

# The Church Paper

*St James the Great, East St Kilda  
Celebrating 100 years in East St Kilda*



## **Christmas 2015**

**Intentional Interim Priest:**  
**Father Richard Murray SCP**  
Mobile: 0419 334 645  
Email: [rgmurray@bigpond.com](mailto:rgmurray@bigpond.com)

**Sunday: Solemn Mass at 10.30 a.m.**

**Low Mass: Thursdays 11.00 a.m.**

**Service of Healing & Wholeness**  
10.00 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
(Always check weekly notices for Mass times)

**Confession – Thursdays following the 11.00 a.m. Mass & by appointment**

**St James on the Web: [www.stjamesthegreat.org.au](http://www.stjamesthegreat.org.au)**

**St James's in Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/  
St\\_James\\_the\\_Great\\_St\\_Kilda\\_East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_James_the_Great_St_Kilda_East)**

## **Sunday Reflection with Fr Robin Gibbons on Feast of the Holy Family**

One of the interesting features of the family of Jesus is how it reaches into many situations of our own time. We live in an age where (at least in the West) traditional family units have been undergoing change.

One of the facts of contemporary life is the fact that many start a family and then get married, other situations such as divorce may mean that children belong to a unit where there is only one natural parent, the other, rather like Joseph takes on a new family. I am glad that the Pope is reminding us to take a more pastoral attitude to these situations.

However my intention is not to start a reflection on family life as it ought to be, rather how can the image of the Holy Family, taken from the scriptures (for that really is our only source) help us in our own lives? Firstly I suspect we can take hope from the whole story of Joseph and Mary, they do not fit into what we might term a normal family at all. Mary's acceptance of God's gift, her generosity in allowing the Holy Spirit to come upon her, and carrying the living child to full term is a sign of a brave woman. Giving birth to him, with all its potential problems in a situation far removed from the security of her own family, shows a determination to see things through no matter what people might say. So for us Mary stands for the courage to live a life that is real and accept the truth even if others cannot believe.

Joseph is a more complex character, a person who thinks deeply, has a generous spirit and is a just and honourable man. He is also somebody who like Mary is unafraid to step outside normal boundaries and trust in God's goodness. Beyond the joy of the birth of Jesus and the coming of the shepherds and Magi are hints at dark things going on. Shepherds are outcasts, the Magi gentiles; all are somehow caught up with deeper more unpleasant forces, so much so that Joseph has to flee with Mary and Jesus, refugees from violence.

Maybe the feast of our Holy Family calls to look beyond the problems of relationships today and focus on the one thing necessary, the power of love to change and transform.

*Fr Robin Gibbons is an Eastern Rite Chaplain for the Melkite Greek Catholics in Britain.*



## The Holy Family

27.12.15

### The Liturgy Today

10.30 a.m. Solemn Mass & Devotions at the Crib (APBA)

Sidesman: V. de Crespigny; Deacon: A. Duran

Lectors: M. Knopf & G. Bahula

Refreshments: G. Bartholomew

*Join us for Morning Coffee in the Narthex*

### Kalendar & Events this Week

Monday The Holy Innocents

12.00 p.m. Mass

Little Company Chapter at the Vicarage

Tuesday St Thomas of Canterbury, bishop & martyr

Thursday St Sylvester I, pope

Friday New Year's Day Mass & Garden Party

12.00 p.m. Solemn Mass

of the Naming & Circumcision of Our Lord

Followed by our traditional Vicarage Garden Party

Is your name on the Narthex List?

Next week **THE EPIPHANY of the LORD**

10.30 a.m. Solemn Mass & Procession

On duty next week: Sidesman: A. Robertson ; Deacon: M. Knopf

Lectors: Dr J. Willis & L. Hawkes

Refreshments & Lunch: M. Knopf

The January Roster has been emailed and is available on the Narthex table.

Greetings Fr Roger has received Christmas greetings from many who have been associated with St James's, in particular from Felicia and Glenn Fawcett and family.

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Michael Casley; Trevor Bulled OGS; Noella; John Graham; Maria Pythagoras; Geraldine Coulthurst; Tammy; Virginia; Marjorie; Sister Raphael OSB; Stephen & Jill; Adrian Stephens, priest; Michael Muschamp; Mark; Andrew; Sharon; young Noah; June Little; Ken Mason OGS; Max; Brother Brian SSF; Sonja Knopf; Linda Osmond, priest; Marcus; Betty Boyle; Sally Rory & Anna; Christina Melches; Geoffrey & Margaret Clarke; Elizabeth Peters; Gladys Wheeler; Bill Smith; Vilma Byrne; Sister Lyn & Sister Philippa; Val Casley.

**Thank you** to all who assisted with our preparations for the Christmas Liturgies and celebrations at St James's this year. We have received many comments and words of appreciation for the Liturgies of Midnight and Christmas morning.

**The Christmas Bowl** As always the Christmas Bowl Appeal envelopes are available in the pews for you to make an offering for the poor and needy of the developing world.

**Christmas Offerings** you are still invited to make a special offering to help with the costs associated with our Christmas Liturgies - newspaper advertising and publicity as well as musicians and flowers. Please place your donation in a specially marked envelope in the collection bag at mass.

**Proposed Meetings in January & February**

Sunday January 17 or 24 following Mass:

Parish Council Conference

Sunday February 7 following Mass:

Candlemass Meeting of the Congregation

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**Inventory Income:** Sunday December 20: Advent IV - \$882.45

**Your Last Will & Testament** our Business Manager draws attention to the following wording for your Will – “I GIVE \$XX to the Anglican Church of St James the Great in East St Kilda and I DECLARE the receipt of the Vicar of the day and the Treasurer or Business Manager for the time being of that organization shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my trustees.”

# **The St James' Community**

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## **Churchwardens**

**Vicar's Warden: Mr Alfonso Duran, Mob. 040070750**

**People's Wardens: Ms Kate Mc Dowell Murphy, Mob. 0412 887865**

**Mr Ronald Williams, Phone 9527 2941**

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## **Parish Administrator & Business Manager**

**Mr Michael Knopf, Phone 9527 1017**

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## **Organist**

**Mr Mark Raczynski, B. Mus. (Melb.) L. Mus. A**

**Parish Office Assistant**

**Mr Francisco Alfonso**

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## **Sunday School**

**Contact: Mrs Treasure Vellis**

**Phone 0413 901 819**

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## **St Kilda Steiner Kindergarten**

**Pre-School Sessions daily, Monday - Friday**

**Enquiries Phone: 95275168**

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## **Little Patch Child Care Centre**

**Commencing operations here at St James's in 2016**

**Enquiries to Dean & Michelle Clarke - Phone: 0419 548 477**

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## **The Little Company of Brothers of the Good Shepherd**

**A parish-based Religious Community**

**Enquiries to the Father Guardian: 9527 1017**

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## ***This Parish Community***

**Faith as received from the undivided church"**

**shares the ideals of the Fellowship of St Athanasius,  
a society of Anglican Priests committed to live and uphold**

**"... the Catholic**

***St James the Great - a holy place, a place of hope...***

***The Church of the Blessing of Animals.***