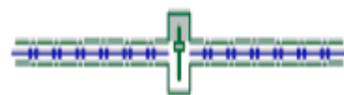




Welcome back to your
Spiritual Home!



Dear Parishioners and Visitors... It gives me immense joy to welcome you and your families to Mass as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord. The mystery of the Incarnation, that God assumed human flesh in Christ Jesus, is truly the greatest event in human history. For, as St Thomas Aquinas once said, "there is nothing that can be thought of that is more marvellous than this divine accomplishment: that the true God, the son of God, should become true man." As we turn our own thoughts to that of the Christ child this Christmas, we might all marvel with renewed awe and inspiration at just how approachable God chose to make Himself to us, His creatures – that Christ-Immortal enters our world as a vulnerable and dependent baby boy (in silence). In this time of pandemic and confusion, when many people are confronting the emptiness of a life driven by materialism, wealth, and distracting pleasures, we, too, are called to confront our own vulnerability in order to allow the innocence of the Christ-Child, the redemptive grace of our Loving Saviour, to heal our doubts, transform our hearts, and purify our minds so as to rediscover the truth: that we will never experience the foretaste of heavenly joy in this life if we try to live our lives apart from the practice of the faith. For this reason, I would especially like to welcome those of you who might be returning to Mass for the first time since the lockdown or have been away from the practice of your faith. Please know you should feel very much at home here at St Cath's – it is never too late to rediscover the genius of the Catholic faith and to experience the greatest gifts of all: truth and mercy! As your parish priest, I want you to feel completely at ease in coming to speak to me about everything and anything to do with the life of faith. Similarly, If there is anything I can do to help you come back to your faith in a deeper way, please get in touch. I would love to chat!

My love and prayers for you all. Fr Greg Morgan PP (gregory.morgan1987@sydneycatholic.org)

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

Joseph 'Joe' Hansel, Judith King, Carmel Farnham, Baby Atticus, Leoni Bashall, Mary Fitzgerald, Geoffrey Jones, Elaine Matthews, Kevin Fennell (Gymea Legion of Mary), Kevin Cannon, Frank Humphries, Aileen McDonnell, Jonah Iona, Valerie Joan Tye, David Morrison, Giuseppe Sellaro, Rodney McGovern, Raymond Ragoo Govindon, Jack Carey, Helen Dobson, Dominic Berinati, Norma Estrada, Miriam Mitchell.

We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

Helen & Charles Bombala, Ivan Bosnjak, Thelma Gaye & Anthony Bloye, Kevin Henry Cashman, Val Cobcroft, Peg Cockram, Ken Connolly, Glenn Michael Dorman, Roy & Mary Esplin, Nicola Franco, Thomas Ginman, Bill Godfrey, Lurline & Lewis & Jack Grime, Father William Hannon, Joe & Anna Natoli, John Sidgreaves, Tom Richards.

We pray for all the sick of our Parish Community and their carers. Especially:

Catherine Bassiuoni, Gerry Banister, Jean Bell, Pamela Buckley, Patricia Butler, Hugh Casey, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Maree Hinton, Gloria Klein, Laurence McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Evie Morgan, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Marie Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Marie & Norm Whittaker, Gary Wood.

A HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS: Fr Greg and the parish staff would like to wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas and God's choicest blessings for the New Year of Grace, 2022. I pray especially that we will all put Our Lord at the centre of our lives; knowing that our Catholic faith is the ultimate gateway to true joy in this life and eternal beatitude in the next! It is such a privilege to be your parish priest and I am very excited about the year ahead. But this is your parish, so please think of how you might use your gifts and talents to get more involved. God bless!

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: Christmas, like every Sunday, is a Holy Day of obligation. As you know, Christmas falls on a Saturday this year but we are still *obliged* to attend Mass on Sunday, Feast of the Holy Family. (Even Jesus, God-Incarnate, went to the synagogue every Sabbath leaving us a poignant example of how we are to keep the Sabbath Day holy.) A good Christmas present to Jesus is to keep our commitment to Sunday Mass! I promise, the homily will be three minutes tops! You can time me...**Mass times on Sunday 26th December will be: 7:30am, 9:30am, and 5pm ! See you there!!**

There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day/no Saturday Vigil.

WEEKDAY MASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS:

Please be advised that Mass on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th will be at **12:00 noon** (not 9.15am). There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass on these days. Adoration before Mass will resume on Wednesday 29th December at 8:30am.

NEW YEARS EVE MASS: Start the year on a spiritual high. On the 31st December, join me for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11pm to 11:45pm followed by Benediction. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will then be celebrated at Midnight. Mass will also be celebrated on New Years Day at **12pm Noon** (not 9.15am). What better way is there to bring in the New Year of Grace, 2022, than with Our Lord!

MASKS: Are now mandated indoors but there are no limits on the number of people at Masses.

WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH IN 2022: Please take home the insert with this week's bulletin. If you have any ideas or initiatives that you would like to propose to build up God's Kingdom here in Gynea, please let Fr Greg know. He is very keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: Along the pews you will find envelopes with the words "Christmas Offering". Money placed into these envelopes goes into a central fund that supports the Clergy of the Archdiocese and covers certain housekeeping expenses here in our parish. It would be great if St Cath's is able to raise enough funds such that we are able to support poorer parishes that are unable to pay for such expenses. Thank you for your generosity. You can place the Christmas envelopes in either collection bag.

COLLECTIONS: Following a recent audit, we have been asked to now follow Archdiocesan protocols/policy with respect to collections. The first collection goes towards Pastoral Revenue (the central fund described above), the second collection goes into the Church Account.

ADVENT ALMSGIVING: On behalf of the Committee for the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy here in our parish, I would like to express my sincere and utmost gratitude to you all for your exceptional generosity these past weeks. Over \$5,000 was raised for our St Vincent De Paul Conference, \$3,000 was raised to purchase new books for an impoverished school in Fiji, and a little over \$2,000 was raised to help repair the roof of the Cathedral Church in Dilli, East-Timor. Thank you again!

REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN: I have had further communication with the local council about supporting refugees from Afghanistan. Besides offering our community car to help transport them to English classes across Sydney, I have also offered to support them with low-cost housing/appliances/furniture. We already have sourced a few items, but if you possess (or know of someone who does) any such items that are in good working order but are no longer needed, please have a chat to me in the new year.

ADVENT ADORATION: It was truly wonderful to see so many people coming to the Church over the past week to adore Our Lord in the Eucharist. All the hours were filled with willing and prayerful adorers. I especially commend the couple who stayed from 6pm until 9.30pm one evening to ensure Our Lord was not left alone. Thank you to everyone who came to pray for our parish community. As I said, a praying parish is/will become a thriving parish. My dream would be to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all through the day (and maybe even the night!). But slow steps...

FUNERAL OF JUDITH KING: Will be celebrated here at St Cath's on Wednesday 29th December at 11am.

BONNIE VIEW DEVELOPMENT: Thank you to all those parishioners who took an interest in the suggested redevelopment of 10 & 12 Bonnie View Street by Catholic Care. As I said the other week, the patrimony of this parish does not belong to me but to you, the parishioners, and, thus, I appreciate everyone taking a vested interest in such matters. For those of you who have completed the feedback forms, feel free to put them in the parish letter box or in the box at the back of the Church. A question has been raised about the exact remuneration to the parish. We are expected to receive \$100,000 PA (CPI indexed) over the proposed 15 year lease. Further details will be given in the new year from members of the Parish Finance Committee.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The parish community would warmly welcome anyone interested in assisting with **reading/serving/acolyting** at Mass. We are also looking for anyone who might be able to assist with the **care of our gardens and for new catechists**. All are welcome to chat with Fr Greg if they are open to getting involved. I am delighted with the number of people who have already come forward, but I would love for everyone to be involved. Training will be provided in the new year (dates TBC).

ADVENT CATECHESIS TALKS: I was very impressed with the turn out for the four Advent catechesis. I thought our final QandA on Wednesday night was particularly stimulating with some wonderful, thought provoking, questions from parishioners. I hope to develop and increase the opportunities for faith formation in 2022.

CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY: I would like to ask the members of the committee to meet on Thursday 17th February to begin plan for activities in 2022.

CONFESSIONS/BENEDICTION: will be available before and after every Weekday Mass (including Saturdays). Just approach me. On Saturdays, I will be in the confessional immediately following the 9:15 am Mass for as long as necessary and from 4:30 – 4:55 pm.

Benediction will take place henceforth *every* Friday and Saturday immediately prior to the 9.15am Mass.

GRATITUDE: Fr Greg would like to say "thank you very much indeed" for the kind and thoughtful gifts and cards he has received from parishioners. Thank you very much again.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB: Is a marvellous asset to our parish. The Club provides a fun and faith-filled forum for senior members of our parish/local community to form new (and sustain old) friendships. New members are always welcome!

LEGION OF MARY: Meets every Thursday morning at 10am (in the parish conference room). New members always welcome!

MEDJUGORE PRAYER GROUP: Did you know we have a wonderful group of faith-filled parishioners who gather each Thursday evening at 6pm in our church to say the rosary and some special prayers? Why not join them? Everyone is welcome! The next prayer meeting will take place on the 6th January.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: The Archbishop's Christmas message is available via the Archdiocesan website. The parish has also received Christmas greetings and the assurance of prayers from a number of former priests of (or who have supplied in) the parish including Fr Josh Michels, Fr Anthony Robbie, and Mons Rayner. Bishop Umbers, our regional Bishop, also sends his Christmas greetings.

FACEBOOK PAGE: Remember to like our Facebook Page! I am very grateful to one of our younger parishioners who is running this now.

CATECHIST CORNER: Please get in touch with Fr Greg if you would like to become a catechist next year. **Now is the time to step forward!** Training will be provided and you get to join a wonderful group of parishioners. A great way to make new friendships, too!

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Priest: Father Gregory Morgan
Presbytery: 123 Gynea Bay Rd Gynea
Secretary: Kerry Ginman
Office Hours: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Monday to Thursday. Friday: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Office & Presbytery telephone: 9525.9993
Email: office@stcaths.org.au
Website: https://www.stcaths.org.au
Facebook: https://m.facebook.com/St-Catherine-Labour%C3%A9-Parish-Gynea-108678858244000/
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kerry
Email: safeguarding@stcaths.org.au
St Catherine Labouré Parish School
Principal: Jodie McKay
School Office: 9524.9706
Email: info@sclgynea.catholic.edu.au

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Sacramental Programme:
Email: sacramentalprogramme@stcaths.org.au
Catechist Coordinator:
Email: catechists@stcaths.org.au
Gynea Music/Choirs - Clare (Coordinator)
Email: musicgynea@stcaths.org.au
Legion of Mary - Mike (President)
Email: legionofmarygynea@stcaths.org.au
Medjugore Prayer Group - Bruno
Email: medumedjugorjeprayegroup@stcaths.org.au
St Catherine's Friendship Club:
Email: friendshipclub@stcaths.org.au
Archdiocese: https://www.sydneycatholic.org

PARISH MASS TIMES.

Mondays:	9:15 am Mass	Saturdays:	8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass
Tuesdays:	8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass		
Wednesdays:	8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass		
Thursdays:	8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass		
Fridays:	8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass		
		Saturday 5 pm Vigil Mass	
		Sundays:	7:30 am, 9:30 am & 5 pm



25/26 December 2021 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year C*

	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday Evening 5.00pm
Acolytes & Ministers of Holy Communion:		Phil Boland Sam Keir Judith Rumsey	Kevin Bourke Julie Banister Peter Cobcroft	Graham Ward David Gormley Amelia Paras
1st Reader:		Doreen Vernon	Carole Venier	Jenni Gormley
Psalmist:		Judith Rumsey	Barbara Foster	Ronald Paras
2nd Reader:		Adele Greenaway	Julie Banister	Graham Ward
Intercessions:				Margaret Reid

The Altar Society: Group 4:
June Frost, Kath Burns & Laurice Dooley.

In The Counting House: Team :
Until further notice in the new year. Thank you.

Altar Servers:

Audio-Visual Operators: Pauline/Mark Hugh
SENIOR CHOIR

The Clean Team: Group D: Norm Frost & Chris Jacobs.



May God and our Lady of Lourdes care for and protect us all.