

## Sunday Readings

Year A

### First Reading - Nm 6:22-27

#### A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

### Second Reading - Gal 4:4-7

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

### Gospel - Lk 2:16-21

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

## Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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*A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all*

Mary Mother of God, Year A

January 1, 2017

### The first disciple

It is interesting that in the early centuries of the Church, theologians and spiritual writers wrangled about how to define the various tenets of our faith. Indeed it was not until the Council of Ephesus in 431AD, there was definitive agreement that Mary could truly be called the Mother of God.

We rejoice in today's feast and the extraordinary privileges of Mary because Jesus, in entrusting her to John as he died on the cross, also gave Mary to us all. But of course Jesus himself pointed out to us that what makes Mary great is not so much the fact that she gave birth to him, but rather that she heard the word of God and kept it. She was the first disciple and we are called to imitate her in faithfully responding to God's call in our lives.

There is very little in the Scriptures about Mary, but Luke gives us an insight into the character of this unique person, when he describes in his infancy narrative how she "treasured" the things that were being revealed to her and then "pondered them in her heart."

I once heard the celebrated Canadian spiritual writer, Ronald Rolheiser, examine this notion of pondering and he helped me to realise that it was saying something much more profound than I had previously realised. The word 'ponder' in the ancient biblical languages actually means much more than simply 'thinking about' or 'thoughtfully reflecting on': it certainly means to go deeply into the subject, but it

#### Weekly Mass Times:

Monday:	7.00 am	Tuesday:	5.30 pm	Wednesday:	8.00 am
Thursday:	7.00 am	Friday:	5.30 pm	Saturday:	8.30 am
Saturday:	Vigil 6.30 pm (Novena 6.00 pm)				
Sunday:	8.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am & 6.00 pm				

Reconciliation: Saturday: 11.00am - 12.00 noon and 5.00pm - 6.00pm



Fr. Phong Nguyen  
Parish Priest



Fr. Garner Vargas  
Assistant Priest



Fr. Cyprian Shikokoti  
Priest in Residence



Deacon Bruce  
Parish Deacon

also suggests that we actually enter into and are part of the experience.

Thus, Rolheiser pointed out that Mary's 'pondering' was at its most intense as she stood at the foot of the cross. There she could not influence the outcome of the events but she was not simply standing by helpless either. By accompanying her son, Jesus, through his passion and death, she actually took part in the passion.

He compared her role to that of a filter. For example, a water filter sifts out all the toxins and impurities so that we are left with pure water. Likewise, as Mary stood at the foot of the cross with her son Jesus, she helped to filter out all the pain and suffering, the cruelty and sin of the world, so that she could pour forth the purity of God's love.

Rolheiser then invited us to ponder this as the ultimate image of true discipleship. As part of the Body of Christ, brothers and sisters of the Lord, we are called to imitate Mary and enter into to the mystery of Christ's passion and death by standing alongside all those in need and absorbing their pain and suffering. On this great Feast of Mary, may the Holy Spirit enable us to make Christ present to the world in this way.

Timothy J Buckley, CSsR  
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#### Baptisms:

We welcome Shaylyn Cameron Boboko into our Parish Community.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Deaths:** Please pray for Frances Boyle who passed away recently.

#### Anniversaries:

Please pray for Greg King, Dean Antonio Pasquale whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## for 8TH JANUARY

### NEXTWEEK

Bulletin: Juliana Doss  
Flowers: Diana Puspita  
Counter: 1. R Soia Soia      2. R Yeo      3. N Kristianto

	Saturday 6.30pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 6.00pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	P Doss	B King	J Nonis	T Roper	S Carrello
<b>Special Ministers</b>	J Doss A Mourad L Morzenti V Ng J See	G Screen C Cox C Price P Price J Sciorilli	A Faleiro C Derries G Mo J Moeljadi J Moeljadi	F May A Loo J Loo L Yeo R Yeo	A Phoon S Chauvea A Gunawan C Tan J Tan

Altar Servers and Readers – Please come up as required – NO ROSTERS for January 2017.

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS & MONDAY'S MASS

As New Year's Day is on Sunday, Masses will be as usual as the weekend Masses.

Monday being a Public Holiday, Mass will be at 9.00am.

#### A BIG THANK YOU!

A very big Thank You to all those who helped in any way with all our Christmas Masses. There are so many people to thank and it would be impossible to name them all. Without the generosity of your time and talent, our wonderful Christmas celebrations would not have been possible. So once again, thank you very much! Have a safe and happy holidays and Happy New Year to all of you- Fr Phong, Fr Garner, Fr Cyprian, Deacon Bruce and Parish Staff.

Safeguarding Officer: Fatima Basilio (fatima.safeguarding@gmail.com)

#### MORE CARE

*Do you need help or know someone who does?*

† Geraldine	9332 8795	(Visiting)
† Monica	9364 9358	(Meals)
† Caroline	9313 5452	(Transport/Meals)
† Silvia	9417 7131	(Transport)
† Juliana	9310 1747	(General-office hrs)

Rose Garden  
January 2017

Section A  
Sharon Vong

Section B  
Craig Mclver