

## The Baptism of the Lord

10th January 2016



**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

**Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL: According to Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22**

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

*Saints of the Week*  
St Hilary (Wed 13/1)

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:** Sat Vigil 5.30pm, Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am & 5.30pm

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:** Monday— Friday 9.15am

**ADDITIONAL MASSES:** 1st Friday 7.00pm/ Parish.  
Hammondville Nursing Home 1st Tuesday of the Month at 11.00am

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays 4.30pm—5.15pm

**MASS INTENTIONS:** There are Mass Intention envelopes in the church foyer for people to write their respective Intentions. These need to be returned to the parish office no later than one week prior to the said date. Please do not place them in the 'suggestion box'.

**ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Thursday 7.00pm -8.00pm except Thursday before 1st Friday of the Month.

**BAPTISMS:** Please contact the Parish office 9825 1679

**WEDDINGS:** 6 months notice is required

### CONTACTS:

**CATECHISTS:** Louise Hartin 9822 5040

**EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** Fr. Thanh 9825 1679

**READERS & COMMENTATORS :** Lorraine de Lapp 9825 1870

**CHOIRS:** Fr Thanh 9825 1679 & Dianne Pawsey 9771 1738

**RCIA PROGRAM:** Fr. Thanh 9825 1679 & Sr. Helen 9825 1679

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Rev. Mr. Al Salu 0416 842 669

**ROSARY MAKERS GUILD:** Cyril Ferriere 9825 2008

## St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

*We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality, love and commitment*

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Thanh Quang Nguyen  
**Priest in Residence:** Rev. Thomas Alukka  
**Permanent Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Al Salu  
**Pastoral Support** Sr. Helen Madden *rsj*  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Anne Bennell  
**Parish Office Hours** Mon 10.00am—3.00pm  
Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm  
195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy  
PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875  
**Address:**  
**All Mail to:**  
**Website:** www.stchristophers.org.au  
**Email:** stchris@tpg.com.au  
**Tel:** (02) 9825 1679  
**Fax:** (02) 9825 1488



**St Christopher's Catholic School**—*Through faith and love we serve*

**Principal:** Mr. Tony Boyd  
**School Tel:** (02) 9825 3251  
**School Mail:** PO Box 568 Moorebank 1875

## *The Baptism of the Lord 10th January 2016*

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped. *Fr. Greg Sunter*

***Fr. Thanh is on Annual leave until Monday 8th February***

**Parish Collections 25/12/2015 & 27/12/2015**

25/12/2015 **First:** \$649.25 **Second:** \$1,023.85 **Christmas Offerings** \$3,095.10

*Thank you sincerely for your generosity with the Christmas Offerings*

Should any parishioner wish to contribute to the Planned Giving envelopes there are forms in the church foyer. Please complete & place on any of the collections plates and the Parish Office will contact you.

**NEW COMMENTATORS AND READERS** We are in need of new commentators & readers for our 8am Sunday Masses. If you are interested, please leave your details on the sheet provided in the church foyer.

**Sr. Helen Madden** on behalf of Mary MacKillop International wishes to thank everyone for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. During 2015 approximately \$34,500.00 was raised. This has surpassed our 2014 effort, thank you to one and all. From 2001 till now our total is almost \$125,000.00! It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.



**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2016** In the church foyer are the dates for all our Sacraments for 2016. Please note that there will be a compulsory Parents Information session for all these Sacraments which will be held in the school hall on Tuesday 9th February commencing at 7pm. There is a reminder notice to take home to place in your diary.

Parishioners please check our new parish Website [www.stchristophers.org.au](http://www.stchristophers.org.au) The Sacramental Program dates for 2016 are there to place in your diaries.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** will be celebrated on Wednesday 10th February with Mass at 9.15am & 7.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

**LENTEN DAY GROUP 2016** Sr. Helen will be leading the Wollongong Diocese—Lenten Program and will meet in the Parish Hall each Tuesday during Lent 12.45pm for a 1.00pm start. However, for the First Sunday of Lent session, Sr Helen is only available to lead this session on **Monday 8th February**. She hopes this will be convenient for the group for this day 12.45pm for a 1.00pm start.. The following sessions will revert to Tuesdays at 12.45pm for a 1.00pm start —2.00pm Lenten books are \$8.00 each, any participants wishing to join this group please contact the parish office.

**LENTEN GROUP on a week night.** Should any parishioners wish to form a Lenten group on a week night, please contact the parish office 9825 1679.

Shortly before Christmas **Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP** became unwell, while the Archbishop is responding well to treatment in St Vincent's Hospital we are encouraging all Catholics to pray for Archbishop Fisher.

**A Prayer to Jesus for Healing**

*Lord, look upon Archbishop Fisher with eyes of mercy, may Your healing hand rest upon him, may Your life giving powers flow into every cell of his body and into the depths of his soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring him to wholeness and strength for service in Your Kingdom.  
Amen.*

Saturday 9th Jan 5.30pm.....Mary Gilchrist (RIP)  
Sunday 10th Jan 8.00am .....Norma Mezentsef (RIP)  
Sunday 10th Jan 9.30am.....Parish Intentions  
Sunday 10th Jan 5.30pm.....Harry Kat (RIP) and  
Flores & Miranda families (Special Intentions )  
Monday 11th Jan .....**No morning Mass**  
Tuesday 12th Jan 9.15am .....Terry Touzell (RIP)  
Wednesday 13th Jan 9.15am..... For the Sick  
Thursday 14th Jan 9.15am .....Vocations  
Friday 15th Jan 9.15am.....Special Intention  
Saturday 16th Jan .....**No morning Mass**

**National Association of Catholic Families—NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Kurrajong NSW April 8-10 2016** The conference is an opportunity for Catholic families to come together for mutual spiritual, moral and social support in a fund holiday environment. **Family Conference** is designed to cater for whole families with conference talks for adults and catechetical talks and activities for teens and children of all ages. All conference bookings is to be done online— [www.trybooking.com/159690](http://www.trybooking.com/159690) Registrations close Friday 11th March 2016. For more information email: [nacf.sydney@hotmail.com](mailto:nacf.sydney@hotmail.com) or Mary Clare Meney on 0435 496 624

**John Cassian 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Century monk**

**Presented by Bishop David Walker at *The Centre for Christian Spirituality***

**14 Frances St, Randwick**

Dates: Wednesday nights 20, 27 January & 3 February, 2016 - 7.00-8.30pm.

Course Cost: \$30

Online Bookings: <http://trybooking.com/JUUK>

Direct Bookings: 9398 2211 or [sally@thecentre.com.au](mailto:sally@thecentre.com.au)

**St Joseph's Parish Moorebank is having a menALIVE Men's Weekend**

20-21 February. The purpose of menALIVE is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God, and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church. For more information, contact: Stuart Brady 0447 093 044 email: [stuart@sbind.com.au](mailto:stuart@sbind.com.au) John Ryan 0408 209 672 email [jmryan68@bigpond.com](mailto:jmryan68@bigpond.com) There is a brochure in the church foyer.

**We Pray For The Sick**

Nahui Miranda, Christian Miranda Flores, Carmen Miranda Flores, Helen Roberts & Kate Zamudio



**Recently Deceased**

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*