



St Francis Xavier Parish

6 Church Street (GPO Box 450) Goodna, Qld. 4300

Office Hours: Monday - Wed 9.00am — 4.00pm

Friday 9.00am –4.00pm Closed Thursdays

Website: stfrancisxaviergoodna.org.au

Ph: 3818 0111 Fax 3818 1420 Email: goodna@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Clergy: Fr Roger Burns PP.

Parish Secretary: Mrs Marie Hodges

(Local Safeguarding Children Representative: Marie Hodges)

St Vincent De Paul: For Assistance Please call 3010 1096 - Weekdays only .

Meetings: Fortnightly on Tuesday 7.00pm. Call 0479 163 335

MARY
The MOTHER
OF GOD

1st January
2017

Embracing the suburbs of Goodna, Bellbird Park, Camira, Carole Park, Collingwood Park, Ellen Grove. Gailes, Kruger, Redbank, Redbank Plains, Wacol and beyond.

Good News: Christmas is more than some yearly feast, celebrated for a few days and then forgotten. It is to be treasured And pondered every day, for it is the news that god has entered the world as our Saviour, known as Jesus.

Mary Treasured and pondered.

‘How did you get over the Christmas?’

‘It was very quiet this year, wasn’t it? Not like long ago.’

‘Wasn’t the television hopeless! Never saw anything like it!’

Jaded comments typical of a week after Christmas.

Christmas is not just a few days for getting sentimental about the figure of a baby lying in a manger before we get on with the serious business of real life for the rest of the year. The message of the coming of God to us in our human flesh is vitally relevant to every day and every moment of the year we are commencing. It is a year which is numbered from the first Christmas, Anno Domini, a year of the Lord.

The shepherds went back to their fields glorifying and praising God, for all that they had heard and seen. Were they still full of the prayer of praise as week later ,,, a month later?

We do not know. But what we are told is that Mary stayed with the message and it enlightened her every day from then on. Luke tells us that ‘she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.’

Mary so treasured the Bethlehem experience that she carried it through into everything that happened down the years. That is exactly what is meant by a contemplative attitude toward life. Contemplation is to do with measuring.

The root of the word is the Greek word for cutting a notch in a measuring rod. So we speak of temperature as the measurement of heat, temperance as the virtue of knowing your measure and so on. contemplation is an attitude that measures life in the light of religious experience.

Every day of the rest of Mary’s life would be measured by the Bethlehem experience which she treasured and never could forget. That was the source of her strength in a pilgrimage of faith that certainly had its joys but also had the dark night of suffering.

Christmas is a feast to bring us the experience of God’s compassion, so loving the world that he gave his only son that we might not be lost but might have eternal life.

If we have celebrated Christmas as God’s saving love which seeks to embrace and untie all the human family, and if like Mary we treasure that experience, then we will walk through the coming year in the light of God’s love. Everything will be measured under divine light.

And if we mentally connect every encounter and event with God, we will necessarily be building the fabric of peace for the year. It is when contemplation fails that the diabolical works of disharmony, division and destruction take place.

Mary, contemplative woman, treasuring and pondering, pray for us.

Mary, contemplative saint. Sustained through darkness and suffering, pray for us.

Mary, contemplative mother, at peace even on Calvary, pray for us.

Silverster O’Flynn O.F.M. Cap—The Good News of Matthew’s Year

Office times Marie is on holiday until Monday 9th January but Fr Roger will still be in, if you need him please phone the office and press 2 to speak to Fr Roger. If he isn't in and you need to leave a message hang up and ring again but this time press 4 and wait till phone system asks you to leave a message.

Training Day for Ministers regarding Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

One of the requirements laid down in the Archdiocesan Policy, is that all ministers should attend a training session. The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer Mr Troy Tornabene has given us a number of dates when he is available to lead the training. If you have not attended a training session to date you will be expected to enrol in the next session.

Garage Sale. During the working Bee , a number of items were identified "FOR SALE". These include metal framed chairs and some plastic chairs which will be going for \$1.00 each. Also with the renovation of the Centre kitchen we have a Dish-washer for sale. A number of the chairs have already gone, the chairs that are left are Children's chairs (would suit children in grades 3 and 4) Please contact the parish office if you are interested in any of the above items.

Your help required. A number of ministers have ceased to serve in the past few months. To lessen the load on the roster, we are looking for new readers, Special Ministers for during Mass and Special Ministers to the housebound. Can you please help? There will be a training session in the new year possibly on a Saturday. We are in desperate need of cleaners for the Church of a Friday and someone to clean the toilets on a Monday morning.

School Watch: With the children and staff on holiday, the school stands empty of people. This is the time when some schools are vandalised. Please keep you eyes open with regards to any suspicious activity in and around the school. If you see something suspicious, please contact the Police and report it. Many thanks.

"Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) The Pope's Christmas day message given from the balcony of St Peter's this year challenges the world. "Today this message goes out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearning for peace," he said, speaking in Italian, Reuters reported.

In his annual Christmas Day address, known as "Urbi et Orbi" ("to the city and the world" in Latin), the pope touched on troubled places around the globe and the especially tragic impact these conflict have on innocent children. He urged Israelis and Palestinians to set aside hate and revenge and "write a new page of history."

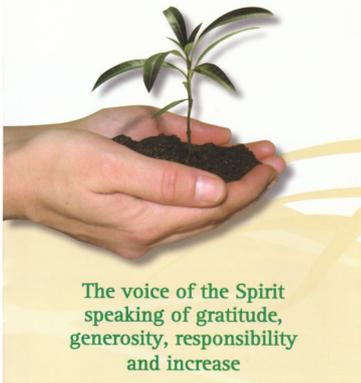
He also lamented that in Nigeria "fundamentalist terrorism exploits even children," a reference to child suicide-bombers, and he decried conflicts and tensions in Africa, eastern Ukraine, Myanmar, the Korean peninsula, Colombia and Venezuela

On Saturday night, Pope Francis celebrated a somber Christmas Eve Mass in a packed St. Peter's Basilica. He urged Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus by thinking about the plight of today's children, expressing dismay at the fate of those living in war zones, "hiding underground to escape bombardment, on the pavements of a large city, at the bottom of a boat overladen with immigrants."

"Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by the children who are not allowed to be born, by those who cry because no one satiates their hunger, by those who do have not toys in their hands, but rather weapons," he added.

Please keep the Holy Father in your prayers. Some senior Churchmen are unhappy with his 'pastoral' approach to the people of God. Questioning how the church administers the sacraments and deals with the issue of divorce and remarriage are causing some disruption. Leading the church and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Pope speaks to us with authority. An entrenched view of Church with its laws and regulations, does not seem to fit with the practice of Jesus, who rarely condemned, but was always ready to welcome back the wayward and the sinners.

Spirituality for Life



Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it out at the service of others.”
(1 Peter 4:10)

January 1, 2017 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Luke

2:19 Mary is the perfect role model for living a stewardship lifestyle. She listened to God and said “yes” to His invitation to be the Holy Mother of His son. She also trusted in the God’s providence on a daily basis. As we start a new year, take time every day to listen to how God is calling you; trust that He

has a better plan for you than you could ever imagine. (Accessed on 22nd December 2016 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

THE CALL – THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is costly,

Because it requires us to put aside the craving for domination, possession, and control, for Jesus.

Discipleship is grace,

Because it confers true liberation and eternal life.

A Disciple’s Response – A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

Jesus says, “I came so that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” (John 10, 10)

But discipleship is not an easy way. “If you wish to come after me,” Jesus also says, “you must deny yourself and take up your cross daily and follow me. For if you wish to save your life you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake you will save it.”

Initially, I am hard pressed to think of what being a disciple of Jesus has cost me. But I am also hard pressed to think of what being an adult or a parent has cost me – even though I know I’ve made sacrifices. Certainly, moving out on my own and paying my own way as a gainfully employed adult meant giving up some of the fun and carefree things I used to enjoy when living and depending on mom & dad. And unquestionably, the pursuits and possessions I have foregone to have children are many. But the reality is that the joy one derives from the results of those sacrifices totally obscures and blots out any of the costs. I believe the same is true with the costs of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and discipleship.

Questions:

Who do you know who has sacrificed significantly for Jesus sake?

What have they given up? Have they gained anything? Do they seem less concerned with possessions or control?

What exactly have you given up in possessions, prestige, or power to follow Jesus?

When we begin with the far greater challenge of being a disciple of Jesus, stewardship becomes a response that is part and parcel of who we are and what we believe. Stewardship formation and education must begin with a radical call to be disciples of Jesus. *Archbishop Thomas Murphy.*

