



**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham**

**Parish House:**9583 6161 **Parish School:**9584 9488

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**Parish Priest:** Fr. Peter Matheson

**Pastoral Associates:** Frances North and Christine Dunne

**Psychologist:** AnneMaree Eddy

**Feast of the Holy Family Year C (Dec 30, 2018)**

The feast of the Holy Family naturally focusses on the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, but we can also use it to reflect on the beauty and grace that can be present, and often is, in any family. The joy of children as they enjoy summer holidays with their parents is part of the story.

We are conscious of the sadness surrounding some families at this time in our parish. Peter Hoey’s funeral will be at 11 am next Thursday here at OLA. And another couple of former parishioners will also have their funerals later this week: Maria Rosa Picone on Wednesday (11 am), and Angelo Barbagallo on Friday (11 am). Our prayers and thoughts are will all their families at this sad time.

Family can also extend to the wider family of humankind. A remarkable story of Family happened three weeks ago in Algeria with the beatification of 19 Christian martyrs who were all killed in the violence that racked that country in the 1990’s. Fr Timothy Radcliffe was at the beatification ceremony and wrote about it in the current Christmas edition of the Tablet. Copies of his one page account are available on the table in the foyer. The amazing thing about this celebration was that more than 100 Muslim officials, representing the civil and religious authorities, came to celebrate the beatification of 19 Christian martyrs who had died in the violence. Six hundred relatives of the martyrs and members of their orders were welcomed by the Algerian Government. Police and soldiers lined the roads to ensure their safety. The next day, the headline of the local newspaper, *Le Quotidien d’Oran*, read: “A sign of fraternity destined for the whole world.” The largest group among the martyrs were the seven Trappist monks from Tibhirine, who were kidnapped on 27 March 1996 and whose story was told in the movie “Of Gods and Men”. All of the martyrs died because they decided to stay beside their Algerian Muslim neighbours rather than save their lives by fleeing.

Radcliffe met the families of the martyrs. He commented: “I felt part of a family drama that embraces all of us. Each of us faces the same question, the same struggle, the martyrs faced: to whom shall we remain? Maybe to a partner in a relationship that has grown sour? Maybe to a parent who is sick and demanding? Perhaps to a parish that has become something of a chore? Perhaps even to a Church that has become a source of shame?”

**Fr Peter**

**SCRIPTURE:** (Holy Family) 1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28; Psalm 83:2-3,5-6,9-10; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52. **NEXT SUNDAY:** (Epiphany) Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8,10-13; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

**PURIFIERS:** 30 December: Sylvaine De Robillard 6<sup>th</sup> January: Irene Dib

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Hoey, Angelo Barbagallo, Maria Rosa Picone, Allan Franich, Gerrad Chadwick, Stan Baseden, Kerry Seymour. **ANNIVERSARIES:** Jelena Fajic, Katarina Pigac, Oswald Andrew REnkin, Rosary Taranto, Jean & Charles Farrugia, Carmen & John Giannio, John Martin, George Kenny, Jamie Winchester, Sebastian Faulkner, Anne Smiles, John Sullivan, Leslie Ryan, Marie Cudd, Kathleen Maldon, Shelia Gloude, Nerissa Abello, Johnny Roberts

**ARE YOU NEW TO OLA PARISH?**

Please take a copy of our Welcome Kit which includes a copy of our Parish History, then tell us about yourself by completing and returning the parish census card.

**PLEASE FILL IN THE FAMILY BOOK:** You are invited to write in the names of those you would like us to include in our prayers. When entering names of deceased loved ones we ask parishioners to please **PRINT**, and add your name and phone number even if the deceased is not a family member.

**BAPTISMS:** Baptisms are celebrated at 12.15 pm most Sundays of the year with 4/5 weeks’ notice required for bookings. **WEDDINGS:** To book the church and a priest for your wedding please ring the office 95836161. At least 3 months’ notice is needed.

**Liturgy times**

<b>Monday Dec 31</b>	9.15 am	Communion Service
<b>Tuesday Jan 1</b>	9.00 am	Mass (No evening Mass) <b>(Mary, Mother of God)</b>
<b>Wednesday Jan 2</b>	9.15 am	Mass (Basil & Gregory)
<b>Thursday Jan 3</b>	9.15 am	Mass
<b>Friday Jan 4</b>	9.15 am	Mass
<b>Saturday Jan 5</b>	9.00 am	Mass
	6.30 pm	Mass (The Epiphany)
<b>Sunday Jan 6 (Epiphany)</b>	9.00 am	Mass
	11.00 am	Mass

**Confessions:**

Wednesday	9.45 am
Saturday	9.30 am & 6.00 pm

**PSALM REFLECTION:** ‘How Happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord’. Is dwelling in the house of the Lord a place, or a state of faith, or something else?

