



ST RAPHAEL'S PARISH

17 HARDY STREET PRESTON. VIC3072

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Website: www.straphaelswestpreston.org.au

Parish Priest: Rev Dr Simon Grainger

Parish Secretary: Rachel Costa

School Principal: Mr. Damian Howard, School Tel:94788374



MASSES-Weekends:

Saturday: 9:00 am, 6:00 pm (vigil),

Sunday: 9:00 am (Italian), 10:30 am

Weekdays:

Tues: 4pm, **Wed, Thurs, Fri:** 8:30 am

Please note:

There will be NO Tuesday 4pm Masses in January

From 4 January, Wednesday Masses will also be at 4pm



Face masks are optional and are recommended.

Let us protect our parish community together.

LIVE STREAMING of MASS

Sunday 10:30am Mass is live streamed from St Raphael's Church and will be available for live viewing or downloading afterwards on:

<https://bit.ly/StRaphaelsMass>

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: 1st Friday of every month, the next one being Friday 6 January 2023 at the 8:30am Mass.

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP (LGPG): Resumes February 2023.

ADORATION: Every Friday - 9am to 11am

BAPTISMS: please contact parish to arrange. Baptisms normally take place following the 10:30am parish Mass each Sunday.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 9:30am.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

The parish office is attended by volunteer staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may contact the office at any time and leave a message on **9470 2586** and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Parish Bulletins

The current Parish bulletin can be viewed on the parish website:

www.straphaelswestpreston.org.au

Bulletin printed: **Thursday - 29/12/2022**

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Sunday 1 January 2023

My dear brothers and sisters,

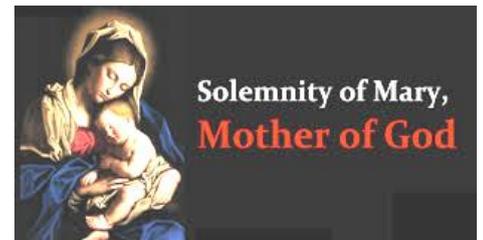
"As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart", St Luke tells us in this Sunday's Gospel reading [Luke 2:16-21]. We welcome the New Year with this beautiful Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, thanking God for her, rejoicing with her as she and St Joseph give the Holy Infant the name "Jesus", the "God who saves". I am in Cochin in Kerala, India for the Baptism of Melvin and Liza's baby Kaitlyn but you have been left in the safe hands of Fr Cameron Forbes whilst I am away for a week. Dear Mary Torney gave me a beautiful article by Melissa Coburn on "Faith from the Age and we reproduce it below as it has a very beautiful message for us all at this time in this parish.

With every prayer for God's richest blessings to be upon you and your families.

Happy New Year - Buon Anno

Fr Simon Grainger

Pax et Gratia



Faith

By Melissa Coburn
October 30, 2022

Catholic culture was once one of big families, seemingly chaotic to an outsider's view but possessed of a rowdy joy by those within it.

With more than enough players for any game, playing at the local park quickly attracted other local children who would slip easily into the throng to chase or field.

Large families filling entire pews were once commonplace at Catholic Mass. Nowadays, however, many of the most dedicated parishioners are older.

Mass was central to Sundays. Families wore their best clothes, filled entire pews and kept siblings in check with a stern glance or subtle hand squeeze. Parents took unsettled babies to what was known as the "crying room", with glass windows from which Mass could still be viewed while crying toddlers were inaudible to the rest of the congregation.

The time after Mass was for catching up with friends in the community. Parish picnics and dances were opportunities for families to spend time together. Parents from the Catholic primary school became lifelong friends, providing comfort to each other in difficult times.

Easter ceremonies commemorating the death and resurrection of Christ were a sorrowful reminder of the suffering of Christ and also of hope in seeming disaster. Christmas Masses were always packed.

A lesser-known celebration was the crowning of Mary in May, when children were selected to place a circlet of flowers on the head of a statue of Mary, a lasting example of the courage and strength of a woman from early times.

The elders hold up the Catholic community now. They volunteer for reading at Mass and to take communion to the sick. Many are grey-haired and fragile, some on walking frames, but they have a determination that is enviable. They are there at Mass come rain or shine.

I am here, too, sitting in a quiet pew with my family. The setting sun blazes through the windows, bathing me in its golden light and warming my hair. It's not always easy to get to Mass, but I come anyway.

I am here because in the Mass the world stops for an hour and I open my mind to the presence of God and to the deep peace that He offers.

I'm here because Christ asked us to remember him in the breaking of the bread, and I am trying to keep faith with His small request.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66(67):2-3,5,6,8

The Response Is:

May God bless us in his mercy.

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

May God bless us in his mercy.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.

May God bless us in his mercy.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

May God bless us in his mercy.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave

him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE TO PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Lord, hear our prayer.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

