

**Pope Francis's  
Prayer to the Holy Family**

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendor of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel,  
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again  
experience violence, rejection, and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may the approaching Synod of Bishops  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer. Amen.



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**Our Prayer  
See Me, Hear Me**

**Gracious God provide us with a listening heart  
that we see and hear the voice of each  
of our children.**

**We ask you God to strengthen and guide  
all in our Catholic communities.  
Grant us the ability and time  
to listen carefully when children come to us  
seeking help.**

**May our institutions and families respect,  
listen and do what is required to help  
all children feel safe.**

**Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those  
wounded initially by abuse then again  
through the failure to be heard.**

**We stand in constant need of your healing and help.**

**Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children  
giving them the inner strength, peace, and resili-  
ence**

**to seek out assistance when required.**

**We ask you God  
to provide each us  
with the wisdom  
to involve children  
in making institutions and**



Whoosh Care will be operating these school  
holidays from 8th January. Flyers in the  
foyer of the church & online @  
[www.whooshcare.com.au](http://www.whooshcare.com.au)



**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**VISION STATEMENT**

To witness to the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the eternal love of Christ; by building and sustaining an open, welcoming and friendly community in which people grow in their relationships with God, each other and the wider community.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council is to:

- welcome and embrace new parishioners;
- support and direct the work of the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate, and parish groups;
- support and encourage the people of St Columba's parish;
- provide vision and direction to the people of St Columba's parish;
- collaborate with the parish school;
- give members of our parish community a voice; and
- empower people to lead and make positive contributions to our parish and the wider community.

**TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:**

- see;
- judge;
- act; and
- review.



**WE, AS A GROUP, ARE FUNDAMENTALLY COMMITTED TO:**

- prayer and reflection;
- our shared Catholic faith;
- bringing Christ's love and grace to Leichhardt and the broader community;
- acting co-operatively as a group based on participation and consensus, not factions or parties; and
- facilitating the spiritual growth of all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL ARE:**

Fr Peter Smith <i>Parish Priest</i>	Adrian Overs
Bernard Ryan <i>Principal</i>	Dan O'Brien
Nicola Connors <i>Family Ed.</i>	Mark Breen
Chantal Nguyen <i>Secretary</i>	Carmel Reid
Renata Popovic-Tomac	Vasile Tiano



**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH, YEAR B  
30th & 31st December 2017**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE STAND. WE WALK ON A LAND ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE GADIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION, WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR OVER 30,000 YEARS. MAY WE CONTINUE TO LOVE AND RESPECT THE LAND AS THEY HAVE.



**ST COLUMBA'S**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

**Parish Details:**

213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040  
(02) 9569 2267  
(02) 9569 5381  
admin@stcolumba.org.au  
www.stcolumba.org.au



Find us at

www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/

**Office Hours:**

9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

All bulletin notices to be in by 10am Thursday  
(Please type or print your message clearly).

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Peter Smith..... admin@stscolumba.org.au

**Parish Office Administrator**

Marcia Droguett ..... admin@stcolumba.org.au

**St Columba's School**

Principal: Bernard Ryan ..... 9569 1270

**Sunday Mass Times:**

Saturday ..... 5:00pm  
Sunday ..... 8:00am  
..... 10:00am (Family Mass)

**Weekday Services:**

Tuesday: 8:30am (Communion Service)  
Friday: 8:45am (Rosary)  
Friday: 9:15am (Mass)

**Anointing Mass:**

Last Friday of each month at 9:15am

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday at 4:30pm

**Baptisms**

1st Sunday of the month, except January. Please email Marcia, admin@stcolumba.org.au, to arrange an appointment prior.

**Marriages:**

By Appointment, please email Marcia, admin@stcolumba.org.au to arrange.

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving please speak to Fr Peter, or pick up a form in the Church foyer or contact the office.



*From Fr Peter's  
Desk.....*

*Your children are not your children.  
They come through you but not from you.  
And though they are with you,  
yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
for they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit,  
not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them,  
but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.*

*Kahlil Gibran*



**This Week . . .**

**Monday:** 9:00 am Mass  
*Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

**Tuesday:** *No Communion Service until February 2018*

**Friday:** *No Rosary or Mass*

**TODAY'S LITURGY**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Luke 2:16*  
The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**1ST READING:** *Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*


**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** *Psalms 104:1-6, 8-9*  
The Lord remembers his covenant forever.


**2ND READING:** *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Luke 1:38*  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 2:22-40*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *Baruch 3:38*  
Our God has appeared on the earth,  
and lived among us.

 We remember all our deceased Relatives and Friends.....  
**Anniversary:** Chase Edenborough, Ashley Pereira, Maurice Bramley

 Thank you to all our Parishioners for your Vinnies Christmas Appeal donations and also your support in providing Christmas hampers & delivering them the weekend before Christmas.

For all our Readers, Thank you for giving up your time to read at our Parish Masses.  
Please find your current copies of 'Break Open the Word' in the sacristy for your collection.

**ROSTER NEXT WEEKEND: 6th & 7th January 2018, The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B**  
*Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

	SATURDAY 5pm	SUNDAY	
		8am	10.00am
<b>Commentator</b>	Rachel Lauanders	David Hair	Naomi Jacobs
<b>Reader</b>	Eve Reskakis	Fay Hair	David Cooper
<b>Offertory</b>	Bates Nelson Family	Ruth Kelly Janie De Beck	Family Mass
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	Anne-Marie Whelan Derek Whelan Marcia Barney	Belinda Morrissey Colleen Schneider	Paula Ceroli Rosa Riotto
<b>Marion Aged Care Minister</b>	Thursday 4th January 2018 - The Marion - Anne Marie Whelan		

**NEW YEARS DAY MASS**

*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

Monday, 1st January 9:00 A.M

*Please note:  
Names will be removed from the sick list after 2 months, unless parish office is notified.*

**We pray for all those who are sick, including:**

Michael Brake, Leane Garner, Bill Patterson, Rosa Maria Santos, Cienna Psaila, Terry Quailey, Patricia O'Toole, Barry Furner, Ida Pavelka, Noeline Ashino, Joan Windsor, Damian O'Neill, Raquel Bailey, Fr John Milliken, Cale Pearson, Brian Fitzroy and all those at The Marion Aged Care, Lewisham Nursing Home and Annesley House

**Readers, Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers & Offertory Processors over Christmas/New Years:**

Thank you for continuing to support your parish in this special way. The regular roster remains in effect over the Christmas period.  
**Please check the roster and, if you are no longer available on one of your rostered dates arrange a replacement using the contact list provided with the roster.**  
(A copy of the roster can be found on the website)  
This is particularly important over the holiday period as many of our regular volunteers will be away.  
Thank you for your assistance.

**THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS**

The Season of Christmas begins with the celebration of the *Mass of the Vigil* of the Nativity of the Lord, which is celebrated in the evening of 24 December. This is not a mere anticipatory vigil as celebrated on a Saturday evening, but a true Vigil of preparation, much like the mother of all vigils, the Easter Vigil. As such the mass has proper prayers and readings assigned. The Gospel for this Mass is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David (Matthew 1:1-25)

The next Mass that may be celebrated is *Mass during the Night*. There is the custom of celebrating this Mass at mid-night, but this is not mandatory. It may be celebrated after the Vigil Mass, or after darkness has fallen (like the Easter Vigil), but not ending after the dawn. The Gospel is the birth of Jesus, and the announcement to the shepherds.

At dawn, or the first Mass of the day, *Mass at Dawn* is celebrated. The Gospel for this Mass is the visitation of the shepherds (Luke 2:15-20).

*Mass during the Day* is celebrated for subsequent Masses on Christmas Day. The Gospel is the prologue of the Gospel according to John (1:1-18)  
*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

Then follows the Octave of Christmas, where the celebration of Christmas Day is extended for eight days. The liturgy for the main part retains the spirit of Christmas Day.

After Christmas day, is the feast of the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**. ◊ is celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, *ie* the Sunday after Christmas Day.

The octave day is the 1 January every year and is celebrated as the Solemnity of **Mary, the Holy Mother of God**.

Traditional the solemnity of the **Epiphany of the Lord** is celebrated 12 days after Christmas Day on 6 January. In Australia, other dioceses and countries around the world the Epiphany is transferred to a Sunday because of its importance in the mystery of our salvation. Thus the Epiphany is celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs between the 2 January and 8 January each year. This year the solemnity is celebrated on 7 January. While the Gospel for the solemnity is always the adoration of the Magi, the liturgy celebrates three events: the adoration of the Magi; the Baptism of the Lord; and Jesus first sign at the wedding feast in Cana.

This is also the traditional day to take down the Christmas decorations, but that does not mean Christmas is over.

The final feast of the Christmas season is the **Baptism of the Lord**. This feast is celebrated on the Sunday

after the 6 January. However, where the Solemnity of the Epiphany is transferred to a Sunday, *e.g.* Australia, if this Sunday occurs on 7 or 8 January, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the following Monday. This year the feast of the Baptism is celebrated on Monday, 8 January. This means that the Church throughout the world then celebrates the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time on 14 January.

The Gospel in Year A and Year B are Matthew's and Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus, respectively. In Year C, the Gospel is the account of Jesus first sign at the wedding feast in Cana (remember the solemnity of the Epiphany).

Thus, after approximately three weeks of celebration, the Season of Christmas comes to a close.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

"Wishing you all a happy and blessed Christmas:  
You are in my thoughts and prayers.  
May the birth of Jesus bring new life and peace to you, your families and our world."  
Fr Peter (from a very chilly Oxford.)

**Parish Cuppa**

After all the Sunday Masses on the last week-end of the month (January to November).

**Dates for 2018**

27/28 January 2018.	28/29 July 2018
24/25 February 2018	25/26 August 2018
24/25 March 2018	29/30 September 2018
28/29 April 2018	27/28 October 2018
26/27 May 2018	24/25 November 2018
23/24 June 2018	

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK WITHIN MASS**

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on the last Friday of each month, during the 9.15 AM Mass. The dates for 2018 are:

26 January, 2018	29 June, 2018
23 February, 2018	27 July, 2018
23 March, 2018 (not 30 March, Good Friday)	31 August, 2018
27 April, 2018	28 September, 2018
25 May, 2018	26 October, 2018
	30 November, 2018