

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

Parishioners are advised that the Holy Family Church has an EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE, a FIRE BELL and EXIT POINTS. In the case of an alert, parishioners should remain calm and look for the nearest EXIT sign in GREEN. Everyone should move in an orderly fashion to the FIRE ASSEMBLY AREA outside the Church carpark and along Simbai Street.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS are located on the walls throughout the Church. They have been modified due to changes on the school grounds.

**Weekly Diary : 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024—7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>** : 9.30am Mass Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** : 4.30pm. Confession  
 5.00pm. Vigil Mass—Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord Year B/2  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** : 7.00am. + 9.00am Mass—Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord Year B/2

\*Regular Weekday masses will resume from Tuesday 9th January 2024\*

***PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND DECEASED***

**PRAYER:** O Lord Jesus Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen. (St Augustine)

Prayers have been requested for the following :

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Lesley Goltman, K M Lim, Eugene Harold Morand, Mack Halverson, Peter Steinhour

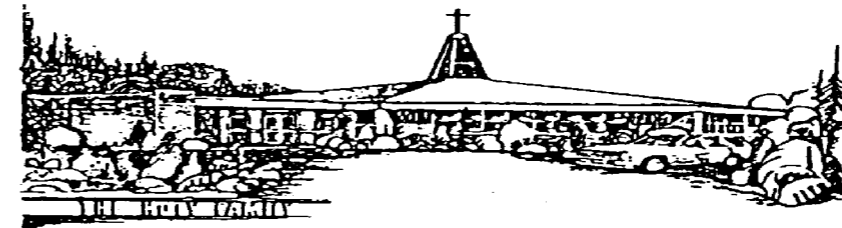
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Conwell, Graham Paterson, Ross Michael Bycroft, Keith McDougall, Brian Dwyer, Margaret O'Farrell, Olga & Gilbert Smith, Violeta C.Quiambao

**SICK LIST:** Ann Woodman, Vince Johnson, Carter Ford, Val Hutton, Bernard Molina, Mari Purcell, Sharon Harris, Mark Devlin, Margaret Cotton, Rico C. Cadayona, Evelyn Tan, Vicky Umythy, Tessa Woodward, Gerry Boerlage, Gay Frazer, Angela Byron, Renee Wood, Gerard Brennan, Jan Dodds, Gabriel Cabral, Keith Murphy, Victoria Scotchford, Michael Murphy, Ryder Forbes, Geoffrey Eaborn, Margaret Cotton, Frank Balinas, Lavinia Azucena, Marta Szysz, Riley Dodds, Kayden Chong, Ruth Stretton, Peter O'Rourke, Fr. David Wilson S.M., Sasha Whelan, Marie Roberts, Orazio Smeralda, Darren Pascoe, Peter Smith (Ashmore), Madeline Hodgetts, Marie Turnbull, Christine Kyriakides, George Kyriakides, Morris Lynch, George Docherty, Christina Ang, Sofia Bean, Sonia D'Angiolo, Riany Chandler, Marie Dupois, Abigail O'Donell, Terry Owsnett, Courtney Blount, Simon Stretton, Philomena McAloon, Margaret Kwong, Marilyn Rodgers, Frank Hewitt, Anthony Donellan, Dolores Kilian, Mary Ann Boeheme, Maureen Currie, Nancy Kelly, Tamara Toms, Bernie Pack, Elizabeth Norris, Ken Hannam, Gail Callaghan

**Acknowledgement of Country - This is Kombumerri Country - The Traditional Custodians of this region.**

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of this country. We pay our respects to the Kombumerri people, who are the traditional custodians of these sacred lands that we live and work upon. We acknowledge Elders, past and present and emerging, as they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of our Indigenous people.

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH, RUNAWAY BAY**



**The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas) Year B/2**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**PARISH PRIEST**  
 Monsignor Peter Meneely pp

**PARISH STAFF**  
 Audrey Ho  
*Parish Secretary*

Jan Levinge  
*Marriage Coordinator*

**Email :**  
 rbay@bne.catholic.net.au

**Parish Office:** 16 Simbai St  
 PO Box 125 Runaway Bay  
 Q4216

**Website :**  
 www.holyfamilyrunawaybay.org.au

**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES:**  
**Tel: 07 5537 4320**  
**Emergency : 0434 825 260**  
**Facebook :**  
 holyfamilycatholicchurchrunawaybay

**Hours:**  
 8.30am—3.00pm  
**Monday—Tuesday**  
 8.30am-1.00pm  
**Wednesday-Thursday**  
**(closed FRIDAY)**

**Reconciliation:**  
 Saturdays 4.30pm

**Baptisms**  
 Every 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
 after 9am Mass  
**Please contact the Parish Office.**

**St Francis Xavier School:**  
 Principal : Ronan O'Mahony  
 Tel: 5537 2633

**St. Vincent De Paul Helpline**  
 1800 846 643

**Stoplevel Service**  
 1300 304 550  
 AOB@stoplevel.com.au  
 www.bneatholic.stoplevelreport.com

**Parish Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)**  
 Michael Nicholson

Dear Parishioners,

Each year on this day, we listen again to the ancient story of the birth of Jesus and the drama and tragedy that surrounded his birth, as well as the hope that it brought to a troubled world.

In the telling of this story, I'm sure that memories flood back of Christmases long past and of friends and family who have gone before us into the kingdom of heaven marked with the sign of faith. In this remembering, we can often see the hand of God at work in our own lives, bringing to birth our faith, our imagination, our great ideas and most importantly, our hope in life everlasting.

In our remembering, we join the choir of angels giving thanks to God for all that has been in our lives and we say amen and yes to all that God has on offer for us now and in the years ahead.

This is my first Christmas with you as Parish Priest and I give thanks to God for sending us into this place and empowering us to make his joy, his peace and his fidelity, so real an experience in my life and in the life of those who share our journey.

I'm very aware that for some, this Christmas is hard because work is not plentiful. There are struggles in the family or a loved one has died this past year and this is the first Christmas without them at the table. We hold you close to our hearts and pray for you this Christmas.

I'm sure you're all aware of the troubles in the Middle East at this time. In Gaza, there is a Catholic Parish called Holy Family Parish. We share a name but we know nothing of the tragedy and suffering of the poor people of Gaza and their Parish at this time. I propose to send the first collection that is taken up at our Christmas masses to the Parish priest of Gaza, Fr. Gabriel Romanelli, and ask him to personally distribute the monies to the families who are most in need of assistance at this time. If you're able to contribute towards this life giving appeal this Christmas, I'm sure those families who are suffering in Holy Family parish, Gaza, will benefit beyond measure from your generosity.

I'm grateful as a year draws to close for the support and encouragement of many in this parish but I would like to particularly thank Audrey Ho, Michael Nicholson and Peter Fox who keep the parish alive and active throughout the year. I'm particularly grateful to Jo and Lynne and the children who told the story of the first Christmas. Thank you also to Jan, Barbara, Dott, Debbi and Beverly, Christeen, Nicolaas, Max and the mini other singers of musicians who help us worship God every week.

As we stand at the doorway into a New Year, may God of peace dispel the darkness that sometimes envelops our lives and fill our hearts with a confidence and joy that only God can give.

Feliz Navidad!  
 Buon Natale!  
 Merry Christmas!

Monsignor Peter Meneely  
 Parish Priest

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** Is 9:1-7 **A son is given to us.**

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.  
For all the footgear of battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
is burnt  
and consumed by fire.  
For there is a child born for us,  
a son given to us  
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;  
and this is the name they give him:  
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,  
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.  
Wide is his dominion  
in a peace that has no end,  
for the throne of David  
and for his royal power,  
which he establishes and makes secure  
in justice and integrity.  
From this time onwards and for ever,  
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**RESPONSORIAL R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14 **God's grace has been revealed to all people.**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world : today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

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*...Cont'd from page 2*

**GOSPEL** Lk 2:1-14 **Today a saviour has been born for you.**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

**Happy and Holy Christmas  
From the Parish Finance Committee**

In the past year, noteworthy events affecting life in the parish were the end of the COVID 19 restrictions, the appointment of Monsignor Peter as our Parish priest, and the introduction of monthly healing Masses.

A big thank you to all **parishioners** for their weekly contributions and donations that helped us run and operate the parish successfully and to meet its financial responsibilities. I would especially like to thank Monsignor Peter, Audrey in the Parish Office, and all volunteers who assisted in the various roles required to enable the Parish to fulfil its Pastoral responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St Francis Xavier Outside Hours School Care (OSHC) for their quarterly financial contribution – the contributions enabled us to complete major repairs to the parish house floor.

May God bless you all over this Christmas and New year period.

Peter Fox  
Finance Committee Chair

**Mass Times**

<b>30<sup>th</sup> Dec Saturday</b>	<b>Feast of The Holy Family</b> 5.00pm Vigil Mass
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Dec Sunday</b>	<b>Feast of The Holy Family</b> 7.00am & 9.00am
<b><u>2024</u></b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Jan Monday</b>	<b>New Year's Day &amp; Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God</b> 9.30am Mass
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Jan Saturday</b>	<b>Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord</b> 5.00pm Vigil Mass
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Jan Sunday</b>	<b>Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord</b> 7.00am & 9.00am

*\*Regular weekday mass will resume from Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 9.30am\**