hamper packing and dispersal we'll be in recess until Australia Day next year. So far the hamper items have only a few deficits compared to the requests, any surpluses of Christmas items will go to Fred's Van.

We finish the home visiting year with our pantry in a reasonably healthy state, thanks to your support and the St Francis Xavier School appeals.

Remember your receipts for donations to the Christmas Appeal are in the box attached to our notice board.

Our Christmas raffle will be drawn when we pack the hampers and prize winners will be advised

We'll continue to empty the food basket through the break if you get the chance to snap up any specials on staples.

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

Please note:

**There will NOT be a
9.15am Mass at Holy Trinity
on Saturday 24th December.**

SIMBANG GABI

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

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** ♡

Carols



Carols will be sung before the 6.30pm Mass at Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve.

Please arrive early if you are attending this Mass.

CHURCH FLOWERS



You will have noticed that there haven't been any flowers in the church during the Season of Advent.

All donations for flowers will go towards the Christmas arrangements.

We take this opportunity to thank those who have donated towards the flowers during the year

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DECEMBER BABIES**

18th Dec Michael Reilly
24th Dec Gail Martin



**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.



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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia



DEVELOPMENT FUND 2022

Congratulations to our winner

No 64, Barbara Matthews
Drawn by Michael Flavel

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.



Christmas Day Appeal for the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

Again this year we will be conducting the annual Christmas Day Appeal collection for the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) with special collections to be taken up at all Christmas Masses.

The Otherway Centre is the home of the Aboriginal Catholic ministry and the cultural hub of Centacare. Money raised from the help fund activities that bring the community together and provide vital healing and yarning opportunities to strengthen cultural and spiritual connections.

Located at Stepney, the Centre has been supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community for more than 30 years.

We ask that you continue to support this appeal generously, and that you remember the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in your prayers and celebrations this Christmas.

SAFETY/SECURITY NOTE

If you are the last person to leave the church/hall at St John XXIII or Holy Trinity please make sure that,

- All lights, fans, air conditioners & sound systems are switched off.
- Windows are shut
- Doors are locked.

Also, for your own safety, if you are in either of the Churches or Hall at Holy Trinity and you are by yourself please keep the door locked.

OFFICE CLOSURE

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



Palms Australia

PALMS AUSTRALIA
**You've got a lot to give beyond
Christmas gifts.**

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live & work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961.

Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home

Palms' Neighbours Without Borders program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via

www.palms.org.au
or by calling P: 02 9560 533
or M: 0422 472 567.

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.

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.