



Wodonga Catholic Parish

Including Bethanga, Dederang, Mt Beauty and Tangambalanga Communities



~YEAR B~

December 31st - 2017 - The Holy Family

Looking At The Readings

The readings focus our attention on true family values. God promises an heir to a couple that cannot produce a child, and when the promise is fulfilled and the child is born, God asks for the life of that child. The hopes that were kindled by the promise and that blazed brilliantly with the child's birth now lie like ashes on a heap. Is God reneging on the promise of a descendant? Is God playing with people's dreams and aspirations? Or might God be preparing them for yet another marvel?

The couple had placed their trust in God's initial promise of new life, and it was fulfilled. Now Abraham, as the representative of the entire family, is asked to hope against hope, to relinquish the child in whom all of the hopes of the future rests. Trust does not really depend upon the promises made, but upon the one making the promises. God is a God of surprises, of the paradoxical, of the preposterous. This is a God who opens closed wombs, rescinds death sentences, takes an obscure child and makes him the light to the nations. Trust in such a God requires that we sacrifice our own presuppositions. Then, expecting nothing from God, we can be open to everything. In the face of such mystery, the human heart can only sing with gratitude. We live in the presence of God, and this sustains us through whatever seems impossible. Thanksgiving opens us to receive God's promise and God's gifts.

Pope Francis:

On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace. Merry Christmas to all!

Liturgical Jottings: Octaves

The two principal feasts in the Liturgical Year are the solemnities of Easter and Christmas. They are the only feasts that have octaves attached. Octave means an eight-day celebration, that is, the prolongation of a feast to the eighth day inclusive. The feast itself is considered the first day, and it is followed by six days called "days within the octave." The eighth or octave day is kept with greater solemnity. The octave gives us time to impress upon us the mysteries, joys and graces of the principal feasts of the Church year and to continue the celebrations, especially after long preparations of Advent and Lent.

WODONGA PARISH CENTRE

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OFFICE HOURS

8.30am - 5.00pm
Monday to Friday

PRESBYTERY

15 High Street Wodonga Vic
Phone: 02 6024 6088

PARISH PRIEST

Father Dennis Cramer
Phone: 0419-539-566

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Junray Rayna
Phone: 0403-677-769

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Sister Eileen Reardon
0458 327 554 (Mt Beauty)

WEEKEND MASSES

WODONGA

Sacred Heart Church
Saturday 6.00pm.
Sunday 8.30am 10.30am

TANGAMBALANGA

Our Lady Help of Christians
1st, 4th Sunday 10.30am

BETHANGA

St Francis
1st Sunday 12 noon

DEDERANG

St Joseph's
1st, 3rd Sunday 10.30am
2nd Sunday 10.30am
Liturgy of The Word
and Communion

MT BEAUTY

St Joseph's
1st to 4th Sunday 8.30am
5th Sunday 8.30am
Liturgy of The Word
and Communion

WEEKDAY MASS:

Sacred Heart Church
8.15am
Monday - Liturgy of the Word
8.15am
Mass — Tuesday to Friday

RECONCILIATION:

Sacred Heart Church
Saturday 9.00 - 9.30 am
Country Churches
before Masses