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 Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



Feast of the Holy Family
31st December 2017

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

-Desmond Tutu

Quite at the outset, I would love to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your friendship, prayers and the support you have been giving me as your Parish Priest. God has blessed us with wonderful people around this our community! With you I bless God and praise Him for all the marvels He has done for us in 2017! Are you excited to welcome the New Year 2018? I bet, you are! Year 2017 may not have been good for some of us besides the normal ups and downs of life. Unexpected happenings may have rocked our boat and shaken our faith in God! We may have gone through a hell of life in our family, business or communal relationships. Socrates says, "The unexamined life is not worth living". We evaluate our life of 2017 and based on the findings, we set new goals and make resolutions for an enriching and rewarding life of 2018! We hope to see new things happening in our parish with the intercession of our Mother Mary in the coming year. Earnestly I look forward to your cooperation in various ways to make our community grow in faith, love and charity.

They have been married for 28 years. Theirs has been a happy life, filled with wanderlust and wonder. They both have fulfilling careers: he is a college professor, she is an accomplished weaver and textile artist.

Their near-perfect life came to an end a year ago when they sold their home and moved into an independent living apartment for the elderly. He is only 50. She is 49. She is the reason they are now living in this situation. A series of seizures and strokes revealed brain tumours. Over time she became more absent-minded, more forgetful. Her lucid periods are fewer and fewer. After the two surgeries and a painful recovery, he and she talked about the future and what they would do with their lives — but with the new, sobering realization that they would not live forever. Her dementia is comparable to mid-stage Alzheimer's. She rarely steps outside the surety of their apartment; he often has to remind her who he is and that they are married. He now remembers for them both:



"In the past we'd had fun with ideal questions about the future: *If we could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?* or *What would we do with a million dollars?* "This time it was more serious: *What will we do if you don't remember who I am?* We agreed that staying together was the most important thing . . . "Sometimes I think about the vows my wife and I made to each other, 28 years ago and then again last summer. We're different people than we once were. Does that make the promise easier?"

"Last summer I said to her: You can trust me. I'll always tell you the truth about what's happening. Today I tell her small, comforting lies. Some promises, though, aren't just things you say or intend to do; they're about what kind of person you are. That makes it easier to decide what's right . . . "When I look at my wife I still see the lovely younger woman in our photos and in my memory. Sometimes she looks back at me and smiles. Even though she may not know who I am."

[From "Modern Love: Promises That Can Bend Without Breaking" by Robert St. Amant, The New York Times, May 8, 2014.]



Today's Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that being a family is a journey of changes and challenges — and that it is the love of our spouses and children and brothers and sisters that enables us to negotiate and survive those changes, to confront and move on from those challenges. Our belonging to a family means that each one of us — parent and child — reflects for one another the selfless, limitless and unconditional love of Christ, both in good times and bad. The Holy Family is a model for our own families as we struggle together to adapt and change and to deal with the many tensions and crises that threaten the stability, peace and unity that are the joys of being a family.

(Source: Connections Sampler)

Wish you all a Prosperous New Year! - Fr. Vince

**All are invited to attend Mass on
New Year's Day,
Monday, 1st January, at 9am
to celebrate the
Feast of Mary, Mother of God.**

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Fr Brian Rooney, Blake Tickell, Lolita Farmer, Rosario "Ross" Arico, Donard Doyle, and Orfeo Bandiera

For the dearly departed

Norma Sattler, Colin Sattler, Annamaria Boffo, Andre Arthur Van Roie, Paul Spina, Martin Mileto, Giuseppi Mileto, Pietro Ceccato, deceased members of the Ferraro family, Jed Manning, Pablito Corpuz, Theresa & Liam Hughes, Michelle Vaccarella, Giuseppe Vumbaca, Salvatore Murdocca, Maria-Rosa & Raffeale Murdocca, Marcello Pellizzon, and deceased members of the Turcato family,



For healing of the sick

Ivan Ceccato, Violet Hobbs, Dan Doyle, Tony Virgona, Karen Bligh, Elizabeth Graby, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Teresa Masiello, Johann, Joe Gelonesi, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, Harriett Rogers, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Rosanna Ceroli, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Giuseppi Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Christy Sherlock, Tina, Marie, Joe, Charles Vencyel, and Christine Wilson.



The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **6th January 2018 at 4:30-5:30pm** at the St Joseph Centre.

To book, please call the parish office on 96542260.

Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 11:20am, or within a 10am Mass on the other Sundays.



Preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation

for children who have received their First Communion and are in Year 5 or higher, will begin in February 2018. If you would like to receive notifications about the program, please email your name to stmads.sacraments@gmail.com



RCIA sessions to resume on 8th February at 7pm.

*Fr Brian Rooney
(19 Sept 1930—19 Dec 2017)*

*Funeral Mass will take place at
St Michael's Church, Baulkham Hills
on Tuesday, 2nd January 2018 at 11am.*

*In your charity, please pray for the
repose of the soul of Fr Brian.*



*Let us continue to pray for our application to build
our long-awaited church!
May the Lord bless our dreams and plans!*



THIS WEEK		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Rosa Carlino	Teresa Capaldi Amira & John Campo	Michelle & John Romeo
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Phyllis Hannah	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Eileen Sherlock Gerry McArdle	AnnMarie Duncan Marietta Nesci	Simmy Cesamolo Jan Schroder
	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Kathy White Eileen Sherlock	Sue Martin Sandra Tabone	
	JUN MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Thomas Barker James Barker	James Whittle Finn Sebire	
	MUSICIANS	Pat & Bev	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark & Matt	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(2 Jan) Kay & Archie Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

6/7 JANUARY	WELCOMERS	John Cice	Margaret Thornton	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Lesley & Rick Gangemi
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Geoff & Jacinta Mifsud	Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle	Deb Rankin Jacqui Nisbet	Margaret Foley Gael Carpani
	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	Pat Waters Dianne Millington	Eileen Sherlock Michael Parslow	Marian Piper CareyAnne Moylan	Tereza Barisic
	JUN MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima Emilie Mifsud	Olivia Easton	Christian Santelmann Christian Maait	Tiago Gregory Elizabeth Cauchi
	MUSICIANS	Lance	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, & Matt	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(9 Jan) Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay & Archie Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	FLOWERS	Teresa Capaldi arr'd by Rita Vumbaca		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow