



St John Vianney's Catholic Parish

embracing the worshipping communities of
Manly & Gumdale



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The Epiphany of the Lord - 2 January 2022

My dear friends,

His Grace Archbishop Mark Coleridge appointed me as your priest. Beginning today, the New Year's Day, I start my ministry in your beautiful parish. I am at your service. You are most welcome to come to me for any spiritual needs.

If you are interested to know more about me, here is something to read.

Let me begin with thanking God for giving me loving and caring parents. The names of my parents are Joseph and Mary. (Am I not lucky to have those names for my parents) My mother gave birth to 14 children. Three of them were stillborn. I am the 7th child of my parents.

I am from India from the civil state of Kerala which is one of the most beautiful places in India, always green with mountains, valleys and many rivers, coconut and rubber plantations, gardens of aromatic spices like cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, turmeric etc. These spices always attracted the foreign traders to our beautiful land. Not only traders but missionaries also came to India. The greatest of them was the Apostle Thomas, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus, who planted the seed of faith in our land. So, I belong to the Syro-Malabar Rite. (We are also called St. Thomas Christians)

We have a population of 33 million people in our state alone. Almost one third of them are Catholics. We have strong faith communities here. The written history of my family which goes back to the 14th century is proof of this. All members of my family were Catholics and still practice the faith as is the case with most Catholic families in Kerala.

India has 174 dioceses, 4 Cardinals, about 40,000 priests and 25,000 nuns. 60% of the total number of priests and nuns also call Kerala home.

Kerala has seen the birth of so many religious orders for men and women. We are blessed with lots of vocations to priesthood and religious life. The state of Kerala is also well known for its education. We claim 100 percent literacy in this civil state with the majority of schools, colleges and hospitals run by Catholic priests and nuns. My sister is a nun who works in Kerala at the present time.

I belong to a religious order which is known as the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. (The same order of Fr. Dantus. But we belonged to different Provinces) It is a fairly small order which was founded in 1933 and at present we have around 550 priests and 200 seminarians studying for priesthood. Two of our members became bishops. Priests from our order work mainly in

India but they also travel to different countries to spread the Good News of Jesus.

I entered the Seminary to study for the Priesthood in 1971 and was ordained on 19th December 1981 which means this is my Ruby Jubilee year as I have completed 40 years of my priestly ordination last month.

After my ordination, I was appointed the Secretary to my Order's Superior General. After six years, I became the Superior of an Orphanage where I took care of 33 orphans. Thank God, all of them are in a good position now. Following that, I served as the Parish Priest in the Diocese of Mananthavady in Kerala. In 1992 my superior requested that I travel to Australia to work in the Diocese of Toowoomba. After serving 6 years there, I returned to India where I was appointed as the pioneer Parish Priest of a new parish in the Diocese of Pala. I have the credit of being the first Religious Priest to become a Parish Priest in this Diocese and while serving there I was instrumental in having the Blessed Sacrament Church built for the parishioners.

In the year 2000, I went to the USA to work in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan where I was the Parish Priest of Baraga Parish. After four years, I returned to India where I was appointed as the Mission Superior of the Order's Mission near Mumbai. It was during that time I had the great privilege to meet (Saint) Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The nuns from her Order worked with us in our missions.

In 2007, I was elected as a Councillor to the Provincial Council of our congregation. In this role, I took care of the missionaries of our order, sought out new mission fields and organised missionary activities. I opened new missions in Tanzania, Africa and Arunachal Pradesh, which lies close to the border of China.

In 2012 my superior sent me again to Australia to work in the diocese of Brisbane. Since then, I have served for a short time in the Parishes of Annerley Ekibin and Boonah. As an associate pastor I served at St. Columbus parish in Wilston and St Stephen's Cathedral in the city. At the same time, I also served as Chaplain at Royal Brisbane Hospital. Then I was sent to St. Mary's parish, Maryborough where I worked as the parish priest for 7 years. Prior to coming to Manly, I served in the parish of Regina Caeli parish, Coorparoo Heights, and chaplain to the Princess Alexandra Hospital for 6 months.

I have to return to India middle of 2023 as my visa will run out by that time. Meantime, let us share our stories, love each other, help each other. I take it as a privilege to serve you all.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year, Fr George Joseph

This Week's Readings:

First Reading

Is 60:1-6

Second Reading

Eph 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12



Pastor:

Fr George Joseph

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Parish Secretary: Kate Sellwood

(manly@bne.catholic.net.au)

Parish Office: Cnr Ernest and Kooralgin Sts, Manly

Office hours: 8:30am – 2:00pm

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri

Presbytery Ph.: 3396 0742

Parish Information

Parish Diary:

Monday 3 January

The Most Holy Name of Jesus
(OM)

Tuesday 4 January

6:00pm Mass @ Manly

Wednesday 5 January

9:00am Rosary @ Manly

9:30am Mass @ Manly

Mass is followed by morning
tea. All are welcome to attend

Thursday 6 January

Saint Hilary (OM)

Friday 7 January

Saturday 8 January

5:00pm Mass @ Manly

Sunday 9 January

The Baptism of the Lord (F)

7:00am Mass @ Gumdale

9:30am Mass @ Manly

Reconciliation

Saturday's: 4:30pm - 4:50pm

No appointment required.

Children's Liturgy:

Sunday 2 January

Safeguarding and STOPLINE

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer is:

Les Sellwood: 0401 382 085

STOPLINE Contact: AOB@stoline.com.au

This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Child Safety and Protection of Vulnerable Adults policy is situated in the foyer of the church.

Parish Pastoral Council

Les Sellwood (Chair), Pam Chapman, Bruce Corrie,
Helen McNamara, Julia McLean and Laurent Fontaine

Please Pray for Our Sick:

Karen Booker, Michael Gibbings, Mary Schmidt, Joyce Starkey, Pat Wilson, Sandra Wilson, Maddie Bell, Sr Teresa Geraghty, Mary Forrester, Sheila Petersen, Richard Pook, Violet Maureen Phillips, Ash Dean, Irene Gavrila, Rosa Maria Santos, Dawn O'Sullivan, Leon and Roz Thomas, Maura Poots, Angela Geraghty, Hugo Callan, Joan Francis, Angela de Weger, Terry Coles, Ted Chapman, Katherine Pickering, Stacie Stonier, Barbara Peet, Delia Chapman, David Schilling, Margaret Taylor

For a name to be included in the 'Prayer for our Sick' list, the Privacy Act now requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative.

Anniversaries:

Anne-Marie Arthus, Russell Barton, Kevin Bourke, Floretina Brewer, Jim Clair, John Costello, Cecil Crew, John Cronin, Daphne Eddleston, Mary (Molly) Evrat, Camelo Fazio, Paul Jackman, Patrick Leben, Dulcie Maher, Jennifer Lynas, Agnes Veronica (Ronnie) Mason-Johnson, Hilary Maloney, Jessie Massie, Fletcher McCormack, Sr Paula McGrath, Keith McGregor, Colin Moir, Doris O'Donnell, Brian O'Sullivan, , Mark Purdon, Donna Pytko, George Reading, Millicent (Vera) Reed, Jean Rosenstengel, Joseph (Neil) Sheppard, Theodore Shepherd, Hubert Smith, Douglas Southern, Eric Steeden, John Wade, Lilli Wargin, Aleida Wishey, Bill Spann, Maria Skubis, Luzdivina Lozano, Jean Hine.

This Week's Roster

Saturday 1 January

First Reader: Maureen B.

Second Reader: Denise D.

Third Reader: Denis H.

EMHC: Mikaela A.

Sunday 2 January

First Reader: Colleen S.

Second Reader: Kennedy C.

Third Reader: Mark R.

EMHC: June M.

Counting Group: G

In This Month's Catholic Leader:

The Christmas Issue is available at the back of the Church for \$4.00

- Room at the inn for all this Christmas – Emmanuel City Mission throw open doors for extended hours
- Pope reading signs of the times – education, work and dialogue between generations
- Family of 11 escapes house fire 'by the grace of God'
- Pam Betts immensely grateful for a career spanning 42 years in teaching and education
- Grandmother right at home with friends on the streets
- Christmas messages from all Queensland Bishops
- Pope expresses concern for decline of democracy across the globe
- Former orphan Brendan Scarce counts his blessings in new book
- Veterans advocate gives heartfelt insight into own personal trauma
- Tim Sherlock has a gift for music and shares it

Parish and Community Announcements

Parish Office Closure

The parish office will be closed on **Monday 10 January** for staff annual leave. The office will reopen at 8:30am on Wednesday 12 January.

Mass Rosters

Mass rosters for January-March have been emailed to all volunteers. If you have not received your roster there are copies available on the noticeboard below the roster. For those on our counting roster this roster has now been added to the copies of the roster that are available on the noticeboard. If you are unable to make any of your assigned dates please contact the parish office as soon as possible so that changes can be made.

Replacement of Noticeboards in the Church Foyer

In the coming weeks we will be replacing the noticeboards in the Church foyer. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by this process.

Vaccination Requirements for Volunteers

As you may have seen in previous newsletters, the Archdiocese of Brisbane has made the decision that some specific volunteer roles will require COVID vaccination. These specific volunteer roles include: Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word and the Sacramental Program, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick who attend hospitals, nursing homes and/or private homes and local safeguarding officers. Volunteers do not have to be vaccinated under this policy where that position is solely related to activities that are purely domestic, social, recreational, religious or private in nature, including Mass. To meet the requirements we require evidence of your vaccination. This proof can be provided in the form of a COVID-19 Digital Vaccination Certificate or an Immunisation History Statement as a PDF. To provide your vaccination certificate or for information on how to provide this or if you have any questions please contact the parish office on 31312610 or manly@bne.catholic.net.au. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

January Baptisms

This month through Baptism we welcome Ziggy Baker and Isla Hall. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they begin their faith journeys.

Knight of the Southern Cross

The winner of draw 8 of the current Knights Silver Circle is Vince Chetcuti with Ticket No 60. Congratulations Vince and thanks to those supporting the charitable works of the Wynnum Manly Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross. On behalf of the Branch, we wish you all a Happy New Year and pray that 2022 and beyond brings you everything you hope and pray for.

COVID-19 Restrictions

Restrictions as at 1:00am 18 December 2021

- Face masks are required in Queensland when you are at indoor shops and retail centres, visiting hospitals, disability accommodation services and residential aged care facilities, on public transport, in taxis and ride shares, at an airport, on a plane, or if you have COVID symptoms.
- Masks are strongly advised to be worn in all indoor settings where it is not possible to adequately social distance from others.

In light of the above restrictions, it is strongly advised that everyone attending Masses and parish events wears a face mask.

To stay up to date with the public health advice regarding COVID-19 please visit www.covid19.qld.gov.au

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.


Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 We have seen his star in the East;
 and have come to adore the Lord.
 Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way. away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<u>Next Week's Roster</u>	<u>For the Children</u>
<p>Saturday 9 January First Reader: Jane O. Second Reader: Jen B. Third Reader: Laura F. EMHC: Denise D.</p> <p>Sunday 10 January First Reader: Anne S. Second Reader : Jasser N. Third Reader: Robert A. EMHC: Colleen S. Counting Group: A</p>	<p><u>Three Wise Men Visit Jesus</u> The three wise men were not Jews. They came from lands far to the East and were astrologers who used the stars to guide them on their journeys. They also knew of the prophecies of an infant king to be born, a saviour. Through them, his arrival announced to the world. Jesus, the saving Lord, has come not just for the Jews but for all people.</p> <p><u>Let us Pray</u> Like the three wise men, we are here to worship you, Jesus. We have no gold, but we give you our love. We have no frankincense, but we give you our prayers. We have no myrrh, so we give you ourselves. Amen.</p> 
	<u>Next Week's Readings:</u>
	<p>First Reading: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 Gospel Lk 3:15-16, 21-22</p>