



## *St Mark's Parish Newsletter*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C.  
20th December, 2009.**

### The Gift of Life

This Christmas my mother, who was very old, died. However, I believe that the birth of Christ Jesus is an event of life and joy for all those who firmly place their trust in Him. This Holy Season I believe my Mum receives new life from God. It is a life she has longed for. I have lost my Mum on earth, but I gain her prayers in heaven because she is close to God. My Mum is far from me, but spiritually she is very close and she loves me even more than ever.



To those who have lost loved ones this year—I wish you to place your trust and faith in God who is the author of life, and who will take care of you and your loved ones.

I wish that those who visit you will bring comfort, love and joy from our Lord as Mary brought joy to Elizabeth on her visit.

I wish for you to feel that you are blessed because your faith in God will carry you through the troubled waters and will shine in your heart.

Finally, I wish to thank all parishioners who in countless ways have brought joy to our liturgy, our worship and who make faith alive at St Mark's.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

**Fr Tuong.**



*Some of the obstacles that keep us from “making a straight path” for the Lord are the same obstacles that keep us from embracing stewardship as a way of life. John the Baptist calls us to reform our lives and let go of the selfishness and greed that keep us from following God’s will.*

## Christmas 2009.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 20/12	7.00 pm
Mass of Reconciliation (English)	Monday 21/12	7.00 pm
Mass of Reconciliation (Vietnamese)	Tuesday 22/12	7.00 pm
Christmas Eve (English)	Thursday 24/12	7.00 pm
Christmas Eve (Vietnamese)	Thursday 24/12	9.30 pm
Christmas Day (Vietnamese)	Friday 25/12	7.30 am
Christmas Day (English)	Friday 25/12	9.30 am

***NB: Because of Fr Tuong’s mothers funeral there will be NO morning Mass or Individual Reconciliation on Wednesday 23rd Dec.***



### Christmas Choir Rehearsals:

Today, Sunday 20th December	10.30am—12 noon
Wednesday 23rd December	6pm—7.30pm



**The Parish Office  
will be closed 1st  
January to 13th  
January inclusive.**



**2010 Columban Cal-  
endars available now  
at the Piety Stall.  
Only \$7.**



**Parish Rosters for  
January to March  
available now!**



## Social Outings for Seniors!

*If you would like to join a group of seniors who will meet monthly for a coffee and a chat in different community venues please contact the parish office on 3372 5658.*



## Christmas Carols by Candlelight

Featuring some of  
our fabulous Choirs—Children,  
Parish, & Vietnamese.

An evening of Christmas joy —  
come celebrate the coming of  
our Lord with glorious music!

**TONIGHT, December 20th, out-  
side the Church 7.00pm.**



If you have finished reading  
your copy of the parish maga-  
zine “**The Grapevine**” - and do  
not wish to keep it, please return  
to the church. There are some  
parishioners who missed out!

***A big thank you to the members of the  
Youth Group who did so much hard work  
in writing and producing this fantastic parish  
magazine.***

## Reflection

“It might be easy to run  
away to a monastery, away  
from the commercialization,  
the hectic hustle, the de-  
manding family responsibili-  
ties of Christmas time.  
Then we would have a holy  
Christmas. But we would  
forget the lesson of the In-  
carnation, of the enfleshing  
of God—the lesson that we  
who are followers of Jesus  
do not run from the secular;  
rather we try to transform it.  
It is our mission to make  
holy the secular aspects of  
Christmas just as the early  
Christians adopted the  
Christmas tree. And we do  
this by being holy people—  
kind, patient, generous, lov-  
ing, laughing people—no  
matter how maddening the  
Christmas rush is....”

*Fr Andrew Geeley*

***Fr Tuong’s mother’s funeral will be held at St Mark’s Church on  
Wednesday 23rd December at 10 am. All parishioners welcome.***

***Please remember in your prayers—***

***Those who are ill: Jim Simpson, Monica Nguyen, Maddie Harris (28yr  
woman with a brain tumour), Dulcie Lang, Val Bailey***

***Recently Deceased: Mary Tran Thi Cuc (Fr Tuong’s mother)***

***Anniversaries: Mary Jozefowski, Thin Thanh Nguyen, John Baptist Bang,  
Maria Lam, Joseph Bao, Jacoba Van Staveren, Maria Dam, Sam Logan,  
May Fagan, Zina Kalaja.***

## Parish Directory.

Parish Priest:

Fr. Vudinh Tuong

Pastoral Coordinator:

Kathie Ober

Youth Group Coordinator

Tam Hoang

### PHONE NUMBERS

Presbytery and Parish Office: 3372 5658

Fax: 3372 5863

School 3372 3408

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Fri 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Contact: Joy Spratt

### ADDRESSES

**Presbytery:** 96 Lilac St Inala

**Parish Office:** 96 Lilac St Inala

**Postal:** PO Box 352, Inala 4077

**Email:** stmarks@bne.catholic.net.au

**Youth Group:** youthhofstmarks@gmail.com

**Web:** www.stmarksinala.net.au

### MASS TIMES - Next WEEK END

*Vigil Mass (Saturday):*

English 6.00 pm

Vietnamese 7.15 pm

*Sunday:*

Vietnamese 7.30 am

English 9.30 am

**Reconciliation (English and Vietnamese) for the coming week:**

*By appointment—20 minutes after the morning weekday Mass or 20 minutes before the evening Mass. Saturdays 5.30 to 5.50 pm.*

**Baptismal Enrolment Session will be after the Sunday 9.30 am Mass on 7th February, 2010.**

## *Parish Roster for Weekend 26th/27th December.*

### **Saturday 6.00 pm—**

Reader: Son Nguyen.

Announcer: Kim Nguyen

Communion Ministers: Norah Hall  
Pauline Bullen  
Eileen Sullivan

### **Sunday 9.30 am**

Reader: Van Ho

Announcer: Monica Chester

Communion Ministers: Pat Gorman  
Lusia Winterstein  
Anna Anae

### **Church Cleaning:**

*Week Commencing 21st December:*

Ellen Simpson, Rita Fernandes, Marie Shinde, Marie Robinson.

*Week Commencing 28th December:*

Thi Hong Nguyen, Cuong Tran Nguyen, Dang Thi Hang Nga.



### **Counting:**

*20th December:*

Fons & Susan Mollee

*27th December:*

Parish Office.



### **Readings for Next Week's Mass:**

1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28; 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Readings & Rosters available from website.

### **Planned Giving—**

*First Collection* \$ 1158.55

*Second Collection* \$ 2703.35

### **PIETY STALL HOURS**

Sat 6.45 pm to 7.15 pm

Sun 8.45 am to 9.30 am