

**Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year A**

**18th Dec 2016**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 7: 10-14**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1: 1-7**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel; God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: According to Matthew 1: 18-24**

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**Every First Friday of the month**

**Friday 6th January 2017 starts at 5.00pm until 11.00pm**

5.00pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Charismatic worship; Bible reading;

Reconciliation (if Priest available)

7.00pm: Mass (The Eucharist) - Fr. Thomas

After Mass, Reflection, sharing prayers!

8.00pm: Meditation—Reflections (By groups - in their languages)

11.00pm: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament— Closure!



**St Christopher's Parish Fund Raising Committee** wishes to congratulate the winners of our Christmas Raffle which was drawn Saturday 10th December 2016.

First Prize Ticket No. 0182 H. Carter

Second Prize Ticket No 1200 I. Capra

Third Prize Ticket No. 1351 M Villarcia

The Committee wishes to thank all Parishioners and friends who supported our fund raising activities in 2016 and we look forward to your continued support in 2017.

Expenses are yet to be finalised, and will keep you informed of the profit amount from the raffle in the New Year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful and Holy Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

**St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy**

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

<b>Administrator:</b>	Rev. Andrew James
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	Rev Thomas Alukka Vargahese
<b>Permanent Deacon:</b>	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
<b>Pastoral Support</b>	Sr. Helen Madden <i>rsj</i>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs. Anne Bennell
<b>Parish Office Hours</b>	Mon 10.00am—3.00pm Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm
<b>Address:</b>	205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173
<b>All correspondence to:</b>	<u>PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875</u>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.au">www.stchristophers.org.au</a>
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**St Christopher's Catholic School—Through faith and love we serve**

<b>Principal:</b>	Mr. Tony Boyd
<b>School Tel:</b>	(02) 9825 3251
<b>School Mail:</b>	195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

**Fourth Sunday of Advent 18th Dec 2016**



**On behalf of Fr. Andrew, Fr. Thomas and Deacon Mr. Al Salu we wish the parish community a joyful Christmas 2016 and a safe and healthy year 2017.**

## The Syro-Malabar Church in Australia

Last week we highlighted the fact that there are Eastern Rites within the Catholic Church. The Syro-Malabar Church is one of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches. It is in full communion with the Apostolic See Of Rome. The Church is headed by the major Archbishop Cardinal George Alencherry. It is the second largest Eastern Catholic Church, the largest being the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Syro-Malabar Catholics, also called "St Thomas Christians" trace their origins and faith to the missionary efforts of St. Thomas the Apostle, who landed in Kodungallur in Kerala, India in 52 AD. St. Thomas the Apostle was martyred in India at Mylapur, Chennai in 72 AD. Until the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, Bishops were appointed and sent by the Patriarch of the East Syrian Church, who governed the St. Thomas Christians. In the late 16<sup>th</sup> century Portugese missionaries arrived in India. They were members of the Latin Church and some misunderstandings arose with some of the Portugese missionaries failing to appreciate the value of the history of the St. Thomas Christians. This cause some division and some St. Thomas Christians sought Bishops from the Eastern Orthodox Churches. The St. Thomas Christians were placed under the rule of the Latin Church. Those who remained under Latin Rule came to be called the Syro-Malabar Church. In 1923 after 230 years of Latin rule the Syro-Malabar hierarchy was established in India, in the year 1923. In 1930 some of the St. Thomas Christians who had joined the orthodox Church returned to the Catholic Church and they came to be known as the Syro-Malankara Church.

The Syro-Malabar church is known for its deep rooted spirituality and high rate of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It has close to five million members around the world. The widespread nature of the Indian community outside the continent of India has seen the Syro-Malabar faithful spread to regions outside Kerala, and it has a large presence in Australia. On 23 December 2013 Pope Francis established the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne for Australia. Pope Francis appointed Bishop Bosco Puthur as the first Bishop of the new eparchy. Bishop Bosco was installed on 25 March 2014. These steps were necessary to fulfil the wishes of the second Vatican council that states "All members of the Eastern Rite should know and be convinced that they can and should always preserve their legitimate liturgical rite and their established way of life, and that these may not be altered except to obtain for themselves an organic improvement. All these, then, must be observed by the members of the Eastern rites themselves." Their rites are to be preserved and developed by the Syro Malabar church themselves and the liturgies held by the Syro-Malabar Catholics here in Holsworthy are contributing to this preservation.

*Fr. Andrew James (Administrator)*

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS 24th Dec at 6.00pm** Children who are playing significant roles (Only) in the Christmas Pageant are asked to be in the Hall by 5.45pm at the latest for the Children Christmas mass. Those in these roles are asked to come to a practice on TUESDAY 20th at 10.30am in the Church.

Other children dressed as Angels & Shepherds please stay with you parents until you are called forth to join the scene. *Sr. Helen*

**St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.** As a result of your generosity \$1,603 was raised from your Donations a fortnight ago, this will help many needy people. Thank you for all the wonderful donations of Christmas Gifts and Food for the Christmas Hampers that you have given. Thanks to everyone who donated food through the children at St. Christopher's School and to the Principal and Teachers for their support.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 17th Dec 5.30pm.....Harry Kat (RIP)  
Sunday 18th Dec 8.00am .....Audrey Jackson (RIP)  
Sunday 18th Dec 9.30am .....Parish Intentions  
Monday 19th Dec 9.15am.....Deceased members of the Madden Family  
Tuesday 20th Dec 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory  
Wednesday 21st Dec 9.15am .....For the Sick  
Thursday 22nd Dec 9.15am .....Vocations  
Friday 23rd Dec 9.15am.....Pat Foldes (RIP)

**Saturday Christmas Eve 24th Dec 2016** **6.00pm Children's Mass**

**Saturday Christmas Eve 24th Dec 2016** **11.30pm Christmas Carols**

**followed by Midnight Mass**

**Sunday Christmas Day 25th Dec 2016** **9.00am Mass only**

**There is no evening Mass**

Monday 26th Dec 9.15am.....Melville Kane (RIP)

## Syro-Malabar Liturgies:

Wednesday Mass at 7.00pm

Thursday Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)

Friday Mass at 7.00pm **except on the First Friday of the Month**

Saturday Mass at 9.30am

Every Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

**The Samoan Community** celebrates a **Sunday Mass** in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am**

**Parish Collections 11/12/2016**

**First: \$468.05 Second: \$582.35**

## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:

Due to recent NSW State Government legislative changes that take effect from 1 January 2017 it will not be possible to provide tax deductibility on planned giving donations made after 31 December 2016. A tax deductible receipt will however be provided for any contributions made for the period 1 July to 31 December 2016.

The Parish office will be writing to each parishioner who is currently contributing to the Parish Planned Giving to provide them with further information. For some Planned Givers who have an email address, please check your (junk mail) in case the letter is not in your inbox.

*We Pray For The Sick:* Cyril Ferriere & Peter Sidgreaves.

*Recently deceased:* Isaac Thomas

*Anniversaries:* Melville Kane

