

Parish Office Hours:
Mon—Fri 9:30am-2:30pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:
Fr Jude Pirotta mssp
Telephone: 9748 6800
email:
hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

Assistant Priest:
Fr Silvio Bezzina mssp

Assisting Priest:
Fr Brendan Byrne sj

Deacon:
Dcn Royden Dsouza

Parish Council President:
Geraldyn McCarthy

Parish Secretaries:
Red Lusterio
Tita Manalo

Thanksgiving:
Maria Saldana

Parish Bookkeeper:
Angel Hartanto
Wed & Fri 9:30-2:30

**Sacramental Co-Ord
Other Schools:**
Rachelle Revell
Ph: 0411 774 636
hopperscrossingnorth.sacraments@cam.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ord:
Red Lusterio 0409 184 299

St James Primary School:
Telephone: 9749 1000
Principal: Mary Abbott
principal@sjhen.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Primary School:
Telephone: 9749 9900
Principal: Michelle Gillett
principal@sfatarnet.catholic.edu.au

St Clare's Primary School:
Telephone: 9371 8400
Principal: Andrew Leighton
principal@setruganina.catholic.edu.au

Thomas Carr College:
Telephone: 8734 2444
Principal: Craig Holmes
tcc@thomascarr.vic.edu.au

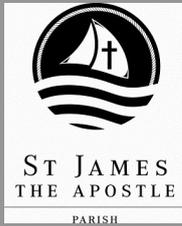
Weekday Masses:
Tues—Sat 9:00am

1st Friday Monthly:
Mass at 7:30pm
Adoration at 8:00-9:00pm

Reconciliation (Confession):
Saturday: 9:30am-10:00am
5:00-5:30pm

Sacrament of Baptism:
Contact Jacinta & John Fisher
0438 793 630
hopperscrossingnorth.baptism@cam.org.au

Weddings:
By appointment only
9748 6800



**ST JAMES
PARISH BULLETIN**
336 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing North, 3029
Under the Pastoral Care of the Paulist Missionaries
www.stjamesapostlehcn.com.au

4th Sunday of Advent 22 December 2019

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF THANKS



As we celebrate the beautiful Feast of Christmas, I would like to thank all Parishioners for the kindness, support and generosity shown to me, Silvio, Brendan, Royden and Can, in so many ways over the year. It is truly appreciated.

I wish to express a particular word of thanks to all who are involved in any Parish Committee or Ministry, in particular to the Parish Council. Your giving of your time ensures that our Parish is a vibrant one where the message of Jesus Christ is witnessed to in a whole variety of ways. Your input makes such a huge difference to the Parish.

A word of thanks too goes to the Parish Staff who go about their work in such an efficient manner. Their work makes mine that much easier.

In all areas of the Parish there is a lot of voluntary work done that enhances the community and makes it a better place for us all to live in.

Congratulations to all in the Parish who celebrated marriage and baptism during the year. They are happy occasions that we all rejoice in.

As we come to Christmas let us spare a thought for those who have lost a loved one during the year as Christmas can be a difficult time for all who were bereaved during 2019. Let us keep them and indeed all who are sick or facing any challenge in our prayers at this time.



Likewise let us think of those who are far away from home. Distance separates us but you are in our thoughts and prayers.

I thank all who do such great work in the schools of the Parish at both primary and secondary level and to all who give so generously of their time to voluntary organisations in all five areas of the Parish. Our community is a much better place as a result of your efforts.

2020 will be an exciting time of changes calling us not to be afraid but rather to embrace it with patience, understanding and openness as we move forward in hope.

As we celebrate Christmas we welcome Emmanuel a name which means God is with us.

May God be with us all as we go forward. May you all experience his presence during this Christmas time and throughout 2020.

On behalf of the Parish Team and the MSSP Community, I wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and a safe and blessed New Year.

Fr Jude

Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm

GOSPEL REFLECTION

A note of foreboding attends the circumstances of Jesus' birth as told by St. Matthew. We, the readers of the Gospel, know that Mary's pregnancy has come about "through the Holy Spirit" (Matt 1:18). But no other actor in the drama, including Joseph, knows that at the time. In Jewish culture betrothal required the same fidelity as marriage. Mary's situation is therefore precarious: she is liable to the severe penalties laid down by the Law of Moses for adultery.

Joseph knows that obedience to the Law requires him to divorce Mary. But, being a "righteous person", he wants to do so in a way that will spare her public shame and the full rigour of the Law. In this he "models" keeping the Law in the way in which Jesus, with supreme authority, will interpret it—where what he calls the "weightier matters of the Law" (justice, mercy and faith [23:23]) have priority.

The angel's announcement turns everything around. Mary's pregnancy has not come about through infidelity but through the agency of the Holy Spirit. Her child will carry the name of Israel's former saviour Josue, but his "saving" role will have to do primarily with reconciliation with God ("save the people from their sins").

It will also involve a new sense of God's presence, reflected in a second name: "Emmanuel - God with Us".

In the person of Jesus, people will experience the divine saving presence. And after his resurrection, he will continue to be "with" his Church in its communal life and worldwide mission to the end of time (Mt 28:19-20).

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

1st Reading: *Sir 3:2-6, 12-14*

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 127:1-5*

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

2nd Reading: *Col 3:12-21*

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

Gospel: *Mt 2:13-15, 19-23*

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

Thanksgiving:	\$ 4342.60
Presbytery:	\$ 997.90
Flowers:	\$ 45.60
Youth:	\$ 18.30

JANUARY NOTICES

With the New Year approaching us, many of our formal Ministries and the Parish Office will be on holidays to allow all people involved to be refreshed and rejuvenated for 2020. With this in mind please take note that:

- ◆ The Parish Office will close from Mon 23 Dec and re-open on Mon 06 Jan 2020.
- ◆ The last Parish Bulletin will be this Sun 22 Dec. It will resume on Sun 02 Feb 2020.
- ◆ There will be no Rosters for the Ministries of Lector, Commentator, Altar Servers or Special Ministers of Communion after Christmas. They will start again on Sun 02 Feb 2020. **Please offer your services for these Ministries during January when you arrive at Mass.**
- ◆ Fr Jude will be away on a Mission Immersion from Thurs 02 Jan—Sun 19 Jan. Fr Silvio will be celebrating Masses here during the weekends at that time. Most weekdays, Fr Silvio will be continuing his course at the Royal Melbourne and so we will have a Communion Service at 9:00am instead. Please offer your services in all the ministries at masses.
- ◆ There is no First Friday Adoration in January. This will resume on Fri 07 Feb 2020.
- ◆ Sun Night Youth Group has finished for the year and will resume on Sun 02 Feb 2020.
- ◆ Registrations for First Reconciliation will close on Sun 09 Feb 2020. Visit our website (www.stjamesapostlehcn.com.au) and fill in the Online Registration Form to register.
- ◆ Updates to the start date of Stage 2 of the Church Extensions will be given during Masses in January.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the donor who donated \$200 towards the MSSP Philippines Mission.

Thank you to the Gaba Family for their donation of \$300 towards the Church Extensions.

Thank you also to the donor who donated \$1000 towards the Church Extensions.

We thank Charlie for cleaning the windows in the church during the week.

We give thanks to the Carpenter's Club for their work over the weekend in preparing our Parish for the Christmas season.

It is the generosity of people such as yourselves that allows our Parish to thrive.

Thankyou

JOSEPH DE PIRO AWARD

Congratulations to the recipients of the Joseph De Piro Award for 2020:

Kayllen Bala—St James Primary
Jayse Lubguban—St Francis Primary
Lucas Mercado—St Clare's Primary

Thank you to the MSSP for their generosity and support. The Scholarship is to the value of \$1500 each and will be used for the continuation of their Catholic education at Thomas Carr College.

THANKSGIVING RECEIPTS & ENVELOPES

We thank you once again for your generous contribution to St James the Apostle Thanksgiving Program.

Receipts and Thanksgiving 2020 Envelopes are now available from the Parish Office Foyer. If you have fallen behind please try to bring your account up to date.

Receipts for Parishioners whose contributing through Credit Card and Direct Debit will be sent via email before the year end. School Families will receive their Envelopes at the start of the School Term next year.

If you are interested in helping to support St James Parish through the Thanksgiving Program, Please see the Welcome Desk for more information and forms."

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH EXTENSIONS

As we approach the start of the construction for the Church Extensions, you can support this project through the 'Donation Point' in the Narthex. This device is for \$5 donations per tap and is available on the table in the Narthex at the section advertising the progress of the project.

PRAYER LIST

Let us pray and support those in our community who are sick. We especially pray for D. and Ema Camilleri, Kerrie Boyson, Meleane Ahomana, K. and A. Camilleri, Linda Noronha, Celia Pineda, C. Camilleri, Mario Ranada, Marcelo Arenas, Arn Raj, Sheillamar Cuetera, Dean Kharitou, Zenaida Porciuncula, Azucena Magcalas, Gauri Maskey, Emmanuel Bernardo, Manuel G. Martinez Jnr, Michael Xue, Robert Azzopardi, Corey Cauchi, Teodora Gundayao, Emerita Sagovia, Ann Maree Daly, Connie Micallef, Paul Cutajar, Juanito Osumo, Mary Ulep Guerzon, Tchiapke Joel, Jorge Maranan Jnr, Evelyn Soneja, Maria De Brincat, Elizabeth Magnaye, Mario Ranada, Paula Richards and all those who are ill.

MINDFUL ART SOCIAL SCHOOL

The new **Mindful Art Social School** will be offering for the first time an Introductory Drawing Class for budding artists between the ages of 7-12 yrs. Contact Michelina via email michelina@artatlinxgallery.com.au or call her on 0419 560 748 for more information.

ST JAMES YOUTH

St James Youth Ministry, which is open to all those in Years 7-12, has finished their Holiday Program. These holidays, we started with a home-made Escape Room followed by a Lock-In in the Paulist Centre. The youth ministry also assisted our Vinnie's Conference in sorting through all the generous donations that were turned into Christmas Hampers for the families in our area. They have also had the opportunity to join the Christmas Dawn Mass Novena at St Peter's Parish and even led the music at Monday's 5am Mass with Fr Jude. Youth Group meets again on Sun 02 Feb 2020! From the Youth Leaders, have a blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year!

WELCOME MINISTRY

Thank you to the Welcome Ministry and the hospitality they extend to all Parishioners. We are currently looking at new members to join this ministry. Please leave your details at the Welcome Desk if you would like to know more information about this ministry.

CATHOLIC MISSION

Catholic Mission thanks you for your response to the World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity empowers us to witness Christ's love in 160 countries of the world. In contributing **\$871.45** you have joined fellow Catholics throughout the world, even in the poorest areas, in supporting Christ's mission to all people.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for our loved ones whom we remember especially Pasquale Porcaro, Anthony Paul Diago Fernandes, Mary Mallia, Felicidad Basit and Ruben Cunanan, who all passed away recently, Angelo Magro, Prem Abraham, Joseph Debrincat, Mary Jane and John Rapa, Angelo and Teresa Azzopardi, Tony and Ursula Debrincat, Charlie Debrincat, Hayden Fava, Andre Filaferro, Joe Chircop, Laszlo Szucs, Mary Cini, Tony Attard, Anna Kotula, Concetta and Francesco Porcaro, Santa San Fedele, Sigrid and Giuseppe Bolzonello, Norberto Carino Jnr, Emy Saffarese, Natu Portelli, Jeff Ruthburn, Jake Shaw, Gloria and Mathew Montebello and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

ST JAMES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2019

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Mon 23 Dec

1st Rite of Reconciliation 7:00pm-8:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Tues 24 Dec

6:00pm Carols in Paulist Centre
6:30pm Vigil Mass (Family Mass)
9:00pm Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)
11:30pm Carols in the Church
12:00 Midnight Mass in the Church

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Wed 25 Dec

8:30am Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)
10:30am Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)
(No Evening Mass on this Day)

NEW YEARS:

Tues 31 Dec—New Years Eve

6:00pm Mass (last for the year)

Wed 01 Jan—New Years Day

10:30am Mass (1st for the year)

ALTAR SERVERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Altar Servers are asked to mark down ALL their availabilities in the sheets provided in the Narthex for any Christmas Masses they wish to serve at, so we can make the rosters for Christmas. You will be contacted via email by on Mon 23 Dec to confirm which Christmas Mass(es) you have been rostered to serve on. We apologise for the short notice and appreciate your help and support.

CHRISTMAS USHERS AND CAR PARK ATTENDANTS

Ushers and Car Park Attendants are needed to help with the smooth running of our Christmas Masses.

If you are available to help out please leave your name on the volunteer sheets in the Church Narthex. New volunteers are welcome.

ST JAMES PARISH FETE RESULTS

We had a great day at the fete this year bringing the community together and raising funds for the church. The final results are:

Total Income: \$ 39,765.80
Total Expenses: \$ 19,387.03
Profit: \$ 20,378.77

Once again thank you to all volunteers and everyone who supported the fete and made it such a success.

SENIOR'S LUNCH

On Sun 15 Dec, Couples For Christ Australia (CFCA) hosted a Senior's Lunch in the Paulist Centre. Here are what a few participants had to say:

Dear Couples For Christ Australia,

I'm lost for words, how to thank you for the wonderful lunch and entertainment which I enjoyed so much yesterday – excellent food of top quality and so many different dishes to enjoy; wonderful entertainment by all participants, particularly the children and the lovely idea of bringing Disney to the Nativity scene; the lovely singing of familiar carols; and the beautiful dancers with their lovely smiling faces and great sense of fun. I was in tears of happiness at the way every sense was satisfied in this beautiful event.

I promise my prayers for all the members of CFCA and KFC for the amazing event they served up to us.

Kind Regards and God Bless you all with abundant blessings for a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Mark D.

From all of us at the Vintage Group, we sincerely thank you for the wonderful experience you gave us on the weekend. It was a delight to be given such a heart felt gift of your time and talents. Than you very much!

St James Vintage Group

MAGAZINE RACK

Please check the Magazine Rack in the Narthex of the church to find publications such as weekly MSSP Reflections on the readings, the Archbishop's Christmas message and many other notices/events.

ST JAMES PRIMARY MISSION MARKET

We are all called to be people of mission, and the St James Primary Year 6 students have put that into practice in holding their annual Mission Market.

The Year 6s decided that the profit from the Mission Market would go to the MSSP for their work in the Philippines, as well as Caritas Australia for what they do to help people in need both here in Australia and abroad.

This year, the Year 6 students, with your support, were able to deliver a profit of \$2167.65

Thank you for your support and we hope you enjoy your gifts!