



Parish Priest:
Fr Frank O'Loughlin

SACRED HEART SANDRINGHAM

13th December 2015

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School 9598 9322

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PARISH NOTICES

3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT

SUNDAY MASSES : 6.00pm (*Sat*) Vigil Mass; 9am & 11am (Children's Liturgy 9am Mass)

WEEKDAYS : *Mon* Mass 5pm (*Convent*)

Tues Mass 9.30am & 1.30pm (*Fairway Hostel*)

& 6pm *School Graduation Mass*

Wed Mass 9.30am (*End of Year School Mass*)

Thurs Mass 9.30am & 2.30pm (*Mercy Fernhill*)

Fri Communion Service 9.30am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 19th December at 5pm

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|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| READINGS next SUNDAY: | 1st Reading | Prophet Micah | 5:1-4 |
| <i>Advent Year C</i> | 2nd Reading | Hebrews | 10:5-10 |
| | Gospel | Luke | 1:39-44 |

MERCY

Having a 'year' for all sorts of different things has become common over these last couple of decades. It has been happening both in society at large and in the Church. Pope Francis has called the whole Church to celebrate a 'Year of Mercy' and this call fits into a broader call which he has been making to the Church ever since he was elected Pope.

We can associate 'Mercy' too much with the forgiveness of sins. Scripturally it is much broader than that while including it.

Speaking of God's mercy is much more about God's response to our human predicament, to the situation in which we human beings find ourselves; the suffering that is in one way or another part of our lives, the limitations we find we are unable to go beyond the violence which we can inflict but also to which we are subject, the problem we so often have in relating to others, the self-centredness which it takes so long to discover and go beyond.

MERCY (Cont.)

God's mercy, God's compassion is his understanding of this situation which keeps dogging us. God is one whom we discover (especially with the Lord Jesus) who does not stand apart from us and act judgementally towards us but one who gets into this human situation. He approaches us with understanding, with empathy and with sympathy.

And we are called to be compassionate as God our Father is compassionate (Lk.6.36-38). This is a call to each of us and to the Church as a whole. The Church is called to be a place of compassion where people can find an image of the compassionate Father.

The symbol of all Holy Years is the Holy Door. We walk through a door to enter into a new place, symbolic of new attitudes and new paths ahead. Pope Francis opened the 'Door of Mercy' on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady as she was, so the speak, the door to which Jesus entered our world.

The Archbishop will also open a 'Door of Mercy' at St Patrick's Cathedral this Sunday December 13th.

ADVENT PRAYER: Tuesday
December 15th at 7.30pm in the
Church.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE:

for all Masses, Confessions etc, is
available in the foyer of the Church today.

PENANCE SERVICE: our usual
Penance Service before Christmas will
be on Monday, December 21st at
7.30pm. It has always been a custom
to take stock of our lives before the
great feasts. This is our opportunity
before this Christmas.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

Tuesday Dec 22nd at 10am
Wednesday Dec 23rd at 7.30pm
Thursday Dec 24th at 12 noon

MASSES AT CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve 7 pm & 9pm
Christmas Day 10am

GIFT TREE (Jesse Tree)

Time is running out to take part in our annual gift tree. There are still some tags on the tree indicating for whom to purchase a gift. Please take a tag (or envelope) and return your **GIFT WITH THE TAG ATTACHED TODAY** to allow our St V de P volunteers time to start distribution on Monday Dec 14th.

The TAGS are coded to identify the recipient, so it is very important to keep them attached to your returned gift. Cash donations may be left with the Parish Office.

Last year we trialled Movie tickets and they were extremely popular, with many recipients enjoying going to the movies for the first time in years! So.... many of the gifts this year are Movie Tickets!

SINGING PRACTICE:

singing practice for
Christmas is next
Sunday December 20
at **10am between**
Masses.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone
who so generously supported our
Christmas Appeal for Remexio this
year.

Thanks to you, the most needy people
will be receiving Compassionate Care
packages in time for Christmas and the
children in one of the remote areas will
have new books, pencils and backpacks
to start the new school year.

The grand total of **\$5,273** has been
sent to Remexio.

Many thanks, once again, for making
Christmas happier for those who have
so little. *Social Justice Group.*

WORKING BEE:

in the church to prepare for
Christmas, will be on Thursday
December 17th at 2pm.

Please come along and
help....many hands make light
work.

Volunteers please gather in
the church.

CATECHUMENATE MEETING

on Tuesday, December 15th at 5pm
in the Presbytery Meeting Room.

Coffee makes a great gift at Christmas -

In a hamper, when visiting friends or
to have on hand if someone comes
unexpectedly.

The packaging is attractive and, as
well as being delicious East Timor
coffee, all profits go to projects in our
twin parish, Remexio.

Both grounds and beans are available
for the very reasonable price of
\$8/pack.

**On sale after Mass each
weekend between now and
Christmas.**

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2016 :

These are available in the Parish Shop....
\$9 ea makes an excellent gift !

CHRISTMAS CARDS are also available
at various prices in the foyer Parish Shop



BAPTISMS THIS SUNDAY

Eleanore Elisabeth Ducarme

daughter of Catherine & Fabrice

Aidan Noel Lynch

son of Brigitte & Damian

COLLECTION COUNTERS:**THIS WEEK: Team 3: G Thomas, L Warner, P & H Connell****NEXT WEEK: Team 4: P Thorp, R Clark, J McCartney, P Myers****CHURCH PREPARATION TEAM :****13/ 12 J Iskander*****No flowers during Advent*****20/ 12 S Hanna & S Crilly****EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS :****13/ 12 6pm C Gomez, A Bracchi, M Burgess****9am V Pucella, J Tonna, B Gravina****11am C Hill, C O'Reilly, A Mandarino****20/ 12 6pm B Scott, F Meade & Volunteers****9am M Phillips, M McCartney, G Griffiths****11am J Lamb, D Ridd & Volunteers****LECTORS / COMMENTATORS :****13/ 12 6pm H Rolfe & F Meade 9am J Grimmer & W Commins****11am C Hill & C O'Reilly****20/ 12 6pm M Palmer & H McGrath 9am G Ryan & P Wassell****11am E Anderson & S Valente**

THE SICK : Peter Roberts, John LoPiccolo, Peter Gillon, Janine Watts, Summer Hall, Julia Oppendsano, Ben Randles, Jean MacGregor, Madison O'Neill, Robyn Fenton, Diana Gillon, Kim D'Souza, Laurina & Jim Andrews, Stewart Ross, Fr Ernie Smith, Peter Arbon, Trevor Harden, Rhonda Rigg, Martin Cassidy,

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pauline Hinchcliffe

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Williams, Isobel Williams, Maria Grazia Pardo, Jock Hawking, Tom Maginness, Tom Hayes, John Pucella, Barrie Rumens, Mary McTeigue

We respectfully acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal peoples and especially the Boonerwung people of the Kulin Nation, who are the traditional owners and custodians of the Sandringham area.