The Presentation of the Lord - Year A

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Fr Joshy John
ASSOCIATE PRIEST
Fr Joseph Chalichirayil
Contact: 4775 7688 OR marymac@tsv.catholic.org.au

Mary MacKillop Community includes:
St Joseph’s School Mundingburra, St Margaret Mary’s College &
St Mary MacKillop Early Learning Centre

We acknowledge the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people as traditional
owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our
respects to elders past, present and future.
May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

Centred in Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant worshipping Catholic
Community who care for each other and the World.

HOLY TRINITY
Tuesday 6.30am
Wednesday 6.30am
Friday 6.30am
Saturday 5.00pm
Sunday 7.30am
Reconciliation
Saturday 10.00am

VILLA CHAPEL
Monday/Thursday 9.00am
Sunday 9.30am
Reconciliation after Mass on Monday

Meditation - House of Prayer
Tuesday 10.00am
Thursday 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 10.00am

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL
Pria D’Souza (Chair), Ross Horner, Maureen Mosch,
Tom Tarttelin, Alanna Jacoby, Cris Dall’Osto, Justen Orford,
Joanne O’Connor
FINANCE COUNCIL
Mary Wallace (Chair), Ed Burke, Justen Orford,
Stephen Rufus, Vina Cacopardo, Pauline McGuire

We sing the Psalm as we follow the Lord, our King of glory.
Christ has come to live among us as one of us. Although he is God’s Son, he was tempted in every way that we are,
and so is able to help us in our temptations (Second Reading).
The Gospel reminds us of the first time the Lord entered the Temple, with Mary and Joseph. There he meets Simeon,
an old man who recognises Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah; together with Anna, a prophetess who tells everyone
she meets about him.
As we read Simeon’s warning to Mary that her son will be rejected, and that a sword will pierce her own soul, we might
bring to mind and pray for all mothers, particularly those who witness and suffer the loss of their children, whether we
know them personally or not.
MINISTRY ROSTERS
8th/9th February 2020
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

READINGS
1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10
2nd Reading: Corinthians 2:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Acknowledgement/News
Saturday          Sunday
Clare Plant       Kathy Park

Power Point
Saturday          Sunday
Alanna Jacoby     Pauline McGuire
                 Jimmy Reponse

Readers
Saturday          Sunday
1st Trina Neilson Anna Ardill
2nd Maureen Mosch Vina Cacopardo
POF Loris Zanotto Cohan Russell

Communion Ministers
Saturday          Sunday
Trish O’Reilly    Tom Tarttelin
Sandra Hulse      Dong Raak
Frank D’Souza     Lorraine Abel
                 Justen Orford
                 Richard Kennedy

Altar Servers
Saturday          Sunday

Musicians
Saturday          Sunday
St Cecilia’s Choir Peter Cristauodo
                 Graeme McCourt
                 Parish Choir

Welcomers
Saturday          Sunday
Tricia Abel

Hospitality – Sunday
Bernard Fraser   Emma Aldridge
Bruce Cook

Church Cleaning:
TEAM 4

Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion
You are invited to join in celebrating the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion in Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday 1 March at 3.00pm with Bishop Tim Harris.
This is a significant step for those who will be baptised in our parishes at the Easter Vigil. We also celebrate with those who are already baptised and wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.
Please show your support by participating and then sharing hospitality.

Mater Volunteers
Mater Hospital is entering an exciting new stage with the opening of the Mercy Centre early in 2020. With the new development, the hospital needs to expand their volunteer services to ensure that Mater remains an organisation of compassion and excellence. Volunteering at the Mater is a truly rewarding experience.
‘We are looking for people who enjoy talking to and helping others. If you are active, caring, friendly, sensitive to the needs of others and wish to give to your community, then becoming a volunteer at the Mater may be just the thing for you.’
Training is provided for this unique and rewarding role.
If you feel this is for you, please contact Dave de Witt on 0497 262 476 or email at david.dewitt@matertsv.org.au.

Hospital Admission
Dedicated priests and trained volunteers visit as many of our sick parishioners as possible in all our hospitals.
If you are admitted to hospital remember to ask staff to mark your religion as ‘Catholic’ if you would like the ministry of a priest or Catholic hospital visitor.

We pray for those who are sick...
Joe Roche, Vi Brown, Paul Fanning, Kay Sharp,
Fr Ben Lewis, Fr Col Mason, Karen White, Alvan Smith

We pray for those who have died and those whose anniversaries are occurring......
Maureen Kern, Kevin Hickey, William Buckby, Bill Dette,
Clare Butt, James & Eileen McEntyre, Louis Axiak, Madge Axiak,
Nuala & Stan Redhead, Imelda & Keith Hull,
Joan Boyce, Lil & John Boyce, Beryl Jones, Mario Zanotto,
Jo Cridland

Remember...when he shadows fall – you do not walk alone
‘Take refuge in the heart of Jesus in all your cares.’ JTW 1872

PRAYER LIST

TOWNSVILLE DIOCESE
Diocesan Safeguarding policies and procedures are available at www.tsv.catholic.org.au/safeguarding
**MACKILLOP GATE MINISTRY**
Help newly released prisoners with essentials for the first 72 hours. Donate towels, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant (ROLL ON ONLY). All donations, including cash, can be given to Mary Mackillop Parish. For more details, contact Pauline McGuire at pmcguire@tsv.catholic.org.au or Erin Jones at ejones@tsv.catholic.org.au

**SAINTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE**
*(ACCOMMODATION AT JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY)*
'MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO LIVE'
Saints Catholic College is situated at James Cook University in Townsville and provides accommodation to tertiary students. As part of the accommodation, residents are provided with private rooms, all meals included, Wi-Fi, free parking, overnight security, staff on site and after-hours support.

For more information please contact the office on – 4727 7200 or catholiccolleges@jcu.edu.au or the Principal, Nicole Stott-Whiting, at nicole.stottwhiting1@jcu.edu.au

**A VOCATION VIEW**: Christ is 'the light to enlighten all nations'. How are you called to help him bring that light to the world? Pray to discern your vocation.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE**
**WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR**
The College welcomed 150 new students to the community this past week. It was wonderful to see such eager Year 7s from around Townsville, and the many new students who joined us from Years 8-11. We also welcomed several new staff members and they already feel ‘at home’.

There is much to look forward to this year – our **Benedictine Year of PAX** -through the lens of Stability and Justice. The students and staff look forward to contributing in many ways to our Parish.

Many thanks to Assistant Principal – Identity and Mission, Joanne O’Connor who will be our representative on the Parish Pastoral Council.

Bella Voce Choir had its annual choir camp and the open rehearsal/performance that takes place on Saturday is a wonderful way to welcome our new members and their families to this special music ministry.

Have a great week.

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**Plenary Council Call for Delegates**
The Diocese and Plenary Council are seeking expressions of interest from people who feel they would like to be **Delegates** at the Plenary Council in 2020. The Townsville Diocese will be represented by Bishop Tim Harris and Fr Mick Lowcock VG. We will also have two other representatives. Delegates will be required to attend the Plenary Council sessions in 2020 and 2021. The 1st session will be held in Adelaide between the 4th and 11th of October 2020 and the 2nd session will be held in the 1st half of 2021. For an information pack, please send an expression of interest to plenarycouncil@tsv.catholic.org.au

The selection process will take place in February 2020.

**PLENARY 2020**
– Community Engagement
Listening & Discernment Experience
Phase 2
Parish communities across the diocese are engaging with the National Themes for discernment arising from the earlier Listening & Dialogue phase of Plenary 2020.

St Brigid’s, Mary MacKillop and Holy Family Parishes are combining to co-host the six Plenary 2020 discernment gatherings/meetings. The gatherings will provide opportunities for parishioners to encounter the power of discernment, prayer and reflection. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

The next session is......

**Theme 5**: A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community
hosted by Mary MacKillop Parish (Mundingburra) in St Joseph’s School Library from 6.30pm – 9.00pm on Thursday 20 February.

**STOPline Service**
The Diocese of Townsville has recently enhanced its Whistle-blower Program, which enables all workers, volunteers, parents of students and parishioners to play an active role in eliminating improper conduct in the Diocese. The Diocese has contracted an independent external whistleblower service STOPline to allow for confidential reporting.

The Diocese has defined **Reportable Conduct** in the Policy which can be found on the Diocesan website. Reportable conduct includes suspected abuse, misconduct, mismanagement and policy breaches, The Whistleblower Policy applies to the Diocese (including parishes), Townsville Catholic Education, Centacare North Queensland, Saints Catholic College and NWQICSS.

Information can be shared anonymously.
E: tsvcatholic@stopline.com.au W: tsvcatholic.stoplinereport.com P: 1300 30 45 50
A Sword of Sorrow...

In this life there is no such a thing as a clear cut, pure joy. Everything comes mixed. As Henri Nouwen once put it: Every bit of life is touched by a bit of death. In every satisfaction there is limitation; in every embrace, there is distance; in every success, there is the fear of jealousy; behind every smile, there is a tear; and in all forms of light there is knowledge of the surrounding darkness. When you touch the hand of a returning friend, you already know that he or she will have to leave again, and when you are overwhelmed by the beauty of a sunset, you miss the friend who cannot be there with you. Joy and pain are born at the same place within us and we can never find proper words to capture our own feelings.

It is because of this strange paradox, the fact that joy is always mixed with pain, that all the joyful mysteries and events within Christ’s life and within our own lives are experienced in such a mixed way. For example, when the Virgin Mary, a young mother, comes before Simeon in the temple, he looks at her and her child and says: “This child is destined for the fall and rise of many, a sign that will be contradicted … and a sword too will pierce your own heart.” An interesting thing to say to a young mother, deep joy and deep pain will come to you because of your child! We have our own experiences of this. Many are the mothers who cry at their children’s weddings, even though it is a joyful occasion. A sword too is piercing her heart. Sensitive people often cry in the face of joy, not just because joy is often too gracious and raw to take, but because its light sends beams into many other places. Simeon understood this; revelation reveals pain even as it brings joy.

Why is this so? Why is it that every time joy reveals itself something painful also pierces the heart? Revelation means precisely to unveil, to pull off masks, to lay secrets bare, to reveal things hidden, as scripture says, since the foundation of the world. Deep joy is a revelation. It uncovers things and lets us feel things hidden since the beginning of time. Joy is a light and, as a light, it shines into everything, showing us both our glory and our limits. In joy, just as much as in sorrow, we experience what Karl Rahner describes when he says: “In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable, we realize that here, in this life, all symphonies remain unfinished.” Like Nouwen, Rahner too understands that, this side of eternity, there is no such a thing as a joy that comes pure and complete.

But again a series of questions arise: Why? Why does revelation, the truth, which is supposed to set us free, bring pain? Why does the Gospel of Christ not bring us what we really want, joy without pain? These are important questions because how we understand the relationship between joy and pain helps determine how we understand ourselves, happiness, and the Gospel. Too often we have the false idea, very prevalent in our culture, that joy and pain are incompatible and that Christ came to rescue us from pain. Our culture tends to believe that if you are in pain you cannot be happy and to be happy you must avoid pain. Nothing could be further from the truth. Joy and pain are not incompatible and Christ does not, as poor preaching sometimes wants us believe, promise us less pain. The reverse is closer to the truth, though any formula linking joy and pain must be very carefully worded since masochism is always a danger.

Careful wording aside, in this life, joy always comes with pain. Joy and pain both lie at the heart of what it means to be human. In terms of a biblical definition, the human being might well be defined as a being of joy, living in pain. And in the end that is what separates us from the rest of creation. The paradoxical connection between joy and pain, ultimately, points us towards eternity. By revealing to us our limits, it points us towards something greater, God’s kingdom, a higher synthesis of love and communion, within which, as the vision of Isaiah has it, there will be satisfaction without limit, embrace without distance, success without jealousy, smiles without tears, reunions without separation, joys without missing your loved ones, and life without death. What Christ promises us is not a life on this earth without pain, but an eventual joy that will be clear-cut, pure, and which no one or nothing can ever take from us. [Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI]

What does the paradox of joy and pain look like in your life?
What is your “sword of sorrow”? Can you thank God for it?
Take some time this week to ponder with Mary how God is present in both your joy and your pain!

That's the great paradox of living on this earth, that in the midst of great pain you can have great joy as well. If we didn't have those things we'd just be numb.

Kathy Mattes
PICTUREQUOTES.com