

FR ALO WRITES...

“Respect for the Sacred Place”

(Luke 1:26-38)

People might think that the title of the reflection of this week is related to the story of Jesus casting out people from the temple. In some ways it does, but I would like to focus on why a place is called a sacred and why we should respect a sacred place. One of the past reflections in the parish bulletin I mentioned some examples of people who have respect for sacred places, like churches. In the Philippines, people passing a Catholic Church building usually make the sign of the cross. In my village, where all people are Catholic, there is a big wooden cross in the middle of the village. Everyone who passes it makes the sign of the cross. Another experience was last month, when I did a wedding at the Little Bay Non Denominational Chapel, I had to ask dispensation from the Archbishop to officiate the wedding because that place is not considered a sacred place.



The focus of this reflection is not about places, such as what I mentioned above, but about people (or a person) themselves as the sacred place. Churches, chapels, basilicas, and shrines are symbols of God’s presence. However, Christians believe that the most precious dwelling place for God is within a person. The gospel of today is directing us to this understanding. God has chosen the person of Mary to conceive divine life. It means that God respects human beings and entrusts a human person to bring forth his son (Luke 1:28). The new era of salvation

begins with the miraculous conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. When we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate what happened in the past history of salvation and at the same time we celebrate Emmanuel who comes to dwell in our hearts. Therefore, those who believe in Christ Jesus respect the most sacred place of all – human beings, their fellow persons.

Acts like the tragedy of Martin Place and the killing of school kids and teachers in Pakistan are the the ultimate sign of disrespect for human beings, the ultimate desecration of the most sacred place. The actions of people like Man Haron Monis and Taliban rebels demonstrate that they have no respect for a human being as a dwelling place of God. As such, they violate not only the Christian faith’s sense of the sacredness of human persons, but also Islam’s teachings on the sanctity of human life. People who commit evil acts like the ones we’ve seen this week are people who fail to love and appreciate others, and ultimately, themselves. It is because they have no respect and love for themselves, they cannot love and appreciate others.

In preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ we must not only prepare ourselves to be the “womb” for Christ, but also to respect “our wombs and others’ womb” as dwelling place of Christ, as a sacred place.

In a very practical way I may quote what Fr. Michael Fallon MSC says: *“Let us respect this sacred place especially in our children, and by our reverence for them let us teach them what a sacred place they really are. As we reverence our children, we are reminded that we are all children, children of God, and so, mindful of our own ordinariness and imperfections, let us be gentle with each other, so that our love, like Gabriel’s words to Mary, will awaken others to the intimate invitation offered each of us by God to be bearers of his Word”.*



THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 20 DEC

6:00pm Mass

SUNDAY 21 DEC

9:30am Mass + Kids Church, Morning Tea
11:00am French Mass
3:30pm Indonesian Mass
6:00pm Mass + Kids Church

MONDAY 22 DEC

9:00am Mass
9:30am Reconciliation

TUESDAY 23 DEC

7:00pm Reconciliation – Second Rite

WEDNESDAY 24 DEC

6:00pm Carols
6:30pm Vigil Mass (Children)
8:30pm Indonesian Community Mass
11:00pm Parish Mass (Youth)

THURSDAY 25 DEC

9:00am Carols
9:30am Christmas Day Family Mass
(No evening Mass)

FRIDAY 26 DEC

9:00am Mass

SATURDAY 27 DEC

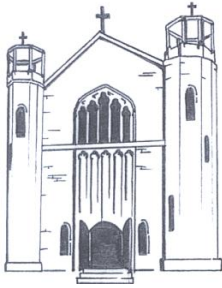
6:00pm Mass

SUNDAY 28 DEC

9:30am Mass + Kids Church, Morning Tea
3:30pm Indonesian Mass
6:00pm Mass + Kids Church

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome! Let us know how we can support you in your faith journey. Please introduce yourself to the parish priest and/or one of the hospitality team at morning tea.



PARISH DIRECTORY

4 Roma Ave Kensington NSW 2033

T: 9663 1070

F: 9313 6348

E: kensoparish@pacific.net.au

W: <http://olrkensington.org.au>

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Aloysius Lamere msc

PARISH SECRETARY

Maria Caetano (Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm)

MASS TIMES

Sat - 6pm (Vigil)

Sun - 9:30am (Family), 6pm

Mon, Wed, Fri - 9am

Indonesian Mass Sun - 3:30pm

French Mass Third Sun - 11am

RECONCILIATION

Mon 9:30am or by appointment

HOLY HOUR + RECONCILIATION

Thursday before 1st Friday - 7:00pm

INDONESIAN COMMUNITY

Fr Aloysius Tamnge msc – 0426 042 624

BAPTISMS

First Sunday - 11am, bookings required

WEDDINGS

By Appointment

SACRAMENTS

Contact parish office

OLR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Marie Nilon – 9663 3346

OLSH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Jenny Fowler – 9662 4088

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Roy Rigotti - 9313 8334, is a JP and is happy to sign documents as required.

RESPONSES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

OREMUS

Let us Pray

SICK

Vivien Christie, Margaret Carrick (Bowral), Lucienne Radzyminski, Miriam McKoy, Fr Roger Duggan msc, Neville Dunn, Mr MacKenzie, Fr Chris Murphy msc, Derek Chick, Pam (Rose's friend), Tony (Dulwich Hill), Br James Maher msc, Francesco Alessi, Fr Peter Robinson msc, Lucia Simeone, Assunta Ciaglia, Natalina Beghetto, Frank Zakrzewski, Llewellyn Samuel, Antonio Laquian, Joe Di Blasio, Rina Vecchief, Betty Mansfield, Anton's mum, Nella Custorella, Marie LaBrooy, Patty Ingram, Dee Piper, Rosaria Ciaglia, Frank George, Colleen Corcoran, Zanita Banzon, Angela Breen Ortega

BELOVED DECEASED

Paul Liew, Fr James John O'Meara, Lindawati Alie

ANNIVERSARIES

Henri Radzyminski, John Valarezo, Monica Mary McCaughan

ROSTERS

DEC 20/21	SAT 6PM	SUN 9:30AM	SUN 6PM
Acolyte	Gus Alimhamzah	George Bedirian	John Allen
Readers	Cathy Shiner Thelma Slunsky	Ross Martin Anna Corpuz	Virginia Black Nicholas Black
E. Ministers	Judith Lynch Vien Suhadi	Mary Martin Grace Pandiangan Thomas Chia Henny Ramali Amelia Iovanella Ana Corpuz	Lyn King Marieann Duncan
KidsChurch	9:30am – Charisse Low, Jacki Ma 6:00pm – Erin Beavis, Harriet Beavis		
Counting	Johannes Tantohardjono, Bob Brenac, Giovanna Ziccardi		
Comm to Sick	Thomas Chia, Grace Pandiangan		
DEC 27/28	SAT 6PM	SUN 9:30AM	SUN 6PM
Acolyte	Handjojo Widjaja	Roel Castillo	George Bedirian
Readers	John Dorahy Vacancy	Big Kids Church Big Kids Church	Marissa Meyn Jim Nguyen
E. Ministers	Dewi Suryani Jan Nicholas	Margaret Rigotti Roy Rigotti Robyn Kildea Brian Koh Stephen Gatt Amelia Iovanella	Trish Veness Francine Pirola
KidsChurch	9:30am – Christine Mitchell & Christina Halim 6:00pm –		
Counting	James Lynch, John Sparke, Helen Liew		
Comm to Sick	Margaret Rigotti, Robyn Kildea		

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

Please contact Kristina Keneally, email: keneallykk@gmail.com, if you would like to join our Christmas Roster.

WANTED: MUSICIANS AND SINGERS FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a practice for the Christmas Carols and the masses at 6.30pm (Christmas Eve) and/ or 9.30am (Christmas Day) on **Monday December 22 at 7.30pm** in the church. Any musicians and singers interested in being involved in one or both of these events are welcome to come along. Contact Frank Reid on 0422 894 127.

SPENDING CHRISTMAS ALONE?

You are invited to join the Sisters at OLSH Convent, 2 Kensington Rd Kensington for **Christmas Dinner at 12 noon on 25th December**. Please ring Sr Ancilla on 9662 1777 by Monday evening 22nd December if you would like to join us.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP 2015

Do you have a passion for sharing your faith with the younger generation?

Plans are in place to launch a youth group in 2015 for Yrs 7-10 (age 12-16). We're looking to recruit some adult leaders who would be willing to join a team to support the group which will get underway in late February. We need parents (especially fathers) and young adult mentors to be part of our adult support team with a variety of different skills including organisation/administration, hospitality, music, good listening, sporty etc. Can you do one of these things really well? Do you have children in this age bracket?

We're looking for expressions of interest in supporting this dynamic initiative. Contact Francine Pirola 0433 451 433 or the parish office and leave your contact details. **Information Evening: Thursday Feb 5, 8pm.**

BIG KIDSCHURCH

Join the team and lead the 9:30am Mass every fourth Sunday. Ages 10-15. Contact: Ana Corpuz – 0416 166 149.

KIDSCHURCH CATECHISTS

We are delighted to see some parent/teenager teams join our KidsChurch catechists. Welcome to all our newcomers. We still have a few places available for the KidsChurch team, especially for Sunday evenings. For information, contact Francine 0433 451 433 or francine@marriagerc.org.

ACSA Christmas Movie Event for Young Adults – EXODUS: Gods and Kings

You are invited to celebrate Christmas with ACSA NSW on **Monday December 22, 6:00pm at Event Cinemas, Castle Towers** 6-14 Old Castle Hill Road, Sydney NSW 2154. Everyone is welcome to attend, the cost is only \$30 inclusive of food, drinks and the movie ticket. **We will be watching Exodus**, a movie directed by Ridley Scott (Director of Gladiator) on the story of Moses.

HOLY HOUR**Thursday before first Friday (7pm)**

This Hour of Grace and Mercy is a time to encounter the healing presence of Jesus and refresh your soul. Reconciliation is also available during Adoration.

MORNING TEA

Fr Alo and all of us wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all those who provided the morning tea after 9.30am Mass each Sunday. Their generosity and commitment has been outstanding.

There will be **no Morning Tea served on 28th December because of holidays**. For 2015 we would like some additional volunteers to help when Domenico and Myrna are overseas for an extended period. Please call Margaret 9313 8334 if you can help.

Vinnies Xmas cards and Columban Calendars

Vinnies Xmas cards and Columban Calendars are on sale at the back of the church from this weekend. Packs of 10 cards - \$6 and 2015 Columban calendars - \$9 each.

Formation & Training Workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Readers at Mass**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

(Beginning or Refreshing)

Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda
Wednesday 25th Feb and 4th March 2015,
7.00pm-9.00pm.

Readers at Mass

(Beginning or Refreshing)

St Jerome's Punchbowl
Saturday 7th and 14th February 2015,
9.30am-12.00pm

Registration is Essential

Forms and further details are available on the Liturgy Office website:
www.liturgy.sydneycatholic.org.

WE'RE CELEBRATING...

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY – 23 Dec
Setiadharna Seloproanto & Ratnawidya

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY – 28 Dec
Sarina & Salvatore Campagna

NOTICES

POSITION AVAILABLE:

Cleaner / Housekeeping

De La Salle Brothers Kensington

Permanent Part-time. Award salary.

Thirteen hrs wkl over 3 days. Modern facilities.

Phone: Gary Wilson 8344 4100.

The Wisdom of Teresa

January 30 – February 1, 2015

Presenter: Fr Paul Maunder, ocd.

Cost: \$220 (concessions available)

Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566.

Contact: 02 8795 3400,

email: retreats@carmelite.com

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au.

Divine Friendship: spiritual guidance in prayer, holiness and mission from the writings of St Teresa of Avila.

JOKE CORNER

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner,

"What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's no offence," said the judge.

"It is if you do it before the shops are open," countered the prosecutor.

FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Re-light the first, second and third candles before continuing.

Opening:

For to us a child is born, To us a son is given.

Prayer: Give us, O God, such love and wonder, that with shepherds and wise men and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King; and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Lighting the fourth candle:

We bring our Advent wreath to full blaze of light, in the hope that we may see clearly all that is made known to us in the coming of Jesus.

Prayer:

As you come in the stillness of night, great God, enter our lives this night. Overcome darkness with the light of Christ's presence, so that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christmas Season Services



Reconciliation (Confession), Tuesday Dec 23

7.00pm - Second Rite

Christmas Eve, Wednesday Dec 24

6.00pm – Carols

6.30pm - Vigil Mass (Children) (shepherds & angels welcome!)

8.30pm - Indonesian Community Mass

11.00pm - Parish Mass (Youth)

Christmas Day, Thursday Dec 25

9.00am – Carols

9.30am - Christmas Day Family Mass

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Holy Family, Sunday Dec 28

9:30am: Mass & KidsChurch + Morning Tea

Also: Sat 6pm, Sun 3:30pm (Indonesian), Sun 6pm

Mary, Mother of God, Thursday, Jan 1

9am: Mass

Epiphany, Sunday Jan 4

9:30am: Mass & KidsChurch + Morning Tea

Also: Sat 6pm, Sun 3:30pm (Indonesian), 6pm