



SURFERS PARADISE CATHOLIC PARISH

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Sacred Heart

50 Fairway Drive,
Clear Island Waters

St Vincent's

40 Hamilton Avenue,
Surfers Paradise

Stella Maris

254 Hedges Avenue,
Broadbeach

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr Peter Dillon

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Kelly

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9th / 10th December 2017 – YEAR B

WE SUCCEED in our studies, in our work and in all our endeavours only by preserving momentum, a sense of purpose and confidence. The same applies to Christian life.

The liturgical period of Advent is so refreshing precisely because it rekindles our spiritual momentum by reminding us that we are journeying toward a God who is not just waiting for us, will not just come at a date that no one knows, but keeps arriving in us at every moment.

Jesus' last words in the New Testament are "**Yes, I am coming soon**" (Revelation 22:20).

They convey not only his intention to come at some point in history, but also and especially, the urgency, the eagerness, with which he wants to be part of our existence right now.

The Gospel of Mark warns us against a form of sleep that hampers this momentum, that prevents us from welcoming this "advent", or "arrival": "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping" (Mark 13:36).

Sleeping is necessary for us to function as human beings but **drowsiness** can be fatal if it occurs when we are driving, or while doing something that requires our full attention, such as a surgeon performing an operation. More benignly, if we doze off while watching a film, we lose the plot. We can also lose the plot of our existence because of the spiritual numbness caused by the acceleration of the rhythm of life, the compulsive need to compensate for our exhaustion by abandoning ourselves to the unending distractions technology places at our fingertips. We can go for days, weeks, without ever once looking up to see the larger picture, to check we are heading in the right direction, to recapture a sense of purpose that is the only steadfast source of energy and imagination in whatever we try to achieve.

Jesus' invitation to be alert, however, instead of generating momentum can often be the cause of anxiety, especially when we hear Jesus comparing our situation now to the relation between some servants and a master who has gone away for a while and will pounce suddenly and when we least expect it. (Mark 13:34ff).

Now, it would be wrong to understand this as meaning that Jesus is absent and that he relies on our anxiety and fear as motivations to perform our duties. **God is never absent!** Just as he is ascending into heaven, Jesus promises: "**I am with you until the end of the world**" (Matthew 28:20); his name is Emmanuel, which means "**God with us**" (Matthew 1:23).

Here lies one of the main temptations of spiritual life: to think, as Isaiah says, that God "hides his face from us" and that we are "delivered up to our guilt" (Isaiah 64:6), a guilt that makes us "wither like leaves" and "carries us away like wind" (Isaiah 64:5). Guilt, anxiety, fear can never make us better Christians, can never sustain our spiritual life. A healthy spiritual life unmasks and deflates this anxiety and gently replaces it with mindfulness: "Would that we were mindful of you in our ways" (Isaiah 64:4).

With a God who is with us, who anticipates us, on whose coming we depend "for our life, our movement and our being" (Acts 17:28), mindfulness means responsiveness. Our attention, our alertness, our watchfulness can perceive the delicate ways in which God keeps visiting us only if they respond to his initiative, only if they welcome his advent. In the end, the only effective antidote to anxiety and guilt is truly believing in God's presence at our side and clinging to him (cf. Isaiah 64:6).

Benedictine monk Luigi Gioia

FR PETER DILLON

READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND:

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14-

Mark 1:1-8

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-2; 10-11

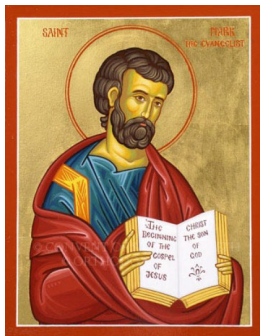
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday 13th Dec: St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Thursday 14th Dec: St John of the Cross, priest, doctor



FATIMA DAY: Come to Marian Valley on Wednesday the **13th of December** and celebrate Fatima Day. The bus will pickup at 7 Lind Ave, Palm Beach, 7.45am, then pickup at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters, at 8.15am. This will be our final trip to the Marian Valley for 2017. The cost for the bus is \$20 return. Please book your seat early with Paula 0402 930918 or 5582 7950 or Madeline on 0405 252 367 or 5529 1573.

CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS Thank you to all the people who have volunteered their help for the Christmas Masses. **A copy of the roster is available in all churches.**

If you need to change or cancel your commitment then please phone Helen at the Parish Office 5572 5433.

Christmas Eve - Children's play

Children are invited to participate in the **6pm Christmas Eve Mass at**

Sacred Heart Church. There will be a meeting and practice on Wednesday 13th December at 9am in Sacred Heart Church. All children are invited. Contact Helen ph. 5572 5433



THE GOLD COAST CITY CHOIR

extends a warm welcome to one and all to attend our last Christmas concert for 2017.

Our program is a **Cantata by Joseph M Martin** and some other Advent music, and is being performed on the following date:

- ◇ **Sunday 10th Dec 2pm (QLD time):**
- ◇ Twin Towns Uniting Church, Cnr. Maclean
- ◇ and Langham Sts Coolangatta.

PRAYING THE ROSARY: The **statue of Our Lady** will be at the home of Rachel & Kemal Coutinho of Broadbeach Waters for the week of Monday 11th December. If you wish to take part please contact Maxine or Pat Sela on 5539 9539.

VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL PASTORAL CARERS:

Expressions of interest for training as a **volunteer hospital pastoral carer** are being sought for training in 2018.

Centacare Pastoral Ministries offers scholarships for training in return for a one morning per week commitment for a minimum two year period. Pastoral care teams in hospitals are highly valued by patients, staff and management. Pastoral care is a very rewarding volunteer role and if you would like to know more contact judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au (Ph: 3324 3193) or look for the brochures available in your parish. Expressions of Interest close **15 January**

thank
you

VOLUNTEERS

MORNING TEA

**10am This Wednesday 13th December
Parish Hospitality Centre**

A special morning tea for all volunteers.

**This means YOU in every ministry
in our parish!**

Please come and join in the fun and laughter over a cuppa and enjoy some beautiful food.

**RSVP required now for catering
purposes - Parish Office 55725433**

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS: Send a Christmas message to those you love, and support those in need. When you choose a **Global Gift card** to give to family or friends this Christmas, you are bringing a moment of joy and helping create a lifetime of change for some of the world's most vulnerable people. **Order Global Gift cards online at: www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413**

THE GOLD COAST LAY CARMELITES will meet at the **Surfers Paradise Parish Hospitality Centre, Clear Island Waters** at **10:30 am Sunday 10th December, 2017**. All are welcome especially those interested in maintaining the reality of *St Paul's Letter to the Romans* at *Chapter 8:9-11*. Please bring a plate for a light shared-lunch and contact Norm Harding 0421 125 575

THE GOLD COAST CATHOLIC LIBRARY:

A Librarian volunteer, Sara, has just finished reading "Dewey, the Small Town Cat Who Touched the World." It's one of my favourites too, so I join with Sara in making it this weeks **HOT READ**. It tells the true story of how an abandoned kitten became the 'library cat' in a small out of the way town in Iowa in the 1980's. He won hearts and inspired an area which had lost hope. Sara writes, "How I cried at the end (me too!). But what a lesson in love and devotion". Thanks Sam for choosing Dewey for us this week.

Jean Di Benedetto

ART AND CRAFT NEWS: This weekend is your last opportunity to purchase tickets in the **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** If you are not interested in buying tickets, you might like to make a donation. Proceeds will assist the Parish and local mission works. The draw will take place next **Sunday 17th December at St Vincent's Church after the 10am Mass**. Prizes can be collected from the Parish Hospitality Centre at 4:30pm on **Monday 18th December**. Thank you for your support.

FR MAC'S PUDDINGS are available now at the Churches. Regular \$15, Gluten Free \$25, single serve \$5 Buy now before they run out, or phone 55725433

RELIGIOUS GOODS: See the new range of Nativity Sets and Christmas items, including Columban Calendars, Daily Mass and Sunday Mass Books, lots of stocking fillers and small religious gifts available now in the Piety Shops at the Churches.

CHRISTMAS CARDS PKT OF 8 ONLY \$2
ONLY A FEW LITTLE BLUE BOOKS LEFT \$4.
COLUMBAN CALENDARS \$9 RELIGIOUS CAL. \$5.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pat Thomson, Brett Marchmont, Noela Harrison, Robert Williams, Marge O'Connor, Celena McGovern, Tess Brake, Walter John Walsh.

ANNIVERSARIES: Eva Blackshaw, Trevor Toohey, Don Kinch, Noeline Lasalle, Kevin Francis Ryan.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Pat Burton, Shirley Ryan, Dianne Lovelock, Carmen Buttigieg, Dr Alex Sharah, Tony Wienand, Janina Kraus, Terry Scott, Dillon Butler, Therese Lloyd, Brian Lloyd, Mary Busuttill, Margaret Needham, Chris Farrell, Sheryl Higgins, Elaine Neethling (Capetown SA), Leah Mackay, Rosemary Jamieson, Miriam Bousettel, Ryan Lloyd, Joanne Burge, Monica Bailey, John O'Leary, Sarah Clancy, Rosa Maria Santos, James Daly (Capetown), Shaun Van de Reede, Murray Downes (NZ), Bob Francis, Michelle Krijnen (NZ), Fr John Milliken, Anne Zappa, Jooy & Madison, Tony Bui, Betty Hillesheim, Michael Dwyer, Joan

Maher, Michelle Macdonald, MaryAnn Boehme, Angelina Elsey, Bernadette Lewis, Gerald Theron (Capetown),

David Conway, Janora Senders, Francee Beckman, Imelda Rundell, Joanne Mooney, Baby Savannah Mary Ayoub, Margaret Borg, Peter Borg, Edwin Ware, Nalin Sena, Kevin McCormack, Rachel Raines, John Ashby, Paul Kiely,

David Weldon, Dr Michael Tracey, Joyce & Daniel Farrugia, Ray Balkin.

DEANERY END OF YEAR PARTY!

We're calling all our youth groups to come together one last time for the year, for an amazing event we are theming "**VINTAGE PROM**" Head to an op shop or look through your parents wardrobe for a retro outfit as we celebrate the end of year with an amazing **PARTY!** It's going to be a great night of dancing with an epic DJ, free food and praise and worship. Friday 15th December, St Mary's Parish Coomera 6 – 9:30pm Please RSVP Steph 0411669876 Open to high schoolers and young adults.

COFFEE CULTURE CAFÉ Please note change of hours! **The Café will be closed from Monday 11th December** until it re-opens at **7am - 3.30pm Tuesday 23rd January** when the new School Term commences. For Catering in 2018 please phone **Divina at the Café on 0435721258**.

divinaQ YOGA Thursday 6am - Vinyasa Flow & Friday 6am Gentle Hatha For more information contact divinaQ@wixsite.com/yoga or find us on **Facebook.com/**

A VOCATION VIEW: The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?

THE CATHOLIC LEADER:
Keeping faith with you

\$2

New Bishop for Wollongong.
Archbishop Coleridge calls for new Nuptial Catechesis.
Thurston invited to speak at Aboriginal Cultural Mass.
Bishop Tim—Indian visit will bear fruit.
This Advent, Caroline Grogan is inspired to be calm and still.
Homelessness - A stressful Christmas.

11th December	12th December	13th December	14th December	15th December	16th December
7am ST VINCENT'S	9am SACRED HEART Next Anointing Mass Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 10am	9am STELLA MARIS	9am STELLA MARIS	7am ST VINCENT'S 9am SACRED HEART	RECONCILIATION 4.15pm STELLA MARIS 5.00pm SACRED HEART 5.15pm ST VINCENT'S
	STELLA MARIS CHURCH SACRED HEART ST VINCENT'S CHURCH		Saturday Evening 5pm Saturday Evening 6pm Saturday Evening 6pm	AND AND AND	Sunday 7am & 8.30am Sunday 9am & 6pm Sunday 8am & 10am

MIGRANT CHAPLAINS / COMMUNITIES:

Polish: Sunday 12noon 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 is **7th January at 12noon** at Guardian
Angels Church, Scarborough St, Southport. Will continue at
Southport each 1st Sunday. MaryAnn Boehme 0416331233

Hispanic: 1st & 3rd Sundays 5—7pm St Vincent's Church
Fr Ignacio Gutierrez 0481118521 e: paterignacio@yahoo.com

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

GROUPS:

ART & CRAFT: Each Wednesday 9am to 12noon in PHC

BOOK CLUB: In recess until February 2018

BRIDGE: Mondays at 12noon Parish Hospitality Centre

SPCL: Tuesday **6th February 2018**

FRIENDSHIP DAY 15th February 2018

CHOIR PRACTICE: 8.30am Saturdays SH

PLAYGROUP: Wednesdays 9.30am Casey Hall, Fairway
Drive, Clear Island Waters. Parish Office 5572 5433.
In recess until 24th January 2018

YOGA: Tuesday 10.45am \$10/Sess Parish Hosp. In recess.

divinaQ: Thursday & Friday 6am on the Lawn next to Sacred
Heart Church.

ZUMBA GOLD: Friday 9.15am Casey Hall. Beginners and
Intermediate. Susana Pozzi 0421 607 397

FOR MORE PARISH GROUPS, PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE

Baptisms: Contact Parish Office 5572 5433 to register your interest.

Marriages: (Min 6mths notice required). Phone 5572 5433

Benediction: 1st Friday 7.30am St Vincent's Church

Children's Liturgy:

Sacred Heart Church: Sunday 9am Mass (during School Term only)

Stella Maris Church: 8.30am Mass every 2nd Sunday of the Month
(during School term only).

Christian Meditation: Tuesday 10am & 6pm (Youth Room)
Pam Egtberts 0428 090 703

Couples For Christ Foundation for Family and Life:

Please phone **Butch 0424 583 169** or **Mini 0424 583 168**

Exposition:

St Vincent's Church: Monday & Friday 6am, Thurs 9.45am

Sacred Heart Church: Tues 9.30am, Friday 7pm-9pm

1st Friday - 8pm Friday 5th January to 7am Sat 6th January.

Carmelite Spirituality: 3rd Sunday of each month 10.30am PHC,
CIW Contact: Norm Harding 0421 125 575.

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

Monday & Friday 6.25am

Sacred Heart Church: Tuesday & Friday 8.25am before Mass

Stella Maris Church: Wednesday 8.25am, before Mass

Venire Youth Mass: 6.00pm Sunday—Date to be advised

CONTACT FORM FOR ALL PARISH MINISTRIES

FAMILY NAME: _____ OTHER NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PH: _____ MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW?

Registering in parish sacrament enquiry youth Prayer request

Roster availability Other: _____ 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 INFORMATION.**