



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. 01st January 2023

The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives, as well as, obedience to God and God's will.

We are disciples of Jesus!

Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21

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.

Commentary

We have read this gospel at the Christmas morning Mass, when the Shepherds visited the child in Bethlehem. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

Today on the eighth day of Christmas, 01st January, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; but what do know of this feast day?

Type of Feast. Solemnity. In the Catholic Church, a solemnity is the highest ranking, and therefore, generally most important holy day in the Church calendar (feast and memorial are lesser holy days).

The Names for this Solemnity. The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; and The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

The History of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. In the early centuries of the Church, once Christmas began to be celebrated as its own feast on 25th December, the eighth day of Christmas, the 01st January, took on a special meaning. In the East, and throughout much of the West, it became common to celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on this day. This feast was never established in the universal calendar of the Church and a separate feast, celebrating the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ (which would have taken place a week after His birth), eventually took hold on 01st January. However, with the revision of the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating the 01st January to the Mother of God was revived—this time, as a universal feast. The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, (which is a Holy Day of Obligation in many countries) is important, as it reminds us of the role that the Blessed Virgin Mary played in God's plan for our salvation.

Mary and the Holy Trinity. Mary had a unique relationship with the Blessed Holy Trinity. She was the mother of the Son of God, of the Holy Trinity. **She was the Immaculate Conception**, chosen by God at her conception, to be the mother of the Son of God and **she was born "full of grace."** Mary was the mother of the baby/person Jesus, and that person Jesus was fully human and also, fully divine. **Mary is the mother of Jesus the person, as well as, Jesus the divine. Mary is the mother of God.**

We can trust in Mary because when Mary speaks – God listens.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

In Conclusion



The most outstanding quality of Mary, is her willingness to know and to do God's will. Today's Gospel gives us a clue of Mary's awareness of God's plan: **"As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."** Mary reflected on events that happened and **"pondered them in her heart."** In our busy lives today, we too should find time to reflect on what is happening in our life and times, and ponder what God's plan is for us.

As We Begin this New Year Let Us Become "New" Evangelist

So, what is the new evangelization? Saint John Paul II describes it as *"where entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and His Gospel."* In this case what is needed is a new evangelization, or, a re-evangelization.

The new evangelization pertains to a very specific group of people: **fallen-away Catholics**. For most Catholics in the western world, we see the need for this type of evangelization all around us. Everyone knows someone who was once baptized but who no longer practices the faith. **Saint John Paul II wanted the faithful to clearly recognize this problem and then try to solve it where the Gospel has been forgotten, or, meets with indifference as a result of widespread secularism.**



"New Evangelization," means reaching out to the baptized **Catholics** who have become distant from their faith. Each of us can be an evangelist by living a "gospel life" and thus (un-intrusively) setting an example *"to fallen-away Catholics"* - **the Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.** Each week in our newsletter, the gospel is summarized for your "easy reading" and when appropriate, feast days and other Catholic news and topics, are brought to your attention, to garner interest and even curiosity (*the answer is always in the gospels*).

Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to "live the Gospel." **We are a community of Jesus' disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

Mass Times	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri	8.00 am (the Rosary after)
Mass Time	Saturday	6.00 pm
Mass Time	Sunday	9.30 am
Reconciliation	Saturday night	5.15 – 5.45 pm
Anointing of the Sick	Liaise with Fr Greg	
Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Liaise with Fr Greg	

Our Prayers of the Faithful

The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass. In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

Lorna Johnstone, Fr Francisco, Heron Sharpe, Antoinette De Silva, Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, Gerry and Maisie Prendergast, James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Fr Andre, Sheila Vanwieringan, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Denis Critchley.

"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort" (Matthew 5:4).

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Annie Poulouse (29 Dec), Ian Hooper (29 Dec), Olive Phillips (29 Dec), Jonathan Chelliah (30 Dec), Barry Painer (31 Dec), Violet De Mello (31 Dec), Rommiro Gasdar (31 Dec), Richard De Costa (31 Dec), Angelito Trinidad (02 Jan), Orsola Caterina, **Fr Leslie Bacini** (04 Jan), Herbert Augustin (04 Jan) and all our departed relatives and friends.

Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies" (John 11: 25-26).

Note: Parishioners may email Cliff at: cliffordqgerard@bigpond.com, for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our "Prayers of the Faithful."

Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.

We Welcome "God's Little Children" to Our Mass



People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mk 10: 13-14.

Our Next Parish St Vincent de Paul Donations is to be 04th/05th February

For parishioners who may wish to contribute to this worthy program, any non-perishable food in tins, packets or boxes will do (but no glass please). In addition to a food hamper, a \$30 Woolworths voucher is usually provided to enable the purchase of essentials like; fresh fruit and vegetables, baby food and more. **Cash donations may be deposited in our SVDP/poor donation box at the entrance of the church,** to enable the purchase of cash vouchers. **Food donations may be left at the rear of the church, or, in our parish centre.**

Parishioners who may need a "helping hand," may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: Penny D'Souza (mob: 0421 215 620), or, Michael Hardless (mob: 0419 421 122), at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

