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Caritas AUSTRALIA Share a message of compassion this Christmas

Be an angel of hope to vulnerable families around the world: buy a Global Gift this Christmas. No matter what Global Gift you choose, you will be the angel the most vulnerable people in the world need to walk with them and transform their lives. Order Global Gift cards online at www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SVDP CONFERENCE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Supporting families in the West End, Dutton Park, Fairfield & South Brisbane areas

You can help in 2 ways...

■ **DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS:** (Collection boxes are placed near the entrance in each of our parish churches)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas cakes Mince pies Tinned turkey Tinned ham Long-life custard Long-life milk Spaghetti Noodles Rice Stir-fry sauces Cereal Soft drink & cordial Popper juices Soups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biscuits Chips & lollies Nuts Tea & coffee Spreads Pasta & pasta sauces Baked beans etc Tinned fruit Tinned veggies Tinned meat & fish Woolworths 'groceries only' gift cards Coles gift cards
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Please ensure all food is within use by dates

■ **MAKE A DONATION**
 Your donation means we can purchase food items to include in the hampers. Donations can be placed in the Poor Boxes at each church within our parishes. If convenient please place in an envelope marked 'Christmas Hamper Appeal'.

When was the last time you reviewed your will?

HopgoodGanim Lawyers is a Brisbane-based law firm which was founded in 1974. We can help you with:

- wills & estate planning; and
- estate administration & disputes.

Contact - Greg Cox
 3024 0331
 g.cox@hopgoodganim.com.au
 www.hopgoodganim.com.au

Who do you turn to in a time of need?

K.M.SMITH FUNERAL DIRECTORS since 1883
 We think of everything

kmsmith.com.au
 Phone 3252 2031

European Passion Play Pilgrimage – September 2020

Join a once-in-a-decade pilgrimage from Budapest to Oberammergau, home of the world famous Passion Play which occurs every 10 years. 2020 will see the 42nd instalment of the play that the citizens of Oberammergau have maintained through the centuries. In 1633 the Oberammergau villagers promised to perform the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ every tenth year if no one was to die of the plague raging in many parts of Europe. The villagers were answered by God and in 1634 the first Passion Play took place.

Some Parishioners are journeying over 13 days to Oberammergau with Harvest departing 6 September via Budapest, Vienna, Melk Abbey, Prague, Salzburg, Innsbruck. If you wish to join further details are at <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/> or contact Margaret 0401 212 025 or Dianne 0411 869 017.

3 Reasons the unborn need YOU

Here are three reasons we need your help this Christmas:

- Each year in Australia there are more than 70,000 abortions. That's two babies lost to abortion every 15 minutes. In the time it takes you to brew a cup of tea, one baby dies to abortion in Australia.
- In almost all states and territories, women can now obtain an abortion up to full term (with the approval of two doctors). Abortion is easier than ever. And the message to women is that it's easy to forget too. We know that's not the case.
- 70% of those 70,000 women who have an abortion each year will admit that, if one person had offered meaningful help, they would have kept their baby. That's more than 50,000 Australian women and their families who we CAN impact in the year ahead, simply through encouragement.

Emily's Voice - see how you can help in the Movement for Life
<https://emilysvoice.com/>

Awaken & Rising Youth Ministry

is hosting a night of carols to welcome in this season of joy and hope

Join us for praise, worship and Christmas carols as we adore the coming of the Lord

13 DECEMBER 2019 • 7:00-9:00 PM
 ST. FRANCIS HALL
 47 DORNOCH TERRACE, WEST END

Suggested donations - Adults \$10 - Children free
 RSVP Wednesday 11 December 2019

Come let us adore him together

admin@awaken.org.au

The Catholic Leader: Keeping faith with you

- Four Brisbane married Catholic men were ordained permanent deacons for the archdiocese on Saturday, November 30.
- The Catholic Leader commemorated 90 years of journalism, covering the lives, news and events of Brisbane archdiocese.
- St Paul's Book Centre on Elizabeth Street has been struggling against some "big problems", which could shut its automatic door forever without immediate assistance.

Find your copy at the back of the Church for \$2.



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



**Second Sunday of Advent
 8 December 2019 - Year A**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In this holy season of advent, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas John the Baptist has his words of advice and warnings for each one of us. He advises us to prepare the way of the Lord, by true repentance of our past failures and to have a firm resolution to straighten the ways of the Lord that is not to deviate from the true Christian way of life in the future. During Advent, we are called to be repentant of our sins. We are called to pray unceasingly, to make penance, and to perform acts of charity towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. So, in these remaining days of Advent, let us each commit to taking to heart the message of John the Baptist: to truly repent of our sins in order to make straight the way in our hearts. Repentance is more than merely grieving over our sins; it is a call to change for the better.

John spoke out about the importance of people cleaning up their lives in order to welcome and be ready for the coming of the messiah. He used the Jewish custom of ritual washing as a symbol of the cleaning-up process and invited his listeners to come forward and join him in the River Jordan and submit to a symbolic washing. He then ducked or fully immersed individuals in the river as a sign that they were determined to change and adopt good and wholesome attitudes and behaviour. The Greek verb to duck or immerse is baptizein, which is where we get the words baptise and baptism from. John certainly was not offering sacramental Baptism, which is a peculiarly Christian ritual. John had no notion of original sin because that idea does not

exist in the Hebrew Bible or in Jewish spirituality. All John was doing was getting people to make a public declaration of their readiness to turn from mediocrity to goodness. That is the meaning of when John says "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

God bless you and have great weekend,
 Fr. Joshy Parappully OFM Cap
 Parish priest

New Anointing of the Sick Mass
 St Mary's Church
 1st Friday of each Month 7am
 Next one 3 January 2020

Advent reflection every Tuesday 6pm
 at St Francis Hall, West End
 Please bring a plate to share

ST MARY'S NATIVITY PLAY

If you would like your children to be involved in St Mary's Nativity Play this year, please contact Sr Salvacion on 0403 815 856. Practise will run for 2 Sundays, after 9am Mass (15 & 22 Dec)

MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church (20 Merivale St. South Brisbane)
 Mon-Fri: 7am; Sat: 8am (Rosary after Mass)
 Sunday: 9am and 5pm
 (Anointing 1st Friday of each month)

St Francis' Church (47 Dornoch Tce., West End)
 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
stitaspar@bne.catholic.net.au
 Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am - 2pm
 Telephone: (07) 3844 2744
 South Brisbane website: www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryssouthbrisbane/>
 Dutton Park website: www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Dutton-Park-West-End-Catholic-Parish-296189547643180/>
 Parish Priest: Fr. Joshy Parappully OFM Cap
pp.southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au
 Parish Pastoral Co-Ordinator: Sr Salvacion Bunao SFI
 Parish Secretary: Bernadette Maguire
 Sacramental Administrator: Niken Westerman
 Parish Youth : hello@risingyouthministry.org
 Safeguarding Officers:
 St Ita's Church: Liam O'Rourke 0411 033 321
 OLPS Church: Nora King 0481 139 070
 St Francis of Assisi Church: Liam Cunnane 0477 306 166
 St Mary's Church: Chris Bolger 0407 480 205
 Awaken: Dianne Ezzy 0411 869 017

CONFESSION

St Mary's Church:
 Fri: 7.30am—8am Sat: 8.30-9.00am; Sun: 4-4.45pm

St Ita's Church: Sat: 4-4.50pm

ST ITA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
 247 Gladstone Rd, Dutton Park, Qld 4102
 Phone: (07)3838 8400
 Email: pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au
 Web: www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au

Parish Activities in 2019

BAPTISMS

Saturday | 9.30am | monthly

1st Saturday St Francis'
2nd Saturday St Mary's
3rd Saturday St Ita's

Family preparation sessions on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9.30am. Bookings essential.

ADORATION

Sunday: 4-5pm St Mary's Church

DIVINE MERCY

Sunday: 4.15pm St Mary's Church

PRAYER AND QUIET REFLECTION

Monday to Friday: 12-2pm at St Mary's Church

AWAKEN: TOGETHER IN CHRIST

1st Saturday of the month at 6pm

St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End

website: awaken.org.au

ST FRANCIS TABLE—Ministry to the Elderly

Monday: 10am -1pm

St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End

ANointing OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the month | St Mary's Church 7am

1st Sunday of the month | OLPS Fairfield 7am

PARISH MORNING TEAS

Every Sunday St Mary's (and Feast Days)

1st Sunday of the month

OLPS Fairfield after 7am Mass

St Francis Church after 9am mass

FAMILY MASS

4th Saturday of the month | St Ita's Church 5pm

(school term only)

RISING YOUTH MINISTRY RYM

3rd Sunday of the month | St Francis Hall 1.30-3pm

NEW PARISHIONERS

We would like to help you feel at home in the Parish. Would you please make yourselves known to our Priests and to the parishioners who greet you as you arrive.

Welcome leaflets with basic information about the parish are also available either at the door of the church or by contacting the parish office.

READINGS AT MASS

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.

First reading Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loin cloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17
Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second reading Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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: Is 35: 1-6, 10;

2nd reading: James 5: 7-10; Gospel: Mt 11: 2-11

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.

This Week's Liturgical Calendar (Psalm Responses)

Monday 9th: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

R/ Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wonderful deeds.

Tuesday 10th:

R/ The Lord our God comes in strength.

Wednesday 11th:

R/ O bless the Lord, my soul.

Thursday 12th:

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

Friday 13th: St Lucy (Memorial)

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

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

R/ Lord, make us turn to you,

let us see your face and we shall be saved

2 Minute Catechism Four Facts about Christmas Trees

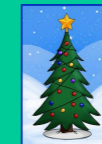
- In one of the earliest stories relating to the Christmas tree, the eighth-century Catholic missionary, Saint Boniface, is said to have cut down an oak tree sacred to the pagan god Thor. An evergreen, fir tree grew in its place, which Boniface said symbolised the everlasting nature of Jesus Christ.
- 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."
- 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."
- 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

Parish Office Christmas Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 12noon Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will re-open on Monday 6th January 2020

Note: the week of 13 - 17 Jan office hours will be 9am- 12noon



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

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

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



Christmas Day Wednesday 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



AWAKEN & RISING YOUTH MINISTRY

are hosting

A night of carols to welcome in this season of joy and hope



13 December 2019

From 7:00 - 9:00 pm

St Francis Hall, West End

Donations: Adult \$10, Children free

RSVP: Wednesday 11 December 2019

For more information email admin@awaken.org.au

See flyer on the back of the newsletter and

More flyers available at the back of the Churches.



St Francis Volunteer Handyman

We are in need of someone who is able to do small maintenance jobs for St Francis Church and Hall. Would suit someone retired and a little handy with the tools. It is not a lot of work just every now and then for 30 mins. Please contact the office if you feel you could assist.

St Mary's Notice

St Mary's Church will closed for prayer and quiet reflection from Monday, 16 December 2019 and will re open on Monday, 13 January.

St Mary's Christmas Vigil Mass

Please join us for supper after the Mass on Tuesday, 24 December.

Please bring a plate of food to share.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS



Looking for the ideal Christian gift this Christmas? Handmade Christmas and greeting cards, sacramental candles, rosary beads and bracelets are available for purchase after Sunday Mass at St Mary's, please see Ruby or Dianne. The funds raised through the sale of these items will help fund the restoration of St Mary's Church.

St Francis Hall fridge



Due to our necessity to meet the requirements of our food license, please do not leave food in the fridge or freezer without prior consent from Sr Salvacion. Thank you.

Ever wondering what the Church Collections for?

At each weekend mass there are two collections.

- All parishes pay 18% of total collections to the Archdiocese – this covers the Parish Assessment, Priests Foundation and Clergy Sustentation.
- Balance of the 1st Collection goes to the Order caring for our parish to assist with the living costs of the Capuchin Friars ministering in our parish.
- Balance of the 2nd Collection goes toward covering the running costs of the parish (e.g. electricity, insurance, wages of administration staff and maintenance of all buildings within the parish).

Note: From next Sunday 8th December onwards, St Mary's Church will have 1st collection after Homily and 2nd collections during offertory.