

# The Parish Community of St Thérèse and St Anthony

The Little Flower Church - In the care of the Franciscan Friars

## PARISH OFFICE AND CONTACTS

Parish Office Address: 134 Somerset Road,  
Kedron Qld 4031

Ph: (07) 3357 6640

Email: [kedron@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:kedron@bne.catholic.net.au)

Website: [www.kedroncatholicparish.org.au](http://www.kedroncatholicparish.org.au)

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 3.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 12.00pm

## PARISH TEAM

**Fr Mario Debattista ofm**

*Parish Priest*

Email: [DebattistaM@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:DebattistaM@bne.catholic.net.au)

Ph: 0429 600 711

**Mrs Sandra Di Francesco**

*Parish Manager*

Email: [kedron@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:kedron@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Mrs Maria Hopes**

*Sacramental Coordinator*

[sacramental.kedron@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sacramental.kedron@bne.catholic.net.au)

## PARISH SCHOOL

**St Anthony's School**

**Mr Martin Wilkie Principal**

Ph: 3357 6185

Email: [pkedron@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pkedron@bne.catholic.edu.au)

[www.stanthonyskedron.qld.edu.au](http://www.stanthonyskedron.qld.edu.au)

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mr Johnny De Angelis (Chair)**

Email: [j.deangelis@bigpond.com](mailto:j.deangelis@bigpond.com)

Ph: 0438 119 709

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil) 5.00pm

Sunday 7.30am, 9.30am & 5.30pm

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday 8.00am

Tuesday 8.00am

Wednesday 9.00am

Thursday 8.00am

Friday 8.00am

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday & Thursday after the 8.00am Mass

## RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4.00 - 4.30 pm OR

please call Fr Mario to arrange a time to meet individually.

## SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Sandra Di Francesco

Ph: 0448 356 599

## The Holy Family-26th December 2021 (YEAR C)

### Reflection ...

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile.

Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God. Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow! We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family.

Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered by the occupying Roman Army.

The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that once she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans.

By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelength, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death.

You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own.

Most families are about being generous, loving, stable and faithful. They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before.

Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society. For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today. So what's the secret?

Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key. This flies in the face of the film *Love Story's* outrageous motto, 'Love means not having to say you're sorry'.

As Christians, precisely the opposite is the case. Love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive.

But if my experience is anything to go by, 'I'm sorry' is second only to 'I love you' as the hardest statement to say and hear in family life.

When I was 16, I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell who wrote, 'We should never leave this world not having told the people that we love that we love them.' Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge.

I wrote to my sister, who was then working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and to my brother who was working interstate, telling them that I loved them.

That left my mother. I stayed home one Saturday night and with my heart pumping and my tummy churning I approached my mother after tea while she was watching the news. 'Mum, I have something important to tell you', I began. My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes, what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before.' And now I could tell there was a duet of hearts pumping and tummies churning.

I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.' And such was her relief that my mother replied 'I hope so' and promptly turned back to the TV. My brother and sister wrote to Mum asking what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase I was going through.

In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words. True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

May this feast of the Holy Family give our families the 'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference'.

© Richard Leonard SJ

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Epiphany of the Lord - 2 January 2022

1st Reading [Is 60:1-6](#)

2nd Reading [Eph 3:2-3, 5-6](#)

Gospel [Mt 2:1-12](#)



**The parish office will be closed from the 24th December 2021 and will reopen on Monday 10th January 2021.**

### Thank you from Vinnies

Your response to the Giving Tree in recent weeks has been tremendous with donations of gift/food vouchers totalling nearly \$2000 and loads of Christmas food and gifts. The generosity of the parish and our 3 local schools has allowed hampers to be put together to meet the Christmas needs of over 75 local households. The bulk of the hampers were delivered by parish, school and Vincentian community members on 13 December. Additional hampers will be delivered as required for the remainder of the festive season so please be assured that any late donations will still be put to good use.

On our Giving Tree, we also invited donations to assist with education costs for local families in need. The Samaritans group are also faithful and generous supporters of this aspect of our work. With your generous donations, we have already assisted with the books and uniform costs for 6 local families and we are still working with others for the 2022 school year,

Thank you again for your commitment to and support for the work of your Kedron conference and we wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Please pray for our recently deceased:

**Len Crook, Louise Mitchell, Joyce Barrett, Doris Heffernan, Val Davidson, Charlotte Stevenson, Denese O'Brien, Thérèse O'Regan, Edna Ang, Vincenzo Del Vecchio**

and those whose Anniversaries occur about now:

**Barney Curran, Catherine Mahony, Patrick Mahony, Roy & Vera Jarrett, Noel & Connie Peach, Brendan O'Brien, Eileen Carroll, Rita Sullivan, Mollie Byrne, Rosy Varghese, Panikulan Varghese, Giuseppe & Isolina Maccarone, Angus & Mary Robertson, Vince Jowett, Joyce Swanson, Lorna Agli**

*WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED; MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.*

### The Samaritan Community

Tuesday Morning Activities resume on  
25th January, 2022

Until then keep well and happy.  
We will be thinking of you all.

### HELP FOR PARISH SERVICES STILL WELCOME

Dear Parishioners, if you would like to assist our parish community with even a little service, maybe just once a month or even less often, we would be most grateful.

**The areas where we are most in need are for Children's Liturgy, Morning Tea after Mass, Data Projection, Altar Society, Church Cleaning, and Collection Counting.**

**A huge thank you to all who are currently volunteering and if you would like to know more, please contact Sandra at the parish office by phone or email, or me directly.**

Thank you, Fr Mario.

### PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK

#### Monday 27 December

**Mass 8.00am**  
**Adoration after Mass**

#### Tuesday 28 December

**Mass 8.00am**  
**Rosary after Mass**

#### Wednesday 29 December

**Mass 9.00am**  
**Delamore Mass 4.45pm**

#### Thursday 30 December

**Mass 8.00am**  
**Adoration after Mass**

#### Friday 31 December

**Mass 8.00am**  
**Divine Will Prayer Group 8.30am (Hall)**

#### Saturday 1 January

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**  
**Mass 9.00am**  
**Reconciliation 4.00pm**  
**Mass 5.00pm (Sunday Vigil)**

#### Sunday 2 January

**Mass 7.30am & 9.30am**  
**Mass 5.30pm**

**Get vaccinated for the common good:** Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have stated it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine available. More information is at: <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

### Baptism Preparation

If you have a child or newborn infant and wish them to be baptised, we have an information and preparation session in the church at 11am on the first Saturday of each month. At this short meeting, we outline the ceremony, answer any questions and finalise dates. Further details can be obtained from the parish office (33576640) or Email: [kedron@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:kedron@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Our next session will be on Saturday 8th January at 11.00am**

**To receive the Parish Newsletter and other Parish Resources by email, please print your details here, tear off this section, and drop it in the suggestion box at the church door or give it to Fr Mario or Rob.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_