



St. Matthew's Catholic Church

Loganholme Parish

172-180 Bryants Road, Cornubia 4130

Postal Address: P.O. Box 3038 Loganholme Qld 4129

Website Address: www.stmatthewsloganholme.com.au/home.php

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Rodrigo Tomala Mujica. **Phone:** 3801 1626

or **Email:** pp.loganholme@bne.catholic.net.au.

PARISH SECRETARY: Shelagh Ballment Tel: 3801 1626

REFLECTION ON CHRISTMAS

....When we come to understand that God created us to live our lives as human beings in deep and personal friendship and love with Him, but that we, from the very beginnings of our human history, have turned our backs on God, with all the terrible consequences that brings - consequences we see playing out all around us in the increasing violence and inhumanity which marks our age - then we can begin to appreciate the meaning, and the invitation, of Christmas.

We may have distanced ourselves from God, we may have lost our sense of who God really is and how much God loves and cherishes us, but God has never distanced Himself from us, just as God has never stopped loving and cherishing us. We are made by God, we are made for God and, no matter how determined we may sometimes be to ignore God or maintain a safe distance from Him, God never gives up on us. And, at its heart, this is what Christmas means: it is the celebration of God's determination never to abandon us, no matter how often we may seek to abandon Him..

But, as Pope Francis reminded us recently, God comes gently, and simply and humbly, always inviting but never forcing Himself on us. This, of course, is what real love always does: it does not impose, or coerce, or demand.

It calls, it beckons, it invites and it offers - but it always leaves us free to give our "yes" - or to withhold it. God did not - and does not - come to us in power, or in force. God comes in the form of a helpless, fragile and vulnerable baby. He wants, we might say, to tug at our heart strings, as babies always do. He wants, through His gentle presence to us, to call the very best out of us, to soften our hardness of heart, to loosen the bonds of selfishness which constrict us - in other words, He wants to set us free. In our traditional theology, we say that He wants to be, and is, our saviour - but we must give our "yes", or our "no", to this gift of freedom, of salvation.

(Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, *December 2015, St Mary's Cathedral, Perth*)

CATHEDRAL GUIDES & WELCOMERS

Cathedral Guides & Welcomers invite you to an information session on **Thursday 7 February 2019 at 10.30am** to discover the delights of volunteering with the Cathedral Guides & Welcomers. If you enjoy meeting people; love your Cathedral and revel in good art and juicy history, the rewards of becoming a volunteer with the Cathedral Guides and Welcomers is beyond measure. A comprehensive training program is offered. If this ministry appeals to you, please contact the Cathedral on 3324 3030 or email deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au, by **Friday 25 January 2019**.

GRIEF TO GRACE RETREAT Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held **May 26th – 31st 2019**. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftograceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.griefftograce.org

Make an Encounter in 2019 Timor Leste- April & Sept

Samoa - June Myanmar- November www.palms.org.au/encounters

Palms Encounters are rich immersions that challenge perceptions of our neighbours, guided by Palms mission volunteers with cultural experience of Timor Leste, Myanmar and Samoa.

JOIN FLYWORLD PILGRIMAGE IN MAY 2019 (10 nights)

Sunday 5 May (Rome) to Wednesday 15 May (Split). Daily Masses. Visiting Rome, San Giovanni Rotonda, Monte San't Angelo, Dubrovnik, Medjugorje and Split. Price :\$5,500 (Air inclusive Twin Share)

Travel Company: Flyworld (6147811089)

Contact Anna Hickson on 0410 953 964 for more information or see details on the church notice board. Flyers also available from table in the church.

13 January 2019— The Baptism of the Lord - Yr. C

Rosary on Monday 14 January 2019 at 10am

Mass on Monday 14 January 2019 at 7pm

Adoration on Friday 18 January 2019 3am-4am.

**Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday & Saturday at 8am**

**Fr Clesio Mendes is currently looking after the parish in Fr Rodrigo's
absence. His mobile contact number is 0405 007 855
should you need him outside office hours.**

**Please remember in your prayers Cameron West, Alvin Maluto and Bruce
Laker who leave for WYD Panama on Tuesday 15 Jan.**

Next Sunday's Readings: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Yr C

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Reconciliation on Saturdays from 5.30pm before 6.00pm Mass. For
all other times contact Fr Rodrigo via the Parish Office on 3801 1626.

Baptisms and Weddings by appointment. Phone Parish Office 3801
1626 for Baptismal Request Form. Baptisms will be held on the 2nd
& 4th Sundays of the month at 11am after the 9.30am Mass.
Baptismal Preparation meetings will be arranged by Fr Rodrigo.

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius -

Are you looking for further spiritual growth in 2019? This program will
be offered at the Faber Centre from February to November
2019. Information morning 10am, **16 Feb 2019** - contact Sharyn on
3368 2450 for details.

REDRESS SCHEME

You would be aware that earlier this year the Catholic Church in Australia committed publically to joining the Redress Scheme. In early December the Archbishop signed the Deed of Participation on behalf of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, which was another step in bringing healing to those who have been wounded by abuse in the Church. Claims for re-dress will be made against the Corporation rather than an individual parish, so you need not be concerned about financial implications at a local level. The Archdiocese has signed on and encourages us to entrust survivors to the intercession of St Mary MacKillop as we have done in the Cathedral.

YOUR PRAYERS are requested for Pope Francis, world peace, abuse survivors and persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those Who have died: *Patricia Watkins (Funeral on Thurs 17 Jan at 10.30am), Jean Coyne, Margaret Staunton (Liz's sister), Sheryl Barker, Douglas Day, Doug, Justin West (17 yrs).*

Those Who Are Sick : *Rebecca West (5 Yrs), Bernadette De Marchi, Mary, Jasmine and baby Willow, John Hartshown, Mavis Host, Janet Shaw (Wendy's aunt), Irene Gow, Pauline & Kev Waters, Bev & Greg Cross, Melanie, Raymond, Jesu Maria, Gregory & Jay Minter, Tim Carr, Annie Kelleher, Raymond & Darren Chapman, Betty Bridekirk, Daniel & Moya Hamilton, Tony, Margaret and Ted Anderson, Frank Newnham, Blair March, Keith & Mary Shinnick-Spoor, Colin Host, John Coles.*

Anniversaries: *Peter & Alfred Vieira, Eve-Emily Birk, Hank Rempe, Frederick Minter, Doreen Coloquhon, Fergie, Claude Laifoo Dee, Terence Phillips, Fr Curley, George Chapman, Burt Webb, Graham Chapman, Leslie Gordon & Kenneth. Walter Squires, Roy Nield, Philippe Maujean, Ellen Davidson, Sean Dorney, Rob Clark, Molly Elsie Squires, Brendan Vine.*