



You are always welcome at....

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MARAYONG

Parish Vision Statement

We are an active and welcoming Catholic community, where people of all ages draw closer to God. His love is expressed through each one of us by prayer, liturgy and reaching out in service to one another.



THE EPIPHANY of the LORD

Please visit our Parish Website: www.standrewsmarayong.org.au Year A: Vol.42 No.07

7th / 8th January 2017

PARISH STAFF:

Monsignor Ron McFarlane
Father Joby Kadambattu MS
Father Alfonsus Nahak SVD
Maria Hyson
(Sacramental Coordinator)
Michelle Sultana &
Joe Clemson
(Office staff)

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY:

Phone: 9622 0817
Fax: 9671 7971
40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong 2148
[PO Box 4345]
Email Address:
saapm@bigpond.com

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 4.00pm

FR. BYRNE CENTRE:

(Parish Meeting Rooms)
38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm
Sunday:
7.30am, 8.45am, 10.30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Each Sunday morning
after the 8.45am Mass.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9.00am
Tuesday: 9.00am
Wednesday: 9.00am
Novena & Mass: 7.00pm
Thursday: 8.00am
Friday: 9.00am
Saturday: 9.00am

Mass for the Sick: 4th Saturday of the month at 9.00am

Rosary: Before each morning

Mass and before the
Saturday Vigil Mass

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- After weekday morning Masses.
- Saturday: 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- Anytime by arrangement.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sunday
of each month at 11.45am

Baptismal Preparation:

2nd Wednesday of each month
at 7.30pm
in the Fr Byrne Centre.
Please book for Baptisms
with the Parish Office.

PIETY STALL:

Open after Masses on Saturday
night and Sunday morning or
by asking for an appointment
at the Parish Office.

PARISH SCHOOLS:

ST. ANDREW'S PRIMARY

Principal: Mr M. Tonnet
Phone: 9671 6622
Address: 36 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE

College Principal: Mr N. Vidot
Phone: 9626 4000

Campus -

JUNIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 7-10)

Address: 116 Quakers Road
Marayong 2148

SENIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 11-12)

Address: 50 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHRISTMAS

On behalf of the parish community we congratulate and thank all those involved in the many hours of preparation and then in the wonderful presentation of the Nativity play which took place before the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. This provided a wonderful experience for many families who came together to celebrate the feast of Christmas. I believe it also provided a wonderful help in helping our parishioners, young and older with a beautiful and meaningful reflection on the events of the first Christmas.

The Sunday School will recommence on Sunday, January 15. We do encourage families to make the most of this opportunity for their children which takes place immediately after the 8:45am Mass on a Sunday.

NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLY HOUR

Once again we express our appreciation for those who put so much effort into preparing the holy hour which was prayed to mark the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017. In particular, we thank Fr. Alphonse, Elvie and the members of the Legion of Mary. It is important that we do appreciate the commitment of the members of the Legion of Mary to the devotional and prayer life of our parish family. This year was a bit unusual with New Year's Day falling on a Sunday and it is possible that this affected the number of people turning up for the Holy Hour. While the number participating was disappointing, it was still a very prayerful celebration for the 60 people who did participate. Thank you once again.

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you have not filled out a Registration Form, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the Church or Parish Office. Forms are available at the back of the Church.

If you are a new parishioner, we ask you to complete a Registration Form, and return it to the Parish Office.

Bulletin Highlights ...

- ♦ THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS!
- ♦ FR JAMES MARTIN ON :
POPE FRANCIS' DOCUMENT ON THE FAMILY
- ♦ SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES FOR 2017
- ♦ UPCOMING PARISH AND DIOCESAN EVENTS

From Monsignor Ron ...

The wise men coming to offer their gifts have now become part of the Christmas festival. Consequently, it is easy to forget that the journey and visit of those wise men has a meaning for us now. In their journey to Jesus and in their given gifts and paying homage to him, God is giving good news to you and to me.

We should remember that these wise men were not members of the same religion or nationality as Jesus. They were not Jews. They were foreigners and would have been described in those days as pagans. They come as representatives of the whole non-Jewish world and they journey to Bethlehem representing the world outside Israel. They paid homage to Jesus Christ on behalf of us. What is more, when they came to the stable at Bethlehem these foreigners offered gifts which were valuable in their eyes and their gifts were accepted. What I would like to suggest is that this is good news for all of us because it means that God the Father of Jesus is God for the whole world, for all its nations and for all its peoples. It is a sign that God accepts people of all nations. This feast of the Epiphany, then, is a celebration that God is the God of all people and that he will accept what we have to offer and that he freely gives us salvation if we turn to him.

This is so important that God in Jesus Christ accepts people as they are with whatever gifts they can offer him. This of course means that there can be no place in Christianity for racial prejudice or the contempt towards people of a different religious faith. Our God has no favourites and there are no special people who are particularly acceptable. What is good in all men and women is a sign of the presence of God in their hearts.

Finally, we need to focus on the fact that God in love created all nations. In our words and deeds, we Christians must reflect that love and welcome all who draw near in faith and peace.

Weekday Mass Readings:

Commencing this week the Readings at weekday Mass will be taken from year one. From Tuesday of this week the first reading will be taken from the Letter to the Hebrews and the gospel readings from the Gospel of St Mark.

During this week, we will celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday morning. This occurs due to the fact that Christmas and New Year fell on a Sunday. The readings for the Mass will be from Year A.

Novena and Mass:

This Wednesday, January 11, the Novena and Mass will recommence at 7 PM. This is a great way to express our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and also to spend time praying with Jesus the Mass which is the most powerful prayer we have in the centre of our lives.

FIESTA SINULOG 2017

Triduum Mass in preparation for the FIESTA OF SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO —11th, 12th, 13th January 2017 – 7.00pm

SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY 2017

2:30pm Concelebrated Mass followed by Procession
Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 130 Hyatt Rd, Plumpton.

All devotees please bring your Santo Nino Statues

Main Celebrant His Excellency

Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana DD

Apostolic Nuncio to Australia

SINULOG • SINULOG • SINULOG

Beating of the drums by the Aklan Ati-Atihan group

Entertainment program, dinner sharing & raffle

Please bring food and drink to share

Information: Mila Alforque 0478 707 516

Please contact the
Parish Office, **if you are**
unavailable for your
rostered Ministry.



MASS READINGS -YEAR A

THIS SUNDAY:

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY:

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Psalm: Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10

Second Reading: 1 Cori 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER: 7th / 8th January 2017

[2nd Sunday of the Month - Odd Month]

MINISTRIES	6.00pm	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am
ACOLYTE	Romy Gapud Emmanuel Tabone	Gus Kaster Edsel Paltoo	Noe Adan Mario Picart	Robert Bautista Luis Ortiz
COMMENTATOR	Nenette Gapud	Claire Blunt	Lita Picart	Peter Maw
FIRST READER	Ralph Vaz	Antonette Elogious	Ivy Mantua	Alan Brady
SECOND READER	Myra Estrera	Belinda Elogious	Maria Toledo	Maryanne Bautista
PROJECTOR OPERATORS	Nicholas King	Derica Elogious	Nicholas Mathias	YouthWorks!
WELCOMER	Annette Hudson	Claire Blunt Linda Dessa	Mathias Family	YouthWorks!
MUSICIANS	St Andrew's Family Choir	NO Music Mass	NO Music Mass	YouthWorks!
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION - Second Sunday of the Month				

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER: 14th / 15th January 2017

[3rd Sunday of the Month - Odd Month]

MINISTRIES	6.00pm	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am
ACOLYTE	Stephen Debrincat Edward Yuliardhyanto	Volunteer Required John Fernandes	Morie Balisbisan Thong Nguyen	Robert Bautista Luis Ortiz
COMMENTATOR	Erna Ferrer	Mary Anne Xuereb	Chris Bettiol	Volunteer Required
FIRST READER	Marian Fernandez	Fely Perez	Roseanne Victoria	Therrie Chin
SECOND READER	Edward Yin	Laurinda Atienza	Bernardo Rivera	Eduardo Gatchalian
PROJECTOR OPERATORS		Aradhana Hyson	Jaden Victoria	Rachel Berry
WELCOMER	Melita DelosReyes	Annette Hudson	Denise Farla Dot Kaster	Peter Maw
MUSICIANS	Hearts	NO Music Mass	NO Music Mass	Living Word Choir
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION - Third Sunday of the Month				

Two Reflections from Pope Francis December 31, 2014

1. God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else—God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.

2. Too many people's lives, Pope Francis says, "are like Lent without Easter.... Sometimes we are tempted to find excuses and complain, acting as if we could only be happy if a thousand conditions were met." But the truth is: the seeds of joy are all around us. Simple joy can come from knowing that God never tires of loving us and accompanying us along the way of life. It comes from knowing—despite it all—we have a life and a future in 2015. When we experience this joy of being loved and of having a future, we can't help but share it. Joy is a gift that must be shared. And when we share joy, we attract other people—all kinds of people. This—in fact—is the greatest gift of sharing joy: we become people who are willing to engage, encounter, and befriend anyone.

FR JAMES MARTIN ON POPE FRANCIS' DOCUMENT ON THE FAMILY

Here are ten things to know about the pope's ground-breaking new document.

1. The church needs to understand families and individuals in all their complexity. The church needs to meet people where they are. So pastors are to "avoid judgements which do not take into account the complexity of various situations" (296). People should not be "pigeonholed or fit into overly rigid classifications leaving no room for personal and pastoral discernment" (298). In other words, one size does not fit all. People are encouraged to live by the Gospel, but should also be welcomed into a church that appreciates their particular struggles and treats them with mercy. "Thinking that everything is black and white" is to be avoided (305). And the church cannot apply moral laws as if they were "stones to throw at people's lives" (305). Overall, he calls for an approach of understanding, compassion and accompaniment.

2. The role of conscience is paramount in moral decision making. "Individual conscience needs to be better incorporated into the church's practice in certain situations which do not objectively embody our understanding of marriage" (303). That is, the traditional belief that individual conscience is the final arbiter of the moral life has been forgotten here. The church has been "called to form consciences, not to replace them" (37). Yes, it is true, the Pope says, that a conscience needs to be formed by church teaching. But conscience does more than to judge what does or does not agree with church teaching. Conscience can also recognize with "a certain moral security" what God is asking (303). Pastors, therefore, need to help people not simply follow rules, but to practice "discernment," a word that implies prayerful decision making (304).

3. Divorced and remarried Catholics need to be more fully integrated into the church. How? By looking at the specifics of their situation, by remembering "mitigating factors," by counseling them in the "internal forum," (that is, in private conversations between the priest and person or couple), and by respecting that the final decision about the degree of participation in the church is left to a person's conscience (305, 300). (The reception of Communion is not spelled out here, but that is a traditional aspect of "participation" in church life.) Divorced and remarried couples should be made to feel part of the church. "They are not excommunicated and should not be treated as such, since they remain part" of the church (243).

4. All members of the family need to be encouraged to live good Christian lives. Much of "Amoris Laetitia" consists of reflections on the Gospels and church teaching on love, the family and children. But it also includes a great deal of practical advice from the pope, sometimes gleaned from exhortations and homilies regarding the family. Pope Francis reminds married couples that a good marriage is a "dynamic process" and that each side has to put up with imperfections. "Love does not have to be perfect for us to value it" (122, 113). The pope, speaking as a pastor, encourages not only married couples, but also engaged couples, expectant mothers, adoptive parents, widows, as well as aunts, uncles and grandparents. He is especially attentive that no one feels unimportant or excluded from God's love.

5. We should no longer talk about people "living in sin." In a sentence that reflects a new approach, the pope says clearly, "It can no longer simply be said that all those living in any 'irregular situation' are living in a state of mortal sin" (301). Other people in "irregular situations," or non-traditional families, like single mothers, need to be offered "understanding, comfort and acceptance" (49). When it comes to these people, indeed everyone, the church need to stop applying moral laws, as if they were, in the pope's vivid phrase, "stones to throw at a person's life" (305).

... ..To be continued next week

Sunday	
8	The Epiphany of the Lord Counters: Group 2 11:45 Baptism
Monday	
9	The Baptism of the Lord 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 18:00 Legion of Mary
Tuesday	
10	09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary
Wednesday	
11	09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Novena & Mass 19:30 Baptism Preparation
Thursday	
12	08:00 Mass 08:30 Rosary 10:00 Life Ascending Australia Group Meeting - FBC
Friday	
13	Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 20:00 Choir Practice HJM
Saturday	
14	Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary 10:00 Church Cleaning CFC 16:15 Legion of Mary 19:30 Prayer Meeting HJM

Sacramental Program Dates for 2017 ...

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This Program will commence in Term 1 for children in Years 3 and above who have received the Sacrament of Penance.

Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office starting
Monday 30th January 2017

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office
on Sunday 5th February and Sunday 12th February between 9.30 and 11.30am]

Registration Evening:

Tuesday 14th February 2017 at 7.00pm in the Church

Classes: Sundays 26th February & 5th March 2017

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]



Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Saturday 18th March at 6pm and Sunday 19th March 2017 at 8.45am or 12:15 pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This Program will commence in Term 2 for children in Years 5 & above who have made their First Holy Communion.

Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office
from Wednesday 26th April 2017

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office
on Sunday 30th April and Sunday 7th May between 9.30 and 11.30am]

Registration Evening:

Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.00pm in the Church.

Classes: Sundays 21st May & 28th May 2017

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]

Sacrament of Confirmation Ceremony:

Tuesday 6th or Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7:00 pm



SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

*The Sacrament of First Penance Program will take place in
Term 3 for children in Years 2 & above who have been baptised.*



Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office
from Tuesday 18th July 2017

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office
on Sunday 23rd July and Sunday 30th July between 9.30 and 11.30am]

Registration Evening:

Tuesday 1st August 2017 at 7.00pm in the Church

Classes:

Sundays 13th August, 20th August & 27th August 2017

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]

Sacrament of First Penance will be celebrated on either:

[Choose one]

Saturday 2nd, 9th or 16th September 2017 (9:30am)