



St Mark's Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047 Tel (02) 9181 1795 Fax (02) 9819 6406
Email stmarks@bigpond.net.au Parish Website www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Priest: Monsignor Vince Redden, EV (Episcopal Vicar of Clergy)
Associate Pastor: Fr Huy Trong Phan (*pronounced Fr Wee*) (Email: FrHuy@bigpond.com)
Pastoral Associate: Ms Mary Cook (Email: cookmary@bigpond.net.au)
Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council: Mr Danny Moiso **School Principal:** Mrs Margaret Sargisson
Parish Administration: Mrs Brenda Irwin (Mon/Tues/Fri) & Mrs Sue O'Neill (Wed/Thurs)
Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 9 am—5 pm Wed & Thurs 9 am—3 pm

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Year B

1 January 2012

Mary, Holy Mother of God

The understanding of what constitutes family relationships in this day and age is complicated by the demands of the times in which we live. For most people the extended family does not live next door, or in the same suburb, in fact they could be interstate or overseas. The sense of support through kinship is threatened by distance, by demands of work. To be specific, the concern of a family about aged parents and how they are coping with illness, frailty and the ever present threat of a slow decline in mental capacity, creates stress and worry. In Australia the freedom of young people often sees the family unit slowly disintegrating as children begin to live their own lives, to engage in social mobility, to do their own thing! It is disconcerting for parents in their desire to nurture and protect their children, to experience apparent disdain by teenage children for family gatherings and socialisation.



While we have enjoyed a Christmas of good cheer and family gatherings, spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves. Due to circumstances beyond their control, principally the power struggles of competing world powers, there are families on the run from wars and persecution of many kinds. We have the luxury of pontificating on how people seeking refuge in Australia from wars and persecution should be dealt with. Turn the boats back? In such discussions I place myself in the shoes of the asylum seekers. I look at Australia, prosperous, with a relatively small population, peaceful and politically stable, why wouldn't I try to get here? Wouldn't I take every opportunity, legal or otherwise, to bring my family to this country? Matthew's Gospel, today, speaks of Joseph, his wife Mary, and child Jesus, having to flee their homeland to avoid death for the child, then returning to their homeland, but not to Bethlehem. Why are we so opposed to settling asylum seekers in Australia?



All members of families, parents or children, are called to great responsibilities within the family. Whether it be the nurture of children or the care of ageing parents, family life is a huge challenge.

Joseph exhibits in his own way an extraordinary belief in God's ongoing care and protection, a belief in God's faithfulness. Each of us, whatever our family situation, is called to just that faithfulness.



Mons Vince Redden, EV
Parish Priest

Today's Liturgy -

Entrance Antiphon

A light will shine on us this day, the Lord is born for us: he shall be called Wonderful God, Prince of peace, Father of the world to come; and his kingship will never end.

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3.5.6.8

May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus.

NEXT WEEK—

Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12



St Mark's Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047 Tel (02) 9181 1795 Fax (02) 9819 6406
Email stmarks@bigpond.net.au Parish Website www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Priest: Monsignor Vince Redden, EV (Episcopal Vicar of Clergy)
Associate Pastor: Fr Huy Trong Phan (*pronounced Fr Wee*) (Email: FrHuy@bigpond.com)
Pastoral Associate: Ms Mary Cook (Email: cookmary@bigpond.net.au)
Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council: Mr Danny Moiso **School Principal:** Mrs Margaret Sargisson
Parish Administration: Mrs Brenda Irwin (Mon/Tues/Fri) & Mrs Sue O'Neill (Wed/Thurs)
Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 9 am—5 pm Wed & Thurs 9 am—3 pm

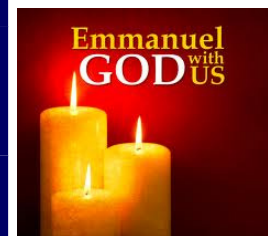
Christmas—The Nativity of Our Lord

Year B

25 December 2011

The Nativity of the Lord Christmas

Christmas has so many facets—celebration of Jesus' birth, family gatherings, holidays! With so much going on, it is easy to miss the whole point of Christmas. To keep ourselves focussed, why not look to just two words, 'Emmanuel' and 'Maranatha', which are rich in Christmas meaning. Two thousand seven hundred years before Jesus the Messiah was born in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah foretold Jesus' birth, 'The Lord himself will give you a sign, look the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel' (Is.7:14). Emmanuel in Hebrew literally means 'God with us'. In Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, he quotes the verse from Isaiah, showing that Jesus' birth is the fulfilment of the prophecy. For us, Emmanuel carries the strong message that God is with us, now and literally. Jesus was born once, now He continues to be with us through the God life given us at Baptism and further enhanced by reception of the other Sacraments. Jesus is present to us when we celebrate and receive the Eucharist, when we hear God's word in Scripture, when we gather together as community sharing Jesus' presence.



In his signing off of his first Letter to the Corinthians, Paul's wish for his readers is, 'Our Lord, come', literally in Aramaic, Maranatha. In the second Preface we use for Advent the theme is, 'Waiting for the two comings of



Christ'. In one sense, Jesus has come, at Bethlehem. Yet in another sense he is continually coming to us through our deepening awareness of who he is, so it is most appropriate to speak of Jesus' coming to us again.

The two words, 'Emmanuel' and 'Maranatha', give us a real understanding of what Christmas is, of Jesus being born for us at Bethlehem, yet continually coming to us in other ways. A final point, if we have Jesus with us, then we should be revealing that presence to others by how we relate to family, friends and others in this Christmas season.



Mons Vince Redden, EV
Parish Priest

Today's Liturgy -

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us, a son given to us; dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful-Counsellor.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

In our time, God speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

NEXT WEEK—

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



The Catholic Weekly

Delivery of the Christmas Issue Combined with the 1 January Issue

The 25 December 2011 Christmas Issue will be delivered together with the 1 January Commemorative 70th Anniversary Issue. The Catholic Weekly is heralding in 2012, its anniversary year, with a souvenir issue highlighting fascinating and historical articles, together with memorabilia from the archives as far back as 1942. It will be a great read for all to enjoy over the Christmas and New Year period. The next issue will be Sunday 8 January 2012.



The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS:

- † Student Christmas art show: 8-page lift-out.
- † 'Outstanding' HSC results for Sydney CEO schools.
- † Five new priests ordained.
- † Sr Mary and 'Boree Log' parish win cash.
- † Parish Nativity scenes.
- † God gave Lauren strength to say 'no' to 'impure' roles.



Would You Like To Help?

Drummoyne Community Centre

Volunteer drivers are urgently needed for 2012. Become a volunteer driver and help local residents with transport difficulties to access activities and appointments. This is a role which will fit around your commitments and fuel expenses will be re-imbursed. Comprehensive car insurance is required.



There will be information sessions for those interested to be held at Drummoyne Community Centre (10 Cometrowe St, Drummoyne) on **Friday 6 January from 2 pm to 3 pm** and **Monday 23 January from 10.30 am to 11.30 am 2012**. Please RSVP—9719 8102 or dccinc3@ozemail.com.au

SCENE (Sydney Congress

Embracing the New Evangelisation)

CREDO will host the third SCENE (Sydney Congress Embracing the New Evangelisation) in 2012 from **Wednesday 11 July to Sunday 15 July 2012**. SCENE is held in non World Youth Day (WYD) years as a follow up event.



It is a multi-faceted experience, like a mini-WYD and allows participants to be immersed in the new evangelisation whilst providing a witness to the vibrancy of the Catholic church in the streets of Sydney.

SAVE THE DATE
COMING UP

The program includes a three-day Vocations Expo in Martin Place, catechesis each morning, lunchtime outreach activities on the city streets, workshops, pub talks, art installations, live music performances, Mass—just to name some of the events! Please mark the dates for SCENE in your calendars.

www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au



Welcome

If you are new to St Mark's please pick up an 'Information for New Parishioners' handout from the Leaflet Cabinet in the Church Foyer.



In your love and concern, please pray for the following ill members of our community—Carlo Balacco, Margaret Biro, Robert Caffery, Charlie Camilleri, Pat Castagnone; Julie Cavanough, Jan Cooney, Carmelina Finocchio, Aileen Gardiner, James Giffen, Daisy Gill, Amelia Ann Godde, John Hanley, Lachlan Jarvis, Des McRae, Cesare Mignacca, Peter Nicastro, Toddy O'Sullivan, Maria Paino, Sebastian Pomareda, Isabella Riccardi, Adam Rogers, Neta Saunders, Pina Sindone, Steve Sparkes, Lynn Sullivan, Anne Whitfield, Christine Whitfield, Elaine Woods, Pat & Tom Gaha, Steve Briscoe, Greg Walsh, Sharyn Killen and all community members unwell at this time.



Recently Deceased: Fr Con Keogh; Antonius (Tony) Smeulders; Evelyn Kenny, Edward Lia, Alan Kelly, Bill Alderman, Fr Jim Doyle (former PP Brighton).
Anniversaries & those we are remembering at this time: Geoff Rice; Nell Egan; Roslyn Iris Poppen, Margherita & Michele Maldarella.



We welcome into our faith community on Sunday 1 January 2012 through the sacrament of Baptism at St Mark's:

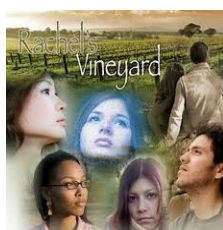
Alexia Morea Duffin
Elizabeth Jane Edwards
Imogen Taylor Green
&
Elisabeth Miriam Zeman



and congratulate their parents.

One-Day Workshop Grief & Loss in Different Faiths & Cultures

On 10 March, 2012 at Mt St Benedict, Pennant Hills, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries will host a workshop that will benefit spiritual directors, chaplains, counsellors, priests and anyone in pastoral care or bereavement counselling.



Richard White, bereavement counsellor with WN Bull Funeral Directors, will explore the model of accompaniment as a way to walk with people who grieve. The following topics will be addressed - how to cope, survive and even thrive; what happens when grief is denied; what to say and what not to say and self-care for those in this ministry.



There will be speakers from different faiths and cultural backgrounds presenting. Details: Tel: 9440 7980 or info@rachelvineyard.org.au or www.rachelvineyard.org.au

NOTICEBOARD

- † **PALMS AUSTRALIA** is the largest Catholic agency recruiting, preparing, sending and supporting volunteers in the Pacific, Timor-Leste, Africa and Asia. This is Palms' Jubilee Year - celebrating 50 years of service! In this Jubilee Year, for the first time, Palms is promoting a very attractive and functional fund-raising diary. Go to www.palms.org.au to make your donation and leave your address for the postage of the diary or phone: Palms Australia (02) 9518 9551.
- † **C-MAIL TO YOU, SUBSCRIBE NOW:** C-Mail is a dynamic, online weekly Catholic newsletter, highlighting top stories from the Archdiocese with national and overseas stories. Generated by Catholic Communications of the Archdiocese of Sydney, C-Mail will draw on our own resources for news and features as well as Vatican resources, the news agency Rome Reports for video news and H2ONews as well as other Catholic news sources. If you would like to subscribe to C-Mail visit www.sydneycatholic.org/news or call 02 9390 5312. NO COST.
- † **CANISIUS CENTRE OF IGNATIUS SPIRITUALITY** (102 Mona Vale Rd, Pymble, www.cis.jesuit.org.au, email: canisius@cis.jesuit.org.au, or 9488 4524) -
 - † Spiritual Direction, by appointment \$55.
 - † Private or Scheduled Retreats—Privately directed \$90 per day (includes spiritual direction, accommodation and meals); 6-day, 8-day, 30 and 40 day retreats on application, 30 weeks in Daily Life Retreats on application.
 - † Outreach—will visit your community to do retreats/prayer days.
- † **COMMUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES IMMERSION TRIP INFORMATION NIGHT**—Communities for Communities are planning an immersion trip to Cebu in the Philippines for 14-22 April 2012 (tentative). No previous experience is necessary. There will be an information night at PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub (Cnr Victoria & Lyons Rds, Drummoyne). Past immersion trip attendees will be there to answer any questions you may have. RSVP: info@communitiesforcommunities.com.au
- † **HEALING MASS**—on Friday 6 January 2012 at St Therese's Church, 15 Garrong Rd, Lakemba. Rosary 7 pm, Reconciliation 7-8 pm, Prayer & Praise 7.30 pm, Mass 8 pm. Celebrant: Fr John Ssemaganda. Enquiries: Rose 9642 2359, 0412 115 961 or email: rosetwyman@optusnet.com.au
- † **GO DEEPER WITH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH**—Catholic Adult Education Centre Term 1, 2012 courses start 6 February. Monday nights at Lidcombe: The Early Church with Robert Hadad and Greek (New Testament) I with Thomas Flynn. Thursday nights at Lidcombe: The Sacraments with Fr Paul Rowse OP & James McDonald and The Gospel of John with Robert Tilley. For more information and to register—9646 9010, study@caec.com.au or www.caec.com.au
- † **PREPARING FOR THE VOCATION OF MARRIAGE?** Of Life & Love Marriage Preparation Weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre. Book your place for 4 & 5 February or 17 & 18 March 2012. Cost: \$230 per couple. For more information call 9646 9010 or www.caec.com.au
- † **CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS**—A 2-day intensive course at Lidcombe with David Schuta (Executive Officer of Ecumenical & Interfaith Dialogue for the Melbourne Archdiocese). Dates: 19 & 20 March. For more information contact the Catholic Adult Education Centre on 9646 9010, study@caec.com.au or www.caec.com.au



ALTAR SOCIETY GP 2:

Alvia Banzato & Marianna Di Marino
1 January 2011

LITURGICAL MINISTERS 25 December 2011 Nativity of the Lord Year B				
THIS WEEK:	WORD	COMMUNION	SERVER/ JEM (jnr euch. min)	CHILDREN'S LITURGY
VIGIL (Saturday) 6 PM Vigil	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A
9.00 AM (Sunday)	TBA	TBA	TBA	No children's liturgy during school holidays
6.00 PM (Sunday)	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A

PARISH DIARY 2011/2012

Regular Gps:		
Monday	St Vincent de Paul Society	7.45 pm—Parish Centre
Tuesdays	Italian Ladies' Prayer Group	1.30 pm—Parish Centre
Thursdays	Charismatic Prayer Group	8.00 pm—Parish Centre



ST MARK'S MASS TIMETABLE

SATURDAY VIGIL:	6.00 pm
SUNDAY:	9.00 am & 6.00 pm
WEEKDAYS:	
Monday & Friday	8.00 am
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am
Wednesday	7.30 am
Saturday	12 noon
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday 11.30 am
EXPOSITION:	Saturday 11.00 am to 12 noon

BAPTISMS are on the first & third Sundays of the month at 10.30 am. During Lent no Baptisms are celebrated. Parents are asked to contact the Presbytery to make an appointment to discuss details for the Baptism of their child. *Contact Mary Cook at the Presbytery for baptism information and bookings.

MARRIAGES: Parishioners intending marriage are asked to notify the Presbytery at least six months prior to the wedding.

EUCHARIST FOR THE SICK: Anyone who is aware of a Catholic who is sick or housebound should notify the Parish Office so that they can receive the appropriate sacraments.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS 1 January 2011 Mary, the Holy Mother of God Year B				
NEXT WEEK:	WORD	COMMUNION	SERVER/ JEM (jnr euch. min)	CHILDREN'S LITURGY
VIGIL (Saturday) 6 PM Vigil	M Bullock A Gill	M Micheletti	E Pidd	N/A
9.00 AM (Sunday)	C Drury D Reilly N Goodman	J Rapisarda N Ruello	L Wark B Lorizio JEMS: B Rice G Chiera D Bateman	No children's liturgy during school holidays
6.00 PM (Sunday)	T Ficarra D Wing	I Boccalatte	T Boccalatte JEMS: J Cooper	N/A