



CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT 2014

CAIRNS DIOCESAN NEWS

From the outback, through the rainforest to the sea



Christmas Mass Times page 6 & 7:

Mass Information is also available phone (07) 40 511 990 or visit www.cairns.catholic.org.au



RECENT APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES WITHIN THE DIOCESE

MAREEBA

Parish Priest Fr John Sullivan O.S.A. will be joined by Fr Dipi Kattathara O.S.A. ministering in the parish.

Fr Robert Greenup O.S.A. with Deacon Ralph Madigan will carry on their valuable pastoral outreach to more isolated places within their roles in Indigenous Connections.

TULLY

Parish Priest is Fr Hilary Flynn.

Fr Michael Belonio O.S.A. will return to an Augustinian community and parish work in Sydney. We thank Fr. Michael for his service to the Diocese of Cairns.

RAVENSHOE/MT GARNET AND GULF SAVANNAH

Deacon Peter de Haas and his wife Angela have generously agreed to add further responsibilities to their current pastoral duties at Ravenshoe/Mt Garnet and the work they are already doing in the adjoining Gulf Savannah region. As a Canonical requirement Fr Greg Moses of Atherton has agreed to take on the role of **Moderator**, as well as the responsibilities of Dean of the Western Deanery.

Fr Laurie Timms O.Carm, with Fr Hilary Flynn, have provided Mass and other sacramental care to the people in the Gulf Country. With other priests now occasionally volunteering to go West, this priestly coverage can be maintained. Laurie Timms has agreed to be the priest Moderator of the Gulf Savannah region.

These changes will come into effect in January 2015

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

During 2014 the Middle East has seen violence as vicious and as vengeful as ever before. In Jerusalem itself recently people were axed to death as they prayed in a synagogue. Throughout the year there have been reports and grisly online footage of actual beheadings.

Why is this part of the world where Christ - *the Prince of Peace* - was born, so violent and blood-soaked?? The eastern end of the Mediterranean (translated roughly as *middle of the earth*) is a victim of its geography. It is and ever was where *East* meets *West*. That is why and where God chose to be revealed firstly and gradually to the *Chosen Jewish People* and then uniquely yet universally in Jesus Christ.

Geographically it was the right place. And historically it was the right time.

The Roman Empire was at its height and at its greatest extent in the last century B.C, and the first century A.D. The Romans were great road builders. Remnants of these cobblestoned well drained roads can be still seen and in places are still used across Asia and Europe. Grooves from chariot wheels worked into the stones were at 4 foot 8 1/2 inches apart. This is speculated as the reason for adopting that as *the standard gauge* for railways. These strong straight roads were primarily for quickly and efficiently moving marching troops and war chariots. But they also well served civilian trade and travel.

Along such roads in Palestine Jesus himself would have walked. Later Paul and Peter travelled along them to Rome spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Empire though everywhere dominant and ruthlessly forceful - yet kept an uneasy peace like the *Cold War* for decades after World War II.

This Roman Peace - *Pax Romanum* kept age old local ethnic tensions in check and borders and local barriers were more open.

This was the right place and the right time to spread the Good News - the all-embracing Kingdom of God

Strangely the later Turkish Ottoman Empire kept the Middle East similarly uneasily peaceful during more recent centuries. That tired old Empire exhausted itself during the First World War. The Gallipoli campaign - a century ago this coming year (1915-2015) was one of its last stands or wins - by default. After W.W.I the victors divided up that old Empire into quite arbitrary regions which awkwardly evolved or devolved into the present conflicted nation states of the Middle East.

Islamic Jihad, with its goal of re-creating one large Islamic state, is now a consequence of this complex and contorted history.

God knows how and where this will lead.

Paradoxically at the centre of this - in time and place - is the birth place of a poor defenceless child - the Christ Child - *The Prince of Peace*!!

DIOCESE OF CAIRNS WELCOMES OUR NEW PRIESTS

Written by Editorial Staff

The Diocese of Cairns would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Indian priests due to arrive in the diocese in early January. All three men are priests of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. They come to our diocese with extensive pastoral and theological qualifications.

Fr Saju Thekkanath Joseph and Fr Joby Jose will be the first of the three to arrive and Fr Paul Muthoottil Punnoose will be arriving in due course. All three priests have been teaching faith formation, catechism to children, as well as youth ministry for the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception in Kottayam, Kerala and they are looking forward to ministering in the Diocese of Cairns.

A brief history of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, adapted from the Congregation's website of the Indian Province, identifies its Charism as *"The aim of the Institution is to sanctify ourselves and our neighbour by serving God in regular discipline, in ministering to the sick and in educating orphaned children (Luigi Monti)"*



The Congregation can trace back its origin in the person of Bl.Luigi M.Monti (1815-1900) who was the founder of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception.

As a young man with intense religious commitment and ardent devotion to Immaculate Virgin Mary he wanted

to dedicate himself for God to carry out the commandment of Jesus, to continue His mission here on earth. After the example of Mary, Luigi decided to dedicate his whole life for God in serving the people in most need; sick, abandoned and orphaned.

His whole intention was not to found a Congregation, instead to encounter God in prayer and ministry. For the realisation of the same, Luigi used to pray a lot and also motivated a group of young men of his time to pray, visit homes of the sick, and to help others who were in need of their service. Seeing them gathered together in prayer and always ready to assist people in need, men of his time addressed them as the "Company of Friars".

Luigi Monti qualified himself as a nurse and rendered his service to the sick in Brescia when a terrific cholera epidemic spread across the city in the year 1855. With the energy and enthusiasm derived from this service, this led him to think of the formation of a religious

Congregation that is set apart for the care of the sick.

In order to realize his dream, he arrived in Rome together with the Friars to nurse the sick in the Santo Spirit Hospital and sowed the seed for the new institute called Sons of Immaculate Conception (CFIC) which was given its initial approval from the Holy See on November 30th 1878. Monti was the guiding star for the friars from the beginning onwards.

The Congregation was approved by the Holy See on 8th September 1857 in Rome, as a Lay Religious Congregation in the Church, caring for the sick, assisting the most needy, educating the young and taking care of the orphaned.

The dream of Bl.Monti to have priests in the Congregation was realized after his death in 1900. Priesthood was allowed in the Congregation in the year 1904 by His Holiness Pope Pius X.

The Congregation has its strong presence in different parts of the world including Canada, United States, Philippines, Poland, Argentina, Africa, Peru, Korea, Brazil, Albania, Mexico, India and Italy.

Outlined on the next page are short introductions including some of the theological and practical experience of our new priests.



The Province of Kerala current home to our new priests



Fr Saju Thekkanath Joseph

Fr Saju, one of the senior members of the Indian Province of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception was born on the 20th February 1963. He was born and brought up in Kerala, the cradle of the Catholic Church of India.

The spiritual guidance of his grandfather and exemplary life of priests and religious in the parish lit the desire in him to offer his life for the service of the needy. Discerning the plan of God for him he entered the novitiate and made the first religious profession on the 19th May 1986. After a long period of formation he was ordained a priest on the 19th May 1994.

4 years in the Philippines opened for him the opportunity to serve the church and to continue his study in the field of special education. At present he is serving as the Superior of the community and teaching in a school run by the Congregation in Andhra Pradesh.

Fr Joby Jose

Fr Joby hails from the parish St Paul's Church, Vakakkadu from the Diocese of Pala in Kerala, India. He was born on the 1st May 1979 at Moonnilavu, Kerala. He joined the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) on the 17th June 1994.

After having completed his novitiate in Peroor, Kottayam, he took his first profession of vows on December 8, 1998 and became a member of the Congregation. He made his final vows on June 5th 2005. He was ordained deacon in 2008. As a Deacon he rendered his service at Little Flower Church, Nadel, Vaikom. There he was helping in pastoral activities and also assisted in the education of the youth in Lexus English Medium School, Vaikom. He was ordained priest on the 26th November 2008.

Just after his priestly ordination, Fr Joby was appointed as associate parish priest in St Augustan's Church, Pazhanganadu, in the major Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. There he was actively involved in catechism classes, youth ministry and prayer meetings.



Fr Paul Muthoottil Punnoose

Fr Paul was born on 30th May 1967 in a traditional catholic family in the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Kottayam, Kerala India.

He joined the seminary as an aspirant on 20th June 1982. He professed his first vows on the 15th May 1989. He completed his three years of philosophy study at St Joseph's Inter-Diocesan Seminary, Mangalore in Karnataka State in 1992. After one year of his regency in the Noviciate house, he started his theological studies and completed these in April 1996.

Meanwhile, after a great reflection and evaluation of his life he had taken his Perpetual Profession on the 21st May, 1995. After the completion of his theological studies, he was ordained a deacon on the 21st May 1996 and appointed as the Vice-Rector of the minor seminarians. On the 18th November 1996 he was ordained as a priest.

Immediately after his ordination, Fr Paul was appointed as the Superior and Formator of the major seminarians of the Congregation in Andhra Pradesh. After 18 months of service there, he was appointed as the Superior and Director of Divine Providence Home, a house for physically challenged people. At this time he offered his name forward and was accepted to the post of parish priest of St Ambrose RCM church.

Shortly after arrival our new clergy will undertake an 'Orientation and Induction' program. Topics of this program will include Diocesan Entities, Agencies and Lay Ministries, also Australian Law, Democracy and History, including Indigenous Australia and the Role of Women in Church. This program will be delivered within the first four months of 2015.

As part of this program, Induction and Orientation sessions will be held in all deaneries offering hospitality to our new clergy, and the chance to familiarise themselves with the geographical and historical nature of our large, diverse and vibrant diocese.

With the addition of our new priests they will bring their gifts and talents to enrich the long standing pastoral endeavours of our existing diocesan clergy, priests and lay women and men ministering within the diocese.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHARITIES APPEAL



“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”

Colossians 3:17

Bishop Foley together with the priests of the Diocese of Cairns would like to remind all parishioners of the Annual Christmas Charities Appeal which will be the only collection taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day.

In the past this appeal has benefited Charitable Institutions such as:

- Apostleship of the Sea
- Centacare Cairns
- Cherish Life Cairns Branch
- Christmas Bowl Appeal
- Endeavour Foundation
- Gulf Savannah Parish
- L'Arche Australia
- Marriage Encounter
- National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council
- Natural Fertility Services
- Rosie's Youth Mission Inc
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- St Vincent de Paul Society

We thank you in advance for your continued support of diocesan charitable endeavours.

With thanks on your Retirement



Bill Lennon (pictured) has completed 14 years of quiet and faithful service at St. Therese's parish, Edmonton. Bill began to work out there during the time his brother, the late Monsignor John Lennon, was parish priest. Then the parish and its school were re-locating from the Bruce Highway to Robert Road and expanding massively.

Those who knew John Lennon have mixed, fixed and fond memories of his *management style*. Bill, his brother, may have even stronger memories of having Mons. Lennon, or JB, as his immediate and at times irascible *boss*. Bill bore all this bravely. Now in his seventies, Bill's work-load on the mower has reduced over recent years.

His living on site has provided a valuable security presence on the whole parish precinct. Edmonton police have appreciated his watchman presence as it saved them extra patrols after school hours and during holidays. Bill's constant presence protected against vandalism and break-ins.

Well done Bill and best wishes for your quieter future.

2014 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CA


Mass information is also at Phone: (07)

CHURCH	Christmas Eve 24th MASS TIMES	Christmas Day 25th MASS TIMES	Reconciliation
Atherton - St Joseph's 28 Mabel St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6.30pm	Christmas Day - 9:00am	Christmas Eve: 11am to Noon
Babinda - St Rita's 15 Church St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6pm	Christmas Day - 8am	Before Mass
Bamaga - St Stephen's	Phone 4069 2205		See Thursday Island
Cairns - St Monica's Cathedral 181 Abbott St	Children's Mass during the Night 7pm	From approx. 11pm Choir will singing Canticles in Candlelight followed by Midnight Mass Christmas Day - 6:30am; 10am Mass NO 5PM MASS	Every Saturday - 11:30am to 12:30pm
Cardwell Our Lady Star of the Sea 121 Victoria St	Christmas Eve - Mass 8pm	Christmas Day - 9am Also see Tully, Mission Beach, El Arish & Silkwood	
Chillagoe St Nicholas of Tolentino and Bl Mother Mary of the Cross		Christmas Day <i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i> 9.30am	
Cooktown - St Mary's Furneaux St	Christmas Eve - Liturgy of the Word with Communion 6.30pm		
Dimbulah - St Anthony's Raleigh St		Christmas Day - 8am	Mareeba: Thurs 18th 7pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Earlville Our Lady Help of Christians 18 Balaclava Rd	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6pm & 8pm	Christmas Day - 8am	
Edmonton (Bentley Park) St Therese's 135 Robert Rd	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 5:30pm & 7pm	Christmas Day - 8am	Christmas Eve: 4.30pm to 5pm
El Arish - Our Lady of Fatima Glasgow St		NO MASS See Mission Beach	
Freshwater - Sacred Heart 15 Duffy St	Also see Stratford, Holy Cross & Redlynch	Christmas Day - 7am	Holy Cross every Saturday 5pm & before Mass
Gordonvale - St Michael's 4 Muir St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6pm and 9pm PNG Mass	Christmas Day - 8am	30 minutes prior to Mass
Hammond Island St Joseph the Worker	Monday 22nd 6pm		
Herberton - St Patrick's Broadway St		Christmas Day - 11.15am	Before Mass
Holy Spirit Chapel Bethlehem Home Gatton St Westcourt		Christmas Day - 10.00am	
Horn Island - The Holy Family	Sunday 21st 6pm		
Innisfail - Mother of Good Counsel 90 Rankin St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6:30pm	Midnight Mass with Carols from 11:30pm Christmas Day - 9am	2nd Rite of Reconciliation Tue 16th 7pm & Sat 20th 11.30am
Kuranda - St Christopher's 20 Barang St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 9pm with Carols from 8:30pm		Mareeba: Thurs 18th 7pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Malanda - St James's 7 Monash St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the night 10pm	Christmas Day - 8.30am	Before Mass
Mareeba - St Thomas of Villanova 57 Constance St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6:30pm with Carols from 6pm	Midnight Mass: with Carols from 11:30pm Christmas Day - 10am	Thurs 18th 7pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Mercy Valley - 27 Spena Road Mareeba	Christmas Eve - Mass during the night 10pm	Christmas Day - 11am	
Millaa Millaa - St Rita's Coral St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the night - 8.30pm		Before Mass

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4051 1990 or www.cairns.catholic.org.au

CHURCH	Christmas Eve 24th MASS TIMES	Christmas Day 25th MASS TIMES	Reconciliation
Mission Beach		Christmas Day - 7am	
Mossman - St Augustine 24b Grogan St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 10.00pm	Christmas Day - 7.00am	See parish website (www.catholicdouglas.org.au) or phone 4098 2001
Mt Garnet - Holy Rosary		Christmas Day - 7am	Before Mass
Mourilyan - Christ the King 10 Harbour Rd		NO MASS See Innisfail or South Johnstone	Innisfail 2nd Rite of Reconciliation Tues 16th 7pm & Sat 20th 11.30am
North Cairns - Mother of Good Counsel 394 Sheridan St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 5.30 pm		
Northern Beaches (Trinity Park) Holy Cross Reed Rd	Trinity Park: Christmas Eve Vig- il - 6pm (Holy Cross Church)	Christmas Day - 8.30am (Holy Cross Church) Also see Freshwater, Stratford & Redlynch	Every Saturday 5pm & before Mass
Parramatta Park - St Joseph's, Draper St		Christmas Day - 8:30am	Before Mass
Port Douglas - St Mary's 2 Endeavour St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 7.00pm	Christmas Day - 9.00am	See parish website (www.catholicdouglas.org.au) or phone 4098 2001
Ravenshoe - St Teresa of the Child Jesus Moffatt St		Christmas Day - 9.00am	Before Mass
Redlynch All Saints Chapel St Andrews College Intake Rd see Northern Beaches		Christmas Day - 10am NO 5.30pm Mass Christmas Day Also see Holy Cross Stratford & Freshwater	Holy Cross every Satur- day 5pm & before Mass
Silkwood St John the Evangelist Harold St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6pm		
South Johnstone - St Rita's 5 Green St		Christmas Day - 7am	Innisfail 2nd Rite of Reconciliation Tues 16th 7pm & Sat 20th 11.30am
Stratford - St Augustine's 23 Kamerunga Rd	Also see Holy Cross Freshwater & Redlynch	Christmas Day - 10.30am	Holy Cross every Satur- day 5pm & before Mass
Thursday Island - Sacred Heart Douglas St	Tuesday 23rd 6pm		
Tully - St Clare of Montefalco 13 Mars St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 5.30pm	Christmas Day - 9.00am	
Weipa - St Joseph's Boundary Rd Mass will be celebrated on the weekend of 29/30 Dec	Christmas Eve: 7pm: <i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>	Christmas Day - 8:30am <i>Liturgy of the Word with Commun- ion</i>	Reconciliation: When Fr visits on the weekend of 29/30 Dec
West Cairns - St Francis Xa- vier's, Cnr Mayers & Atkinson Sts, Manunda	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6pm	Midnight Mass with Carols from 11.30pm Christmas Day - 8am NO 6pm Mass Christmas Day	Christmas Eve: 11am and 4pm
Yungaburra - St Patrick's	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 5pm		Before Mass



Bishop Foley, Diocesan Finance & Administration together with the editorial staff would like to wish the diocesan community a

*Happy and Blessed Christmas
and a prosperous and graced New Year*

Once again we publicly thank our advertisers for their continued generous support of the Cairns Diocesan News over 2014



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