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**St Mary's Church Restoration 2018 Fundraising Raffle**  
 This raffle is our major fundraising activity for 2018. Parishioners are encouraged to take books of raffle tickets to sell to their family and friends. Ticket books are available after Mass or contact the Parish Office.  
 Tickets \$2 each - books of 20 tickets for \$40  
 Raffle drawn Sunday 24th December 2018 at St Mary's Church after the 7pm (Christmas) Vigil Mass

PRIZES:		Valued at:
1st Prize	Travel Voucher	\$2,000
2nd Prize	6 mths car park at St Mary's (Mon-Fri per week)	\$1,260
3rd Prize	Coles/Myer Voucher	\$400
4th Prize	Tablekraft 57pc cutlery set	\$200
5th Prize	Christmas Hamper	\$100

You have to be in it to win it!!!  
 Buy your tickets today!

**The Plenary Council 2020**  
**Your Voice Matters**  
 Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. It is also important that we are all part of the journey leading to the Plenary Council in 2020 which is why **Your Voice Matters!**  
 Thank you to all who participated in the first stage of St Mary's Listening and Dialogue Encounters and responded to the question **What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**  
 It's not too late to Respond to the question and a box will be available at St Mary's for you to submit your response or additional responses up to 31 December 2018.  
 The responses will be collated and you are invited to take the opportunity to join other parishioners to review the responses and spend some time reflecting on a topic, thinking and talking about your experiences of faith, life and the Church. **The dialogue encounters will be held on Sunday, 3 February after the 9 am and 5 pm Masses in St Mary's Church and on Thursday, 7 February in St Mary's House commencing at 7.00 pm.**

**Awaken Christmas Break**  
 Break-up date on 11th Dec. 2018  
 Awaken resumes on Tuesday 15th January 2019  
 We wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy new year!

**Parish Office Christmas Closure**  
 The Parish Office will be closed from lunchtime Friday, 21 December 2018 and will re-open on Monday 7th January 2019

**TerryWhite Chemmart**  
 WEST END



EMBRACING THE COMMUNITIES OF:  
 St Mary's - South Brisbane;  
 St Ita's - Dutton Park;  
 St Francis of Assisi - West End &  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Fairfield.  
 Under the care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars



**2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C)**  
**9th December 2018**

Dear Parishioners,

No doubt the all four gospels testify to an important truth: that John the Baptist stands at the beginning of the Gospel. He is the one who marks the end of the time of waiting and the beginning of the new age in Jesus. He is the last of the great prophets, the one who came after a long period when no prophet spoke to the people.

John the Baptist appears as a somewhat eccentric figure when you look at his wardrobe and his diet; he wears a garment of camel hair with a leather belt, and his food is locusts and wild honey. It is like a portrait of early punk! I think us friars fit right in with him here. This portrayal of John puts him within the prophetic tradition (cf. 2 Kings 1:18).

John is conscious of his mission to call Israel to repentance and to baptise those who do repent. The people come and listen to him because they believe he speaks the authentic word of the Lord. Those who are moved by his call, confess their sins and are baptised by John. Early this year, at our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we saw the location where John did the baptism. The baptisms take place in one of the fords in the lower Jordan where the water is low enough for the people to walk across. Thus the baptisms are public affairs. In their baptism the people make a public profession to begin to change their lives.

John calls everyone to change. When he sees the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the leaders of orthodox religion, he is clearly not overwhelmed by their authority but is blunt and forthright. He warns them that they will not be spared judgement just because they belong to the chosen people. Having an entry in Who's Who which states that you have Abraham for a father is not enough for entry into the heavenly kingdom. John is profoundly unimpressed that people have an impressive lineage or come from the right address. No one can live on borrowed fidelity. Thus, good ancestors guarantee nothing.

When people trace their family tree back to Abraham it does not absolve them from taking responsibility here and now. Family trees are no different from other trees: good roots are not enough; there must be fruits that others can see and be nourished by. Roots refer to the past; fruits speak of the health of the tree now. And for John the tree of Israel is unhealthy because the axe is already laid at the roots.

Pax et bonum  
 Fr Lam Vu OFM Cap

**MASS TIMES**  
**St Mary's Church** (20 Merivale St. South Brisbane)  
 Mon-Fri 7am; Sat 8am (Rosary after Mass)  
 Sunday 9am and 5pm  
**St Francis' Church** (47 Dornoch Tce., West End)  
 Mon-Fri 10am (Rosary before Mass at 9.30am)  
 (Anointing: 1st Friday); Sunday: 9am  
**St Ita's Church** (Pope St., Dutton Park)  
 Saturday (Vigil) 5pm; Sunday 8.00am  
**Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**  
 (Victoria St., Fairfield)  
 Sunday 7am (Anointing: 1st Sunday)

**PARISH OFFICE**  
 47 Dornoch Terrace, WEST END Qld 4101  
**Postal:** PO Box 3857, WEST END Qld 4101  
**Emails:** southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au  
 stitasp@bne.catholic.net.au  
**Office Hours:** 9am - 2pm, Mon-Fri  
**Telephone:** (07) 3844 2744  
**Websites:** www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au  
 www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Lam Vu OFM Cap  
**Ass. Parish Priest:** Fr. Bollar Barreto OFM Cap  
**Parish Pastoral Co-Ordinator:** Sr Salvacion Bunao SFI  
**Parish Secretary:** Bernadette Maguire  
**Sacramental Administrator:** Kate Dart  
**Safeguarding Officers:** Sarah Grealy (0434 889 110)  
 Chris Bolger (0407 480 205)

**ST ITA'S SCHOOL**  
**Phone:** (07)3838 8400  
**Email:** pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au  
**Web:** www.stitaduttonpark.qld.edu.au

**Confession**  
**St Mary's Church:**  
 Fri 7.30am-8am Sat 8.30-9.30am; Sun 4-4.45pm  
**St Ita's Church:** Sat 4-4.50pm

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

### BAPTISMS

**Saturday | 9.30am | monthly**

**1st Saturday** St Francis'

**2nd Saturday** St Mary's

**3rd Saturday** St Ita's

Family preparation sessions are held at St Ita's church on the first Thursday night of each month at 6.30pm

#### St Mary's Church

Adoration

Sunday | 4-5pm

Church open

12-2pm | Monday to Friday

#### Awaken: Together in Christ

Every Tuesday | 7pm

St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End  
website: [awaken.org.au](http://awaken.org.au)

#### St Francis Cake Stall

Third Sunday of the month

After the 9am mass | baking on the Saturday prior

#### St Francis Table

Every Monday | 10am -1pm

St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End

#### Anointing of the Sick and Morning Tea

First Friday of the Month | 10am | St Francis

First Sunday of the month | 7am | OLPS Fairfield

#### Morning Tea

First Sunday of the month | after 9am mass | St Francis

#### St Ita's Family Mass

Fourth Saturday of the month | 5pm | St Ita's Church  
(school term only)

#### St Ita's Christmas Eve Mass

If you love to sing or play Christmas carols, we would love you to join our Christmas Eve choir at St Ita's. Carols commence at 4:30pm before mass at 5pm. Children, parents, grandparents welcome. There will be one practice on Sunday 23 December at 4pm. Could musicians please contact Sarah Atchison ([atchison.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:atchison.sarah@gmail.com)) as soon as possible to arrange music. If you would like to let us know you are coming please contact Sr Loretta on [ursulin@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ursulin@bigpond.net.au).

#### This Week's Liturgical Calendar (Psalm Responses) 2nd Week of Advent

Monday 10th:

R/ Our God will come to save us!

Tuesday 11th:

R/ The Lord our God comes in strength.

Wednesday 12th: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Memorial)

R/ O bless the Lord, my soul.

Thursday 13th: St Lucy (Memorial)

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Friday 14th: St John of the Cross (Memorial)

R/ Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

Saturday 15th:

R/ Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

#### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30: 19, 30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

#### Lighting of Advent Candle Responses

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the Saviour of Israel, Emmanuel the God who is with us.

R/ Come and lead us to share your gift of peace.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are one who fulfilled the promise of Mica that out of Bethlehem of Judah, the least of the clans of Israel would be from the one who is to rule over Israel.

R/ Come and lead us to share your gift of peace.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the one who leads the faithful remnant of Israel to the fulfilment of the promise.

R/ Come and lead us to share your gift of peace.

#### First reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125

R/ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

#### Second reading

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path; all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

#### Communion Antiphon

Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**Next Sunday's readings: 1st reading:** Zeph 3:14-18;

**2nd reading:** Phil 4:4-7; **Gospel:** Lk 3:10-18

Excerpts from the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) and "Excerpts from Universalis © 1996-2017 Universalis Publishing Limited: see [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

#### The Pro Musica Singers

Cordially Invites You to Our CHRISTMAS CAROLS!

7.00pm Monday, 10 December

St Francis of Assisi Church

47 Dornoch Terrace, West End, 4101

Entry by donation, with proceeds going towards 'Friends with Dignity' supporting victims of domestic violence. Supper provided following the performance.

#### 2 Minute Catechism

##### Four Facts about Christmas Trees

1. In one of the earliest stories relating to the Christmas tree, the eighth-century Catholic missionary, Saint Boniface, is said to have cut down an oak tree sacred to the pagan god Thor. An evergreen, fir tree grew in its place, which Boniface said symbolised the everlasting nature of Jesus Christ.
2. The tradition of trees indoors can be traced to the Romans who decorated their homes with evergreen branches in celebration of the winter festival. The evergreen tree was an ancient symbol of life in the midst of winter. Early Christians were hostile to such practices. The second-century theologian Tertullian condemned those Christians who celebrated these festivals, or decorated their houses with laurel boughs in honour of the emperor: "Let them over whom the fires of hell are imminent, affix to their posts, laurels doomed presently to burn: to them the testimonies of darkness and the omens of their penalties are suitable. You are a light of the world, and a tree evergreen. If you have renounced temples, make not your own gate a temple."
3. In the bible, Jeremiah 10.3 contains a possible reference to this practice, or at least a condemnation of idolatry. "For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter."
4. The most likely theory is that Christmas trees started with medieval plays. Dramas depicting biblical stories began as part of the church's worship, but by the late Middle Ages, they had become imaginative performances dominated by laypeople and taking place in the open air. The plays celebrating the Nativity were linked to the story of creation—in part because Christmas Eve was also considered the feast day of Adam and Eve. As part of the play for that day, the Garden of Eden was symbolised by a "paradise tree" hung with fruit. These plays were banned in many places in the 16th century, and people began to set up "paradise trees" in their homes instead. They were hung with round pastry wafers symbolising the Eucharist, which developed into the edible ornaments decorating German Christmas trees today.

Source: [www.thetablet.co.uk](http://www.thetablet.co.uk)

#### Parish Office Closure

Please note the parish office will be closed **next week**. The office will re-open on Monday 17th December.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### Christmas Eve Monday 24th December

**St Ita's** 5pm Mass  
(4.30pm Carols)

**St Mary's** 7pm Mass  
(6pm Carols & children's nativity)



#### Christmas Day Tuesday 25th December

**OLPS Fairfield** 7am Mass

**St Ita's** 8am Mass

**St Francis** 9am Mass  
(8.30am Carols)

**St Mary's** 9am Mass

**St Mary's** 5pm Mass



#### St Mary's Church

##### Christmas Cards and Gifts

Looking for the ideal Christian gift this Christmas? St Francis Table Group have made Christmas and greeting cards, sacramental candles, rosary beads and bracelets. The funds raised through the sale of these items will help fund the restoration of St Mary's Church. Items available after Sunday Mass at St Mary's.

**St Mary's Church will not open from 12 pm to 2pm** from Monday, 17 December to Friday, 11 January (inclusive).

**St Mary's Major Raffle – Tickets are still available.** The raffle will be drawn after the Christmas Vigil Mass on 24 December. **Please return ALL tickets as soon as possible.** Thank you for your support.

**St Mary's Christmas Vigil Mass** – please join us for supper after the Christmas Vigil Mass on Monday, 24 December. Please bring a plate of food to share for supper.

#### Advent Reflection

Please bring a plate of food to share dinner together

**6.30-8pm | St Ita's Meeting Room**

Friday 14th December

Thursday 20th December

#### Children's Nativity Play at St Mary's

The Sisters at St Mary's wish to invite all Children to join the group performing the Children's Nativity Play on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals: after the 9am Mass on December the 16th and 23rd. All children welcome!



7-10pm,  
Tuesday 11th December 2018  
St Francis Hall,  
47 Dornoch Tee.,  
West End



Please bring a plate to share  
RSVP: Ellen 0488220606