

# Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish

50 FAIRWAY DRIVE, CLEAR ISLAND WATERS, QLD 4226

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm. Tuesday 8.30am-4.30pm

PHONE: (07) 5572 5433 MASS TIMES: (07) 5595 8466 FAX: (07) 5572 5262

EMAIL: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au WEB: www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au

**ONE PARISH**  
**three churches**

## **Sacred Heart**

50 Fairway Drive,  
Clear Island Waters

## **St Vincent's**

40 Hamilton Avenue,  
Surfers Paradise

## **Stella Maris**

254 Hedges Avenue,  
Broadbeach

## **PASTORAL**

*Very Reverend*

*Fr Tim Harris*

*Parish Priest & Dean  
of South Coast Deanery*

*Fr Paul Kelly*

*Associate Pastor*

*Fr Nicholas Okafor*

*Associate Pastor*

*Helen Goldsmith*

*Pastoral Ministry  
Coordinator*

## **PARISH STAFF**

*Sonya Slater*

*Parish Manager*

*Marylou Ayres*

*Parish Secretary*

*Pat Kelly*

*Parish Assistant*

*Stephanie Santos*

*Youth Coordinator*

## **SCHOOLS**

*St Vincent's School*

*Clear Island Waters*

*Phone: 5572 1746*

*P: Kerry Rowlands*

*St Kevin's School*

*Benowa*

*Phone: 5539 4522*

*P: Peter Anderson*

*St Kevin's Kindergarten*

*Phone: 5564 5910*

*Director: Michelle Nelson*

*St Michael's College*

*Merrimac*

*Phone: 5530 2722*

*P: Michael Nayler*

## **THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD** **31st DECEMBER 2016 / 1st JANUARY 2017—YEAR A**

*Dear Parishioners and Visitors,*

### *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

The Gospel of this weekend as we will hear is devoted to the story of the shepherds discovery of a newly-born child. It would appear then that this story is about Jesus birth yet the Church has used it to celebrate the Feast of Mary as truly the Mother of God.

It's Mary's response to Jesus' birth that we need to take note of. Her complete and utter acceptance of Gods ways exalted Mary to play a special role as the one who bears the Son of God in her womb.

From the earliest of times Mary has been called "Theotokos" or God-Bearer (Mother of God). In fact the Council of Ephesus in 431AD insisted "if anyone does not confess that God is truly Emmanuel and that on this account the Holy Virgin is the "Theotokos" (for according to the flesh she gave birth to the Word of God become flesh by birth) let him be anathema".

The Council highlights with this statement that the Church believes that Jesus was divine and human, that the two natures are united in this ONE person. The reason that the early church Council pronounced this doctrine was "Christological" meaning that it had to do with Jesus Christ.

So whilst the church uses this Solemnity to celebrate Mary it also by necessity speaks of the Incarnation. God becoming flesh and blood for the life of the world born of Mary. God in Jesus, and Mary are inextricably linked, hence when Mary is depicted it is much more appropriate for her to be holding her son.

"Theotokos" (Mother of God) therefore reveals a truth not only about who Mary is but an invitation to each of us to become part of the relationship she had with her Son. We can become "God-Bearers" too as we live what we proclaim in the world.

We have a profound truth to share. Mary's "Fiat", her yes to God's will is an example to believers calling on us to say "yes" as well. Saying "yes" like Mary the Mother of God demands from us a radical living out of our baptismal call to ensure that God's will is done in this world through us.

The New Year 2017 is going to be a challenging one. I can already identify a number of 'flashpoints' this year not only in the world but in the Roman catholic church too. Change is coming for sure everywhere so it's a question of how we handle this change.

What better way to begin the new year than to ask for help from Mary the Mother of God so that we will have the faith and courage she showed in listening to the Lord's commands.

Whatever the new year holds we move forward in faith together. May Mary inspire us during these days ahead and most importantly may she pray for us.

Happy New year to all.

**God's Abundant Blessings, Fr Tim**



**READINGS THIS WEEKEND : Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January; Mary the Mother of God;** Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21

**FEASTS THIS WEEK:** Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors; The Most Holy Name of Jesus; St Raymond of Penyafort, priest

**READINGS NEXT WEEK: Sunday 8th January 2017; The Epiphany of the Lord;** Isaiah 60: 1 –6; Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12

thank  
you

Thanks to everyone for your warm welcome to me as I begin as Associate Pastor here at Surfers Paradise Parish. I feel very welcome and I am delighted to be part of the parish. I have enjoyed helping out during this last year and so this appointment here makes it very special. It is really good being a part of the parish team along with our parish priest Fr Tim, and Fr Nicholas, who is enjoying a well-earned break for the next several weeks, and Helen and our wonderful team at the parish office, Marylou, Sonya, Pat, and the many volunteers who help things go so smoothly. I look forward to working with you in this wonderful ministry area. God bless and may the Lord grant us many joys and blessings for the coming year. *Sincerely, Fr Paul*



#### THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

On New Year's Day, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. The divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a source of grace and salvation for us. It is an eminently Marian feast that lends joy and happiness to the various expressions of praise offered to Our Lady on the birth of her divine Son.

Mary said yes to God in perfect freedom. When we say yes to God in our own lives God meets us in many ways; through nature, through prayer, especially through people **"For Christ plays in the ten thousand places, lovely in eyes and limbs not his,"** as the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote. God invites us to join him, he invites us to follow him, he invites us to create with him.

With her yes, Mary partners herself with the Almighty and is empowered to bring Christ into the world. This world-changing yes is what St. Bernard speaks of in one of his sermons on Mary: **"Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word."**

With our own yes to God's voice in our lives we are also asked to nurture the word of God within us and bring Christ into the world in our own situations, in our own ways, using our own talents and graces.

Let us begin a new day and a new year with inner knowledge and understanding of the greatness of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God and we ask that the graciousness of God may remain with each one of us throughout the New Year.

**Blessings, Helen**

**PRAYING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF CHRISTMAS:** Instead of the Light of Christ filling our Christmas, we sometimes experience lightning!! Whatever the experience of Christmas 2016, Jesus came to be our Saviour – and we need continual saving. In the aftermath of challenging human relationships, Jesus can shine a light into the dark corners of our hearts and reveal to us deeper and deeper love. He loves us precisely in those places where our ability to love others unselfishly is still quite shaky. And, it is where we are most disappointed in and angry at loved ones that Jesus desires to embrace us, to give us the grace of reconciliation.

Right after Christmas is the perfect time to look back and examine our hearts. What is Jesus saying to me these days after Christmas? What is he asking me? What is he inviting me to do? Jesus will always draw us to himself, always inviting us into the mystery of the power of surrender. What do I do with my angry and hurt feelings? To hold on to the resentment and anger is to let it become like a cancer in our hearts. Surrender these feelings to Jesus and let what happened be transformed in your heart, from hurt that festers, to something bad that he died to set us free from. This is how God dealt with sin. He nailed it to a tree. Let the other be a fellow sinner loved by the same Lord and Saviour.

Jesus doesn't love us, on the condition that we get our act together first. He loves us because we need loving, and we need it now. The more deeply we experience this love, the more completely we will be able to let the other be loved by Jesus. In the process, we grow in com-compassion for them - an ability to suffer with them. We can begin to see them as Jesus sees them. We can grieve for what they suffer. We can feel sadness for whatever insecurity handicaps them.

Perhaps this week, we can use the healing grace we have received to be a healer ourselves. Once we have prayed for someone, it is much easier to love them. We can be assured that our attempts at healing love will set in motion a process of healing.

**Keep coming, Lord Jesus. Having awaited your coming, we beg you to keep coming to set us free - freer to receive your love, freer to forgive, and freer to love even more self-less-ly. Thank you, Lord. Thank you.**

**A LOVELY MESSAGE RECEIVED**

**FROM A VISITOR TO OUR PARISH**

*To Fr Tim and all your lovely helpers at Surfers Paradise Parish: My husband and I come to Sunday Mass whenever we visit the Gold Coast from Sydney. I have never experienced a church like yours. There is an energy there that is very hard to find anywhere else. The music is part of it, the helpers also a part of it, and the Church goes bring the VIBE, so together you all make Mass very SPECIAL. Thank you.*

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE:** Fr George Joseph MCBS, is leading a 14 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **21<sup>st</sup> May - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017**. This all-inclusive pilgrimage is priced at an *early bird offer* of \$4,990. Reserve your seats with an initial deposit of \$500 prior to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. For the detailed itinerary or to reserve your seats contact **Mr. Rajesh George on 0422 215 855**. Magi Pilgrimages Ph: 03 8562 2246, 1300 721 561 [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au) / [www.magiholidays.com.au](http://www.magiholidays.com.au)



**Octave of Christmas - A**

**A VOCATION VIEW:**

Mary, Mother of the Priest Jesus, is especially Mother to all Priests.

Pray to Mary to ask her guidance in your life.

**THIS WEEK AT VENIRÉ**

Venire will resume next year on

Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2017.

Have a great holidays! Stay in connected on our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/venireyouth](http://www.facebook.com/venireyouth)

**Centenary of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Corinda 1917-2017,**

Commencing at 6pm Sat 28th January 2017 at St Joseph's Church, Oxley Rd, Corinda. Dinner will follow at Sherwood Services Club, Clewley St, Corinda. Please call Corinda Graceville Parish Office 3379 1534 or contact via [corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au)



**PRAYING THE ROSARY:** The statue of Our Lady will be at the home of the family of Suzy Csiki-Bege, for week of **Monday 2nd January 2017**. There is no need to invite anyone else into your home unless you wish to do so. Please phone **Maxine or Pat Sela on 5539 9539** and invite Our Lady to your home for a week. If you are unable to collect the Statue yourself we can bring it to you. **Pat and Maxine Sela.**



**RELIGIOUS GOODS SHOPS**

**ALL CALENDARS NOW REDUCED. COME AND PURCHASE YOUR 2017 CALENDARS NOW SO YOU ARE READY FOR THE NEW YEAR!**



**ALL NIGHT ADORATION**

Please note change of hours for the first Friday the **6th January 2017**: Adoration at Sacred Heart Church will commence at **7.00pm and will conclude at 12 midnight.**

All Welcome. Enquiries to: **Jim 0424 381 069 or Helen 0421 935 678.**



**THE FULL SPIRITUAL EXERCISES (30 WEEKS):**

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola are grounded in the life of Jesus. They are a powerful instrument to bring about significant change in a person's interior life. For this journey a person needs generosity and a readiness to pray for an hour at least five days each week and meet each week with the one giving you the Exercises. Enquiries: Helen Goldsmith on 5572 5433

[helenpastoral@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:helenpastoral@bne.catholic.net.au).

Applications: Faber Centre by 28 February '17.

To contact them email to

[fabercis@bigpond.com](mailto:fabercis@bigpond.com)



**NEWS FROM THE**

**GOLD COAST CATHOLIC LIBRARY**

*Happy wishes for this Festive and Holiday season. An ideal time to relax with a book or two! On display in the Library - "The Infancy Gospels of Jesus": little Elf-Help books about "Grieving at Christmastime", "Feeling Spiritually Empty" and "Loneliness": a great book by prize-winning author Francis Spufford, called "Unapologetic, Why Christianity Makes Sense" and some favourite novels.*

*Whu not prepare for the readings of 2017 with "Who is Jesus Christ? Unlocking the Mystery in the Gospel of Matthew".*

**Happy Reading!**

WHILST THE CAFÉ IS CLOSED FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WE ADVISE THAT SACRED HEART CHURCH OPENING TIMES WILL BE **8.00AM TO 5.00PM** UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY 2017.

MONDAY 2nd January	TUESDAY 3rd January	WEDNESDAY 4th January	THURSDAY 5th January	FRIDAY 6th January	SATURDAY 7th January
7.00am ST VINCENT'S <i>Parish Office is Closed Today</i>	9.00AM SACRED HEART <i>Next Anointing Mass will be on 7.02.2017</i>	9.00AM STELLA MARIS	9.00AM STELLA MARIS	7AM ST VINCENT'S 9AM SACRED HEART	<u>RECONCILIATION</u> 4.15pm STELLA MARIS 5.00pm SACRED HEART 5.15pm ST VINCENT'S

<b>NORMAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES</b>	<b>STELLA MARIS CHURCH</b> Saturday evening 5.00pm AND Sunday 7.00am & 8.30am <b>SACRED HEART CHURCH</b> Saturday evening 6.00pm AND Sunday 9.00am & 6.00pm <b>ST VINCENT'S CHURCH</b> Saturday evening 6.00pm AND Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am
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<b>MIGRANT CHAPLAINS / COMMUNITIES:</b>	<b>FOR MORE PARISH GROUPS, PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE</b>
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**Polish:** Sunday 11.30am Sacred Heart Church  
Fr Bernard Bednarz C/- 3252 2200

**Italian:** Sunday 4.00pm Sacred Heart Church  
Fr Michele Cagna CS 0432110468—Pastoral Support and General Information - Connie 5575 8882

**Filipino:** Next Mass in our Parish is on 1st January 2017 at 12noon in Casey Hall. Fr Terence Nueva 3277 2252

**Hispanic:** 1st & 3rd Sundays 5—7pm St Vincent's Church  
Fr Ignacio Gutierrez 0481 118 521  
Email: paterignacio@yahoo.com

**Maronite Rite:** Saturday 7.15pm Sacred Heart  
Phone: 3394 4994 St Maroun's Church, Brisbane.

**Baptisms:** Please contact the Parish Office 5572 5433 to register.

**Marriages:** Contact Parish Office 5572 5433 (Min 6mths notice required)

**Benediction:** 1st Friday 7.30am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise

**Children's Liturgy of the Word: Weekly at 9am Mass Sacred Heart Church.**

**Stella Maris Church 8.30am Mass 2nd Sunday of each month.**

**Christian Meditation:** Tuesday 10am (Youth Room) Pam Egberts 0428090703. In recess until 7th February 2017

**Tuesday 6pm (Youth Room) continuing on.** Contact Parish Office

**Couples For Christ FFL:** Phone Butch & Mini 0424 583 168/9

**Art & Craft:** In Recess until 25th January 2017

**Book Club:** In Recess until 17th January 2017

**Bridge:** In Recess until 23rd January 17

**SPCL:** In Recess until Tuesday 7th February 2017

**Friendship Day** in recess until Thursday 16th Feb 2017

**Parish Choir Practice:** 8.30am 1st and last Saturdays SH

**Playgroup:** Wednesdays 9.30am Casey Hall, Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters - Sarah 0410 701 515

**Playgroup is Volunteer Based— Each parent needs to sign an attendee sheet at each session.**

**Yoga:** Tuesday 10.45am \$10/Session. In Recess till 31/1/17

**Zumba Gold:** Friday 9.15am Casey Hall. Beginners and Intermediate. Susana Pozzi 0421 607 397 In Recess 6/1/17

**Exposition:** Monday & Friday 6am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise

Tuesday 9.30am Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters

Thursday 9.45am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise

Friday 7pm Sacred Heart Church, 1st Friday 6th January - 7pm to Midnight

**Carmelite Spirituality:** 3rd Sunday of each month 10.30am PHC, CIW  
Contact: Norm Harding 0421 125 575. In Recess until 19th February 2017

**Rosary:** Sunday 7.15am St Vincent's Church

Monday & Friday 6.25am St Vincent's Church

Tuesday & Friday 8.25am Sacred Heart Church, before Mass

Wednesday 8.25am Stella Maris Church, before 9.00am Mass

**Youth Led Mass: 6.00pm Sunday 22nd January 2017**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sam Muscat (Melb.), Georgina Brincat, Sr Mary Whelan RSM, Sr Lorraine Barry RSM, Laurence Woods, Josie Paris, Samir Moussa, Carmelia Shamovian, Maria Nazari, Baby Ollie Hall, Andy Brown, Louie Kazzi, Edwin Ware, Nalin Sena, Mary Mullahy, Ahoi Hong, Jackie Hatfield (Wol-gong), Tony Bui, Karen Gard, Bernadette Lewis (Capetown), Daniel Farrugia, Sean Weldon, Oscar Miranda, John Traynor (UK), Werner Empen, Shirley O'Brien, Sr Mary Mullins, Patricia Sulzberger, Judy West, Michelle Coyle, Colleen O'Shannassy (Vic), Fr John Milliken PP Stanmore, Fadoul Kazzi, Pat Burton, Andreas Lunandi, Ian Finlayson, Gus Reeves, Annette Anning, Sage Amor (Canada), Brian Elsmore, Emile Van Deurse, Ron Mooney, Denise Tracey, Ron Perry, Paul Kiely, Denise Darwin (Syd), Rachel Raines, John Ashby, Dorelle Muller, Michael Kearney, Mike & Barbara Farrell, Marian Komorowski (Poland), Fr Dom Cremesco SVS, Mary Kerr, Conor Cosgrave, Anne Weston, Mary Hayes (Melb), Diep Armstrong.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Padre Franco Di Losa, Victor Paul Aggugia, Carolyn Tobin, Joelle Brown, Maria Horoszko, Margaret Cooper (UK), Carmen De Celis, Bill Heather, Norma Heather, Dolly Tan, Norah & Harold Ragan, Alec Edwards, Dolly Dyer, Merv Cross, Fr Pat (Doc) Kenny.

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Anne McDonald, Irmgard (Joan) Graz,

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING A LEGACY?**  
Phone the Parish Office on 5572 5433

<b>CONTACT FORM:</b> Family Name: _____ Other Names: _____ Address: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____	<b>WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW?</b> <input type="radio"/> REGISTERING IN PARISH <input type="radio"/> SACRAMENT ENQUIRY <input type="radio"/> YOUTH <input type="radio"/> PRAYER REQUEST <input type="radio"/> ROSTER AVAILABILITY <input type="radio"/> OTHER: _____ <input type="radio"/> to commence Parish Planned Giving Program Please place this completed form on the collection plate, or contact the Parish Office on 5572 5433 for further info.
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