

St Mark's Parish

www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

1 January 2023

World Day of Peace

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

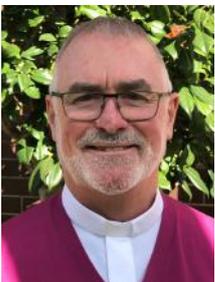
Mary, Mother of God. This day has been celebrated as part of the Octave (eight days) of Christmas since around the sixth century. It is a feast which talks about both Jesus and Mary. It is a celebration of the fact that Jesus was truly God and truly human. Because this is true of Jesus, it is also true that Mary is the "God-Bearer" – the Mother of God.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Today we celebrate the eighth day of the Octave of Christmas with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. We also pray for Peace in the World. The past year has had particular individual challenges also communal challenges that have marked us all. We can now look back with some perspective and see the hand of God in the events of our lives, though some may still be veiled in mystery for some of us.

Mary has a special place in the life of the Church being the one who said "yes" to the angel Gabriel, lived through his birth, childhood, adolescence and maturity, his public life and ministry, was at the foot of the Cross, and with the early Church attested to his Resurrection, Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the early Church. In today's Gospel it says, "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart". This refers to what the angels had said to the shepherds in the fields about Jesus. Mary is a reflective person who takes God seriously, reflects, prays and is open to the workings of God in her life. Let us strive to be like Mary. Open to the presence of Jesus in our lives, disposed to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and always wanting to do God's will in our lives.



We can start this New Year following the example and practise of the Virgin Mary in being mindful, reflective, and present to the needs of others throughout this year.

Yours, in the Lord Jesus,
Fr Michael McLean, Parish Priest

Happy
New Year

WORLD DAY OF PEACE, celebrated on January 1 every year, is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this occasion, Popes generally make authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings (C.S.T.). The theme of the feast has always been about creating a culture of care. The Pope and the Vatican Church stress the need to care and share tolerance for each other, and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others. The benefits of a peaceful society have been the emphasis of every year's World Day of Peace.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE:

World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and understanding. Inspired by the papal letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio", the Pope recommended that the church play a greater role in our search for world peace, and so this day, January 1, was appointed as a holy day to celebrate efforts for world peace.

According to the letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio," the Church and the Pope would focus on working toward achieving peace by developing order in four major areas: The relationship of an individual with other human beings, the relationship of an individual with particular states, the relationship of states among states, and the relationship of individuals and states with the worldwide community. The church determined that in order to achieve actual peace, a culture of understanding and tolerance must be developed, beginning from the individual up to the state and then the global level. Though the main theme of World Day of Peace does not change (creating a culture of care), keeping the main theme around every year's observance of World Day of Peace fixated around the concept of creating a culture of care, the sub-themes changes every year to match the needs and rising issues of that year. The theme for 2023 is

No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.



Living the Gospel ~ A Peaceful New Year?

It is traditional around New Year's Day to make resolutions for the upcoming year: changes that affect the way you live; the way you treat others; setting goals to aim for and work towards. In this context, it is interesting that the Church marks this day as a World Day of Peace. Perhaps, in amongst the self-promises to give up something, get a bit more fit, work and study harder and treat little sisters and brothers better, we might find time to consider ways in which we can bring about a more peaceful world – even just my little bit of it. © Greg Sunter

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

Entrance Antiphon

(All) Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 6.22-27

A reading from the second book of Numbers

They shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The Lord spoke to Moses: 'Speak to Aaron and his sons saying, 'Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;"

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. "So shall they put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 67.1-2, 4-5, 6-7, (R.1a)

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. **(R.)**
2. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. **(R.)**
3. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.

"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night"

(First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, 5:1-2).

In sharing these reflections, it is my hope that in the coming New Year we can journey together, valuing the lessons that history has to teach us. I offer my best wishes to Heads of State and Government, to Heads of International Organizations, and to the leaders of the different religions. To all men and women of good will I

express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year! May Mary Immaculate, Mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace, intercede for us and for the whole world.

Pope Francis - Vatican 2023

[Read the full Pope's message](#)



Second Reading

Galatians 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1.1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now God speaks to us through the Son.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 2.16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The shepherds found Mary, and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. After eight days he was named Jesus.

When the Angels had left them the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

St Mark's Parish

*United in Baptism, Nourished by the Eucharist,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,*

*We Form a Vibrant and Caring Community,
Living and Proclaiming the Gospel,
Reaching Out to Those in Need,
Journeying Together, Growing in Faith.*



*On New Year the household gathers for a blessing.
The calendar of the new year may be held during the blessing.*

Our lives are made of days and nights,
of seasons and years, for we are part of the universe
of suns and moons and planets.

We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all,
we pray to God for the grace and mercy
that fill our every day. Amen.

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Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from
the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life
everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: As we begin this new year, let us ask our Heavenly Father to renew his grace in our lives.

Reader: Let us pray for all mothers of young children, that they may find joy in their vocation and assistance in times of need. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for all expectant mothers, that they and their infants will be kept safe from all harm. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for our religious and civic leaders, that they may be renewed in their understanding of their duties and given courage to fulfil them. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for ourselves, that we may recommit ourselves to living our lives by the values of the Gospel of Jesus. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for those who have died, especially deceased mothers, that they may know the joy of God's Kingdom. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, as we rejoice in the birth of your Son from the womb of Mary, grant us the grace to live in our families, communities and nations in a spirit of peace, love, respect and reconciliation. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Heb 13:8

(All) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.



3 January 2023 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

The name of Jesus is a name of gladness, a name of hope and a name of love. A name of gladness, because if the remembrance of past transgressions afflicts us, this name comforts us, reminding us that the Son of God became man for this purpose, to make himself our Saviour. A name of hope, because he that prays to the Eternal Father in the name of Jesus may hope for every grace he asks for: If you ask the Father anything in My name, He will give it you.



A name of love. For the name of Jesus brings to our remembrance all the sufferings which Jesus has endured for us in his life and at his death.

- Excerpted from St. Alphonsus de Liguori,
The Incarnation Birth and Infancy of Jesus Christ

Gospel Reflection: The Calendar-Shattering Mary

It is fitting that on New Year's Day we celebrate *the* calendar-shattering event in human history: the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race.

In the Western Church, the young woman is titled 'Mother of God'. This signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship. We know that it encompassed a mother's horror of seeing her son tortured to death on the Cross.

Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of *God*.

How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? In the Book of Genesis, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void.

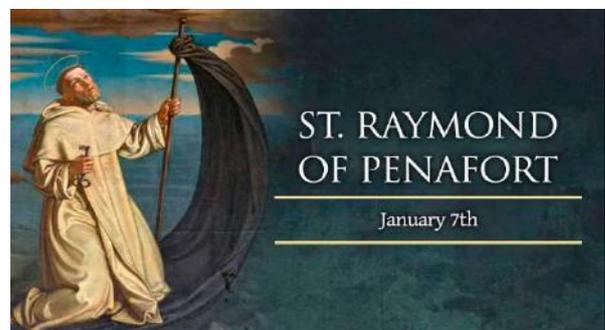
When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word', the human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began, the fulcrum of history from which our calendar begins.

We could pause for a moment to pray that at the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, we may share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God. © Fr Michael Tate



Have you thought? What a woman!

Luke's image of Mary is a very strong one. We must remember that Mary was no more than a girl – probably 14 or 15 years old. This was the usual age for young women to marry at that time. However, there wasn't much that was normal about the previous nine months of her life. In the midst of all the chaos involved in giving birth away from home and in less than ideal circumstances, she remains completely calm and 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. What an extraordinary young woman!
© Greg Sunter



Saint Raymond of Penafort, a Dominican priest who worked to aid Christian captives during the era of the Crusades and also helped organize the Church's legal code, will be celebrated liturgically on Jan. 7.

A contemporary of Saint Thomas Aquinas, he inspired the theologian to write the "Summa Contra Gentiles" for the conversion of non-Catholics. At least 10,000 Muslims reportedly converted as a result of St. Raymond's evangelistic labours.



In our thoughts and prayers

In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our St Mark's community:

Brian and Anne Johnson, Heather Burbidge, Roslyn Chew, Pat Kenna, Joanna McGill, Giuseppina Pinto, Nancy Rice, Maureen Hanvey, Jenny Taubhorn, Nora Bateman, Milly Di Blasio, Rocco Zoccali, Lina Giannandrea, Wendy Madden and Patricia Ryan.

Remembering those who have gone before us.

Santina Macalupo, Marie Ryan, Assunta Sanzari, Geoff Rice, and Chris Grady.

Recently Deceased: John Michael Young.

*As a well-spent day brings happy sleep,
So life well used brings happy death.*
Leonardo da Vinci 1452



In memory during the Holidays

During the holidays, we remember the loved ones who will not be with us this year, our parishioners and family members who have past. They are in our hearts as we come together to celebrate the birth of the Jesus. Even though they are not with us physically, we know that they are held in the loving mercy of God. Because of our faith we know they are celebrating with all the angels and saints in heaven.

The Epiphany of the Lord:

Next Sunday collect your Chalk for Chalking of the Door an Epiphany House Blessing for 2023.



St Mark's Drummoyne Masses

Monday & Friday 8:00am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am
Wednesday 7:30am



Saturday 12 noon
Saturday Reconciliation 11:30am - 11:55am
Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.



WELCOME VISITORS TO
ST MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
May the New Year bring you
blessings for a prosperous life.

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11

Fr Michael, Fr Denis and the parish staff say thank you all for the lovely cards and gifts we have received during this festive season. We thank all our volunteers for their assistance throughout the year.

thank you *happy holidays*

St Mark's Parish Office Closed.



The Parish Office will be closed
from Friday 25 December 2022
and reopen

Monday 9 January 2023

For emergencies call (02) 9181 1795 and leave a message for us to contact you as soon as we can.

St Mark's Catholic Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047
Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au
Parish Website: www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au



St Mark's Church Hearing Loop installed

Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on the pew for others to pick up.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael McLean PP
Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Minns OP
Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR
Chair Parish Pastoral Council: Ms Celine Cheng
School Principal: Ms Rachel Bourke

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone during the Mass.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Website:** Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection